AGEC 217
National Economics

PHYS 114--MWF 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Professor: Robert W. Taylor, Krannert 635, Office: 765-494-4211
rtaylor2@purdue.edu (Office hours are listed on calendar schedule at front desk in each class.)

Office Manager: Mrs. Klotz, Krannert 631, 765-494-4208, lrklotz@purdue.edu
(Office hours: 8 am-12 Noon and 1-4 p.m. M-F)

Help Sessions: Every week: Thursday 2:30-4:20 p.m. KRAN G-5; and Friday 10:30-11:20 a.m. KRAN G-7

Office Hours (First come basis—drop by to see Dr. Taylor): Monday-Thursday 10:30-11:45, T 2:30-3:20,
W 8:00-9:00 am. KRAN 635

Office Appointments: Sign up in available slots on Dr. Taylor’s office calendar located on the front desk in each class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Page referenced is in Mini-Text posted on WebCT Vista)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 What is Economics? (Quiz over syllabus)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 The US Economy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Scarcity and Choice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Supply and Demand (pp. 195 – 207 in Mini Text)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Market Price Determination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Labor Day (No class)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Market Price Changes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Command Price Changes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Macro Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Unemployment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Inflation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Income and Spending (pp. 191-194 in Mini Text)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Welfare in the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Equilibrium and Full Employment GDP</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Multiplier (pp. 209 – 214 in Mini Text)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Review</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 EXAM 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

October 1 Fiscal Policy
October 3 Fiscal Policy

5-9 AGEC 217 (No classes--Fall Break Oct. 8-9)
10 Money and Banking
12 Money and Banking
15 Monetary Policy (pp. 215 – 221 in Mini Text)
17 Efficacy of Monetary and Fiscal Policy
19 Economic Policy and Values
22 Business Fluctuations
24 The Depression
26 Review

29 EXAM 2

November 2 Unemployment
5 Inflation
7 International Trade
9 Comparative Advantage
12 International Monetary System
14 Balance of Payments
16 Macroeconomics in a World Economy

16 Last Date any Late Assignment Earns Credit
19 Value of the Dollar

21-24 Thanksgiving Vacation (No classes)
26 Productivity and Growth
28 Productivity and Growth
30 Growth in the US

December 3 Growth in the Less Developed Countries
5 Growth in the Less Developed Countries
7 Review

FINAL EXAM Day _______ Date _______ Time _______ Place __________________
National Economics

AGEC 217 is a basic course in the economics of our country. It is oriented to the sophomore level student in the School of Agriculture. It is assumed that students enrolling in this course have some interest in becoming better citizens through better understanding economic news reports on TV, radio and newspaper and how our lives are affected.

Objectives: By the end of the semester you will be able to:

- Predict the consequences of the government setting prices rather than having the market determine them.
- Know why we have so much trouble controlling gasoline price inflation.
- Know why there are huge federal budget deficits instead of the surpluses of a few years ago.
- Explain who can to do what to control unemployment.
- Estimate with some accuracy whether interest rates are likely to increase or decrease soon.

To really understand economics, you may want to take several more courses, but with this course you will be able to hear TV economic news and read the paper with better understanding.

Text:

*Life, Love and Economic mini text*—The pages to be read are noted with the lecture topic. This material is located on the class WebCT Vista home page (pages 191-221 plus the Glossary pages 223-234).

*Conventional text:* If you would like to borrow a conventional text at any time during the semester, see Dr. Taylor in his office and he’ll help you choose one and lend it to you.

*Wall Street Journal*—If you desire to start on the path to being an informed person, start reading the *Wall Street Journal* and see the many applications of insights from 217 to everyday life. On Friday, August 24 you will be given a subscription card to complete and they will bill individually $29.95, the cost of delivery. There will be a drawing for a free subscription from among the cards. If your goal is to pass this class or simply to get an A, skip the WSJ. If your goal is to improve yourself, take advantage of this opportunity. Sharing your WSJ with a classmate and discussing articles will stimulate development and lower your cost.

