

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: Introduction to Economics

Course code: ECN 101E

Teacher responsible: Ilse Scheerlinck

Course description:

The course offers an introduction to economics by dealing with microeconomic and macroeconomic issues. Topics include the activities of business firms, market structures, the relationship between business and the government, macroeconomic variables, aggregate supply, aggregate demand, fiscal and monetary policy, foreign exchange rates, international trade, and economic growth.

Course objectives:

ECN 101E helps students to understand how markets function and businesses operate and prepares them for advanced economics courses.

This 'economics for business' approach is not only for business studies and management students. The approach is directed to all students who, given time scarcity, need to learn the essentials of economics in a single-term course and aim at acquiring a complete yet concise analysis of the material.

By the end of the semester students should:

- have acquired insights into basic economic concepts;
- be able to demonstrate the relevance of economics for businesses in the economy;
- have acquired writing skills (summary writing, structure, content, proper English)
- be able to meet deadlines;
- be prepared for advanced economics and management courses;
- be prepared for academic writing in 200-level courses.

Grade weighting scheme:

First problem set	7%
Second problem set	7%
Homework assignment I and II on summary writing	10%
Participation, tests, quizzes	8%
Attendance	8%
Mid-term Examination	25%
Final Examination	35%
Total	100%

Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:

Reader containing contributions from:

- Paul A. Samuelson and William D. Nordhaus, “Economics”, 17th and 18th edition, McGraw-Hill.
- Chris Mulhearn, Howard, R. Vane and James Eden, “Economics for Business”, Palgrave.
- K.E. Case and R.C. Fair (2001), ‘Principles of macroeconomics’, 6th edition, Prentice Hall, UK.
- The professor’s personal course notes.

Press releases from:

Financial Times
The Economist