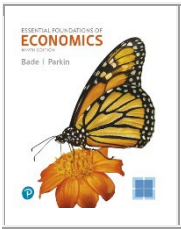
COURSE SYLLABUS

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2026

COURSE NUMBER: Econ 116
TITLE: Introduction to Economics
CREDIT HOURS: 3 Credit Hours
INSTRUCTOR: Maoyong Fan
OFFICE HOURS: 9-12PM, Monday/Wednesday or by appointment
PREREQUISITES: High school algebra and geometry or equivalent.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK PACKAGE:



Essential Foundations of Economics, 9th Edition, Robin Bade and Michael Parkin, Pearson Education, 2021
ISBN-13: 9780136713746

COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE:

A PC or Mac with internet access (high-speed internet access is preferred), Windows Media Player or equivalent, Mozilla Firefox and Chrome or equivalent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Economics 116 introduces students to basic principles of economic analysis. It is the basic college survey course in the application of economic theory to everyday life. It is primarily an awareness and skill-building course designed for students who will not be taking additional courses in economic theory and for students who really just want to be able to understand "the big picture" of the economy.

The course is consistent with the stated goal of BSU's Core Curriculum (UCC) which is to prepare students to "undertake the broad responsibilities of citizenship in a free society." (GS Goals and Procedures Document, pg.1) Many of the public policy issues which students will confront as citizen-voters throughout their lives will have substantial economic content. An ability to make informed judgments requires a basic understanding of how a market economy

functions, the tough choices dictated by scarcity, and an appreciation of how institutions and incentives matter in determining economic outcomes. Developing this understanding is an important goal of Economics 116.

Economics is divided into Microeconomics, which deals with *individual* choices, and Macroeconomics, which deals with *aggregate* choices. This course will cover mainly microeconomics and some macroeconomics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Econ 116 is primarily an introduction to economic reasoning; an introduction to the techniques and processes of thinking used by economists in their attempts to analyze and explain the complex social institution we call the economic system. In other words, the course is fundamentally concerned with helping students understand and learn to use elementary economic theory.

Because many students find the study of economic theory a new experience, course lectures and reading assignments will focus on learning theory and applying that theory to as many real-world applications as possible. This means that there will not be time to deal explicitly with the many subtopics of economics such as the history of our economic system, the organization of business firms, or environmental pollution. Knowledge of some of these topics can be gained independently from other sources and after learning a few basic tools of economic analysis the student will be much better prepared to pursue fruitful independent learning in these and other areas of interest. If properly learned, the tools of economic analysis will be useful to students long after the survey course is over.

While introducing the student to economic theory, this course is also designed to promote at least two general objectives: (1) to help students gain at least an elementary understanding of how, and with what consequences, an economic system deals with problems of resource scarcity, and (2) to help students learn to use a few analytical tools and models which will enable them to better understand important economic issues and the consequences associated with various policy alternatives which confront them.

To do well on the examinations and to be certain that this information is in your long-term memory, you must self-test your knowledge. Reading and understanding what is read is not sufficient. There is a difference between receptive communication abilities (the ability to read or hear and understand) and expressive communication abilities (the ability to explain the material to another person). You must practice expressing these ideas and concepts.

COURSE POLICIES:

Class Participation and Preparation: Student interactions are an essential element of the learning experience. Higher education is an experience involving positive interaction with your professor.

Code of Conduct: This course is designed to assess your practical and professional skills. To help you develop this acquired skill, a professional code of conduct is a component of this course. When participating in class activities via forums, chat, or any other electronic form of communication, all participants are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior. This behavior may be termed as "netiquette". All communications are to be civil, courteous and constructive. Ranting, venting, flaming, derogatory or inappropriate comments will not be tolerated.

Your relationship with your instructor, whether in person or electronically, should be academically professional and respectful. In this course, the appropriate way to address your professor is by the introductory title (*e.g.,* Dr., Professor, Mr., Ms., or Mrs.). Phrases or words such as, first names, hey, you, etc., do not show appropriate academic respect. In addition, you are expected to use proper grammar, complete sentence constructions, and appropriate language. You are in training for a professional environment; communicate professionally.

Based on your instructor's discretion, points can be deducted from your final grade for code of conduct violations.

Timeliness: As this is an online independent learning course, it is up to every student to stay on track and not fall behind. You must be self-motivated and make progress to ensure they complete the course materials by the course expiration date. Developing a routine is essential.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to adhere to university guidelines in all cases of personal and academic misconduct such as cheating, plagiarism and interference with another student's work. Penalties for misconduct can include a failing grade in the course. **Plagiarism on an assignment will result in an automatic grade of zero (0) for the course.** Failure to cite work submitted is considered plagiarism.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact Ball State's Disabled Student Development (DSD) office. DSD coordinates services for students with disabilities. Documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disabled Student Development can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Further online information for students may be found at the BSU Disabled Student Development web page.