Class Meetings:

AGEC 217 has three divisions this semester. Dr. Taylor's divisions meet MWF at 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and Dr. DeBoer’s meets MWF 7:30 a.m.

If you are unable to come to class for reasons beyond your control, e-mail Dr. Taylor a clearly written note identifying yourself, your seat number, the date when the class will be missed and the reason for missing. With this information you may be excused from the quiz. If incomplete information is given, you will be assigned no more than 50 for the missed quiz.

The lecture schedule has the text assignments listed by class periods. You will be expected to have read the assignments before class on the day assigned.

Professor Taylor is deeply offended by people leaving early or talking during class and he enthusiastically discourages these behaviors. Dr. Taylor will announce when the lecture is over. Any day the lecture continues after twenty minutes past the hour (per national atomic clock broadcasting from Colorado) the entire class gets 100 for that day’s quiz. (Appear enthralled with the lecture and the whole class may get 100.)

If someone near you is talking during class, simply raise your hand or send an email and call it to Dr. Taylor's attention. Dr. Taylor knows what to do.
Dr. Taylor strongly encourages staying for the entire hour. Some days there will be a “Hang in There” quiz, (HIT quiz) near the end of the hour, and only those students who submit the HIT quiz will have their quiz graded that they took at the beginning of the hour. You must use the paper handed out for the HIT quiz on that day. If another HIT quiz paper is submitted you lose two quiz scores.

Laptops, Text messaging:

Laptops are encouraged if using them with the class notes improves your learning. However, you may not use them in any other way that is distracting to the students near you. If anyone near you is using a laptop or sending text messages in a distracting way, simple write Dr. Taylor a note in a quiz or send him an email, clearly stating the nature of the distraction and the seat location relative to yours. Dr. Taylor will handle it confidentially. **Accused is convicted!** Each time Dr. Taylor receives two complaints about the same individual, that person’s two highest quiz scores will be lowered to 8%.

Grades and Grade sheets and Seat Numbers:

Your class paper scores will be reported to you with periodic grade sheets. The system works with seat number identification and each communication that influences a reported score must include the seat number. If the seat number is missing there is a substantial penalty (See Quizzes below).

You are responsible for checking that the scores on the grade reporting system are the same as the scores on returned papers. You have one week from the time the grade sheet is distributed to report a grade reporting error to Dr. Taylor early in the semester, otherwise the scores in the grade record stand. Later in the semester reporting must be more prompt.

Course Website:

There is a web site for this class at [http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/ecourses](http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/ecourses). This website gives access to current lecture notes. These are available up through the next exam and will be taken down after the exam. The day’s quiz with a key will be available the evening of the quiz and for a week afterward. The essay questions for the upcoming exam will be available a week in advance. Copies of previous exams are available, but the answers to previous multiple-choice questions will not be made available. Rather, use them as the basis for discussion in your study groups. The web page has links to current economic information including the GDP, inflation, unemployment, national debt, etc. If you have trouble or any questions, contact Mrs. Klotz (lrklotz@purdue.edu or 765-494-4208).

Readings:

Readings are assigned from time to time. Mostly, these deal with current economic issues. Check due dates to keep up to date.

Written Assignments:

Work problems first on scrap paper and when you are satisfied with your answer copy it neatly on to the assignment itself. The assignments are available on our website and there will be a [penalty of the assignment number plus five points if the pages are not stapled](#) at submission (folding corners and paperclips are unsatisfactory). The written assignments are for you to gain understanding and experience in putting principles to use in understanding our economy. There will be a written assignment due each Friday unless Dr. Taylor announces otherwise. Some weeks your assignment grade may be based on only a part of the assignment. Late assignments will be downgraded, but will be accepted for reduced credit [up to two weeks after they are due](#). There is a deadline on the lecture schedule beyond which no late assignments will earn credit. You are encouraged to check your assignments with others in the class before you submit them, but be sure:

- You know how to do every part yourself because you did it.
- No two assignments should even sniff of having one person doing it and another copying. If you work together, go out of your way to personalize your assignment so that there is no hint of copying.
**Late arrival at the class or being excused from a quiz does not excuse you from submitting the assignment on time. Send it with a classmate or deliver to Mrs. Klotz before you leave if you’ll miss class.**

**Exams:**

There will be 2 exams during the regular class hour, and a final during finals week. The exams will emphasize understanding. The examinations will be closed book. A list of essay questions from which two questions will be selected for one half of the exam will be available on the web a week before the exam. The other half will be multiple choice questions. You may bring one individually created 3” x 5” card to the exam with important material written front and back. If the card is copied or printed, the font must be **size 12 pt. or larger**. Having notes of a different nature is the basis for a substantial cheating penalty (see **Academic Honesty** below). Before the exams begin, you must clear your desk of all but your one card, your writing instrument and a simple calculator. At nineteen minutes past the hour, Professor Taylor will collect exams passed across the rows and exit through the back door. Watch to see that your exam is passed efficiently to Dr. Taylor. Those exams submitted after that will be severely downgraded. Exam answers not submitted properly or without easily read names, correct seat numbers, student ID numbers and the exam number will be downgraded.

**Quizzes:**

There will be a short quiz each lecture. When the quiz time is over and Dr. Taylor announces that the papers are to be passed over to the end of the aisle for collection, watch to be sure your paper passes efficiently across your row and into Dr. Taylor’s hands. It is your responsibility to make a commotion if your quiz is not being efficiently passed over. If Dr. Taylor doesn’t get it with the rest of the quizzes, it won’t be graded. Bring your calculator. The quizzes can cover all lectures given and reading material assigned. They are designed to reassure that you understand the material, to see that you are rewarded for keeping up-to-date and to uncover problem areas. There are no make-up quizzes but the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**If you are unable to take a quiz for reasons beyond your control, you may be excused if Dr. Taylor deems it an appropriate reason. E-mail Dr. Taylor a clearly written note identifying you, your seat number, the date when the class will be missed and the reason for missing. It is much easier to be excused when you ask before the quiz rather than after. Failure to include all four pieces of information in your email will result in no more than a 50 score.**

You may bring and use a 3” x 5” card like that described above under **Exams** to help with the quiz, but your desk must be cleared of all but your card, writing instrument and simple calculator.

**Papers not returned in class:**

Quizzes, assignments and exams will be returned in class after they are graded. When papers are not returned to you in class, they will be put in a folder in Mrs. Klotz’s office, KRAN 631, and are available for pick up during office hours (M-F 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.).

**Students with Disabilities:**

Please make an appointment within the first two weeks of the semester for a visit in Dr. Taylor’s office to discuss the appropriateness of the instructional methods in this class or any academic adjustments that you may require. Dr. Taylor has found it easy to make accommodations in the past, but it is important that arrangements be made at the very beginning of the semester.

**If you require and have made arrangements for special accommodations, email Dr. Taylor, clearly identifying who you are and the special accommodations you require two class periods before each test. Mrs. Klotz will then have accommodations in order.**
Academic Honesty:

You are encouraged to study and work AGEC 217 assignments with others to study other assignment, quiz and
exam questions and answers and to elicit help from the full range of helpful people and information sources. Your
assignments submitted are to be prepared by you and represent your own work. The quiz and exam answers
submitted are to represent your own work at the time. Academic dishonesty in AGEC 217 will be prosecuted to
the limit of reason, including expulsion from the University (See Purdue's University Regulations, Student
Conduct, Sec. III, A5 and B.2a or http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm,
http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/brochures.htm or
www.purdue.edu/oop/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_conduct.html). Without integrity, interpersonal
relationships are meaningless. With the large class it is sometimes difficult for Dr. Taylor to see people who
are behaving inappropriately. Simply write a note on your quiz or email Dr. Taylor with details and he will
handle it confidentially.

Grades:

Your grade will be based on the following:

Exams 15% each for a total of 30%

Final Exam 25%

Quizzes 20%

Written Assignments 25%

You will earn an A grade if you earn 90%, a B with 80%, a C with 65%, and an F if less than 55%, of the
weighted total points. If this does not result in at least 15% A’s and 40% A’s and B’s the grade break points will be
lowered. They will not be raised.