COMMUNICATION:

Use of the forum is a vital element of communication in this course. Students are encouraged to use the forums to ask the instructor questions that may benefit others in the class. Students should also use the forums to help each other and provide positive and encouraging feedback for classmates. Questions of a personal nature, such as questions about your grade or anything personal intended for the instructor, please use Canvas messaging. When communicating directly with the instructor, please use the Canvas message system. The instructor will return messages in 24 to 48 hours of receiving them.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Become familiar with the class interface before the semester begins and seek help if necessary. BSU provides resources to help you. A lack of Canvas knowledge is not an acceptable excuse for late or incomplete work.

Technical Equipment: In order for you to be successful in this type of course (i.e. online delivery, distance education), you will need the technology listed in the "Technology for Online and Distance Education Students."

Technical Assistance: If you have technical questions, you can contact Ball State's HelpDesk. In addition, the HelpDesk staff have put together many how-to video clips in its Tech Clips section that can guide you through many of the most common questions. The helpdesk can be contacted at: 1-866-771-3276 or email at helpdesk@bsu.edu.

METHODS OF EVALUATING STUDENT LEARNING:

Common methods for assigning student grades will be quizzes.

QUIZZES AND GRADING POLICY:

Instructors for this course have collaboratively chosen chapters of the text most pertinent to the objectives of this course. Please note the chapters in the table below which correspond to each assessment.

Each quiz targets a single chapter and consists of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.

Students are allowed to take each quiz up to 3 times. Students have 120 minutes to finish a quiz each time. The highest score among all attempts is recorded as the final score for the quiz. Before taking a quiz, students must achieve 100% on the corresponding homework the purpose of which is two-fold: (1) increase students' understanding of the materials; (2) get students familiar with the questions in the quiz. For example, you must do all the questions in chapter 2 homework correctly before you can take the quiz for chapter 2.

Every student is required to take a proctored final exam. I will email the class guidelines about how to make an appointment with the proctor agency two weeks before the final week. You are allowed to use book, notes, slides, and calculators during the final.

Quizzes	**Content**	**Points**	**% of Total Grades**
Quiz 1	Chapter 2 The U.S. and Global Economies	7.5	7.5%
Quiz 2	Chapter 3 The Economic Problem	7.5	7.5%
Quiz 3	Chapter 4 Demand and Supply	7.5	7.5%
Quiz 4	Chapter 6 Efficiency and Fairness of Markets	7.5	7.5%
Midterm	Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 6	20	20%
Quiz 5	Chapter 7 Government Actions in Markets	7.5	7.5%
Quiz 6	Chapter 9 Production and Cost	7.5	7.5%
Quiz 7	Chapter 11 Perfect Competition	7.5	7.5%
Quiz 8	Chapter 15 Jobs and Unemployment	7.5	7.5%
Final Exam	Chapters 7, 9, 11, and 15	20	20%
Total Points		**100**	**100%**

GRADING SCALE:

The final grade of this course is a weighted sum of quizzes and the final exam. The quizzes account for **60%**. The midterm and final exam accounts for **40%**. That means you need to do well in both quizzes and the final exam to get a good grade in this course. Grades are NOT curved. They are based on students' absolute performance, not relative performance. Grades falling on the boundary will be resolved to the higher grade; lower grades will not be rounded up. Course Letter Grades will be based on the following percentage/points scale.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
%	93-100	90-93	85- 90	80- 85	75- 80	70- 75	65- 70	60- 65	<60

Here I give you an example how you may calculate your final grade:

For example, if your results for eight chapters are 7.5, 7.5, 7.5, 7.5, 7.5, 7.5, 7, and 6.5, and your midterm is 18, and your final exam is 12, your final score is:
7.5 + 7.5 + 7.5 + 7.5 + 7.5 +7.5 + 7 + 6.5 + 18 + 12 = 88.5 and your letter grade will be an "**B+**".

Grades are private; therefore, grades will not be addressed in forums or in the discussion area. Students are to utilize their BSU email account when communicating with the instructor regarding grades or any other confidential information.

MyLab Economics (Optional):

I also prepared a MyLab Economics course for this course. It is NOT required. The companion **MyLab Economics** site is an excellent supplemental resource designed to reinforce and deepen learning outside the classroom. It provides access to the full e-Text, allowing students to read and review course materials anytime and anywhere. The platform also features interactive media explanations of key concepts and economic models, which help students visualize and better understand complex ideas.