Have a system to keep handouts, quizzes, assignments, exams, etc. and be prepared to present graded papers when
reporting grade recording errors.

Seeing your scores in 217:

On August 29th each student will be assigned a permanent seat and a seat number used as identification in class.
In addition, each student will provide Dr. Taylor with a 6-20 character password to access his/her scores. After
Dr. Taylor announces that scores are available, use the secure link on the class homepage to access your scores by
entering your seat number and password. (For security, your scores are posted by seat number and password, not
your name.) Log out when finished using WebCT Vista.

Check your scores in the grade report to be sure they are the same as those on your papers. If there is a
discrepancy, bring the paper and a copy of the grade report to Dr. Taylor within one week of the posting and he
will make the correction. If the grade report shows a zero grade for a paper that you turned in and other students
have received grades for it, go immediately to see Mrs. Klotz. It means not that you have done poorly on the
paper but that a score has not been reported. Pick up the paper from your file in Mrs. Klotz’s office and remind
her that the score is not reported.

If things in this course are not going as well as you would like:

Come see Dr. Taylor as soon as a problem emerges. He particularly enjoys, and is reasonably good at helping
people who are having trouble with the class subject matter. It is especially important to hear from you when you
are frustrated.

Call Dr. Taylor at 765-494-4211 from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.--leave a message if he is out. Send e-mail to
rtaylor2@purdue.edu. He checks his e-mail several times daily M-F, but not on the weekends. You may call Dr.
Taylor at home 765-743-4235, but only between 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Leave a message if he is out.
Visit Dr. Taylor during his “Drop by office hours” MTWR 10:30-11:45 a.m., T 2:30-3:20 p.m., and W 8:00-9:00 a.m. Making an appointment may save you some time. Dr. Taylor brings his appointment calendar to each class for students to sign up for office appointments: Sign your name and telephone number on open slots on Dr. Taylor’s office calendar on front desk of each class. Please call if you are unable to make your appointment.

If you are unhappy with the course for any reason, contacting Dr. Taylor will indicate concern and hopefully will result in some relief.

Score Revisions:

Occasionally a scoring mistake will be made--professors are human, too. If the problem is with the grading of an essay answer on an exam or if there are several problems, please make a private appointment to see Dr. Taylor in his office. If there is a simple problem, see Professor Taylor before or after class or in his office. Come with a "perfect" answer in mind to compare that to what you have written. If the score is too low, it will be raised immediately. Dr. Taylor remains deeply impressed with the integrity of the occasional student each semester who comes to him to report that a higher score than they received has been recorded.

Campus Emergency:

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. You may obtain information about changes in this course from our WebCT Vista web page, directly from Mrs. Klotz or Dr. Taylor.

If You Have Trouble with Vista - Helpful links:

http://www.webct.com/tuneup/
Browser tune-up page: Use this to determine that your computer is ready to use Vista.

http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/ecourses/
Login link to WebCT class website located here, as well as help and support links.

http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/support/software.asp - This is the Ag Econ software support area.
You may download Windows updates, and the latest versions of Internet Explorer especially recommended for use with WebCT Vista.

http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/agcomm/ontarget/0703/trouble_opening_pdfs.htm
“Fix It” Techniques when you’re having trouble opening PDF documents.

Support Hotlines:

ITAP Customer Service Center: G65 Stewart Center, E-mail: itap@purdue.edu Phone: 765-494-4000

http://www.itap.purdue.edu/help/

http://www.itap.purdue.edu/help/customer/

Tips and Hints:

1. Make sure you turn off pop-up blockers that may be running on your computer.
2. Use the latest browser that is available for your computer. (IE 6 or better, Netscape 7+)
3. Make sure you have the plug-ins you will need for the course. (such as Adobe Reader for PDF files)
4. Make sure Java is enabled. To test for Java, go to http://java.sun.com/getjava/index.html
5. Enable Cookies on your computer.