Beyond reading and videos, MyLab offers a wide range of practice opportunities, including automatically graded homework, problem sets, and quizzes. These exercises are adaptive, meaning they adjust to each student's progress and provide immediate feedback to highlight strengths and areas needing improvement. Students can also use built-in study tools, such as step-by-step tutorials, personalized study plans, and targeted practice questions, to ensure mastery of challenging topics.

Another key feature is its integration with real-time data and current events, which allows students to connect theory with real-world applications. For instructors, MyLab streamlines assessment and tracks student performance, but for students, the biggest benefit is the chance to learn at their own pace, revisit difficult material as often as needed, and gain confidence before exams.

In short, MyLab Economics is not just a companion site but a personalized learning environment. It combines digital textbooks, multimedia explanations, adaptive practice, quizzes, and real-world applications to help students build a solid understanding of economics. The only drawback is that it requires a paid subscription, so it is not free.

How to Register and Enroll in Your MyLab Economics Course

Course Name: **Introduction to Economics (Econ 116) Ball State University**
Course ID: **fan90513**

To join your instructor's course, please complete the following two steps:
1. REGISTER for MyLab Economics, and, 2. ENROLL in your instructor's course

To register, you will need:
1. A valid e-mail address
2. Your instructor's course ID
3. The access code that came with your MyLab Economics Access Kit
If you don't have an access kit, you can purchase access online at http://www.MyLab Economics.com
You will have the choice to purchase access with or without a full etext. Once enrolled in your professor's course, you will also have the option to purchase a discounted version of your text.

Step 1: Register for MyLab Economics

1. Go to http://www.MyLab Economics.com and click the Students button, in the Register section.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions for choosing author and title.
3. Choose Register with an Access Kit/Code if an access kit was included with your book. If you need to purchase access online, click Purchase Access.
4. Follow the instructions to set up your login and password and register for your course.

Important: please make sure that you register for MyLab Economics, use the exact name you used for your BUS record. Otherwise, your grades on MyLab Economics CANNOT be correctly synchronized with Canvas' gradebook.

Note: Australian users, your registration steps may be different from above. Please visit http://www.MyLab Economics.com/download/MEL_FDOC_Australia.doc for alternate instructions.

Step 2: Enroll in your instructor's course

1. Log in to MyLab Economics at http://www.MyLab Economics.com with your newly created Login Name and Password
2. Enter your Course ID: **fan33678**

If you purchased access, visit the Student Center inside your Instructor's Course for additional purchase options.

Note: If you are taking two MyLab Economics courses simultaneously you will need two separate login accounts.

Need Help? For assistance, please visit http:// www.MyLab Economics.com/support.

Assurance of Learning

The Miller College of Business is committed to ensuring that every student graduating with a business degree is competent in five areas that are crucial to success in business. These learning goals can be easily remembered with the acronym **C-KITE** (Communication, Knowledge, Integration, Technology, and Ethics).

Communication: Miller College Graduates will be able to communicate appropriately in a professional context. Specifically, they will be

- **Effective oral communicators** who can: organize a presentation; use transitions; avoid verbal pauses; maintain audience interest; use eye contact, body language, and use visual aids effectively
- **Effective written communicators** who can: introduce the main idea; provide closure consistent to the main idea; use content to support the main idea; use transitions and emphases; maintain connections between ideas; use organizational structure effectively (paragraphs, flow); effectively use diction and conventions; and avoid spelling and grammatical errors

Knowledge: Miller College Graduates will demonstrate basic knowledge in

- Operations
- Marketing
- Finance
- Management
- Accounting
- Economics

Integration: Miller College Graduates will be able to integrate business knowledge in decision making. They will be able to

- Identify issues confronting the organization
- Synthesize and analyze available information
- Draw well-reasoned inferences and judgments for courses of action
- Design a plan for implementing the course of action

Technology: Miller College Graduates will be able to obtain, manage and communicate data effectively. They will be able to

- Analyze data for information to support decision-making using technology
- Identify common data security risks and safeguards
- Use common cloud technologies to collaborate on projects effectively

Ethics: Miller College Graduates will be able to recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas. They will demonstrate an ability to

- Identify an ethical dilemma in a business situation
- Identify relevant stakeholders
- Assess potential consequences to the stakeholders
- Recognize the importance of making ethical decisions

In this class, you will demonstrate

- **Communication**, by participating online discussions.
- **Knowledge**, by mastering basic economic concepts and models.
- **Integration**, by applying economic decision-making principles in real-world cases.
- **Ethics**, by analyzing economic policies and identifying costs and benefits to the stakeholders.