

Bryn Mawr College
ISNT 100: Fundamental of Economics for International
Studies
Fall Semester 2025

Contact Information:

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays - 3 - 4:15 pm

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Course Objective:

This course provides an introduction to economic concepts, methodologies, and analytical frameworks relevant to international studies. The course focuses on developing students' ability to understand, interpret, and critically evaluate economic data and analysis in both scholarly research and mass media. The aim is to give students solid understanding of and competency in evaluating the approaches to and uses/applications of economic data and analysis in mass media and scholarly research intended for general audiences.

The course does not assume prior economics coursework and does not presume students will proceed to higher level Economics courses (for which they would still need to earn a merit grade in Econ 105).

Textbooks and Resources:

- *Issues in Economics Today* 10th Edition, Robert C. Guell - **Main textbook**
- *Empty Vessel: The Story of the Global Economy in One Barge*, Ian KumeKawa - **Main read along book**
- *Principles of Economics* 9th Edition, Gregory Mankiw - **Additional resources**
- *Principles of Economics* 3rd Edition, openstax [Link](#) - **Additional resources**

Course Requirements:

The course requirements include homework assignments, two exams, and a final paper.

Component	Date	Share in total grade
Exam 1	October 9	30%
Exam 2	November 20	30%
Paper 1	October 21	10%
Paper 2	November 25	10%
Final Paper	Final exam period	5%
Homework		10%
Class participation		5%

A numeric grade of 4.0, 3.7, 3.3, 3.0, 2.7, 2.3, and 2.0 will be assigned to you based on your cumulative score.

4.0: 95%-100% 3.7: 90%-94% 3.3: 87%-89% 3.0: 83%-86% 2.7: 80%-82% 2.3: 77%-79% 2.0: below 76%.

Homework

Homework will be due no less than one week after they are assigned. You must turn in your own work, but group effort is permitted and encouraged. Homework turned in late after the due date will be docked 10 percentage points every 24 hours. After 5 days late, the maximum possible grade will be 50% of the full points.

Economic Topic Analysis Project

The economic policy analysis project provides an opportunity to apply microeconomic, macroeconomic, and development concepts to examine real-world economic challenges. Students will conduct independent or in groups research analyzing a current economic issue through multiple analytical lenses using appropriate economic frameworks and tools covered throughout the course.

Project Scope: Students will identify a current economic challenge or topic facing a country or region outside the United States and analyze it through three sequential stages: microeconomic foundations, macroeconomic context, and integrated policy solutions. This could include labor market issues, environmental challenges, social media, inequality, market access problems, resource management challenges, development obstacles, or globalization impacts. The analysis should demonstrate understanding of economic concepts such as supply and demand dynamics, market failures, macroeconomic indicators, fiscal and monetary policy, and development economics principles.

Independent Research Process

Each student will conduct individual research on their chosen economic challenge. As part of this process, consider developing a focused research question that examines a specific economic problem in a real-world context. It's advisable to document responses to the provided questions, continually refining them through reflection, discussions with colleagues, and consultation with the instructor. Feel free to submit your preliminary ideas at any point in their development, and don't hesitate to reach out for discussions and guidance.

1. What specific economic challenge do you aim to analyze? (Present your response as a clear research question concluding with a question mark.)
2. What existing knowledge do you possess regarding the economic conditions and policy environment in your chosen country or region?
3. What microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts are most appropriate for analyzing this economic challenge?
4. Assess the significance of this analysis. Evaluate whether your economic insights are likely to be policy-relevant, practically implementable, or capable of changing how we understand this economic issue.

Project Timeline:

- **October 21:** Part I - Microeconomic Foundations
- **November 25:** Part II - Macroeconomic Context
- **December 16:** Final presentations

Disability Support Services: Reasonable Accommodations

Bryn Mawr College is committed to providing equal access to students with a documented disability. Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Access Services. Students can call 610-526-7516 to make an appointment with the Director of Access Services, Deb Alder, or email her at dalder@brynmawr.edu to begin this confidential process. Once registered, students should schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible to share the verification form and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement. More information can be obtained at the Access Services website. (<http://www.brynmawr.edu/access-services/>)

Any student who has a disability-related need to record this class first must speak with the Director of Access Services and to me, the instructor. Class members need to be aware that this class may be recorded.

Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Bryn Mawr Honor Code. If you have any questions about expectations, please ask.

Title IX:

Bryn Mawr/Haverford College is committed to fostering a safe and inclusive living and learning environment where all can feel secure and free from harassment. All forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence are violations of Bryn Mawr/Haverford's policies, whether they occur on or off campus. Bryn Mawr/Haverford faculty are committed to helping to create a safe learning environment for all students and for the College community as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination, harassment, or violence, know that help and support are available. Staff members are trained to support students in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more.

The College strongly encourages all students to report any incidents of sexual misconduct. Please be aware that all Bryn Mawr/Haverford employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors, clergy, and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the Bi-College Title IX Coordinator.

Information about the College's Sexual Misconduct policy, reporting options, and a list of campus and local resources can be found on the College's website:

Bryn Mawr Sexual Misconduct Policy

Haverford Sexual Misconduct Policy

Tentative course outline:

Date	Topic	Chapter	Chapter
		Main Text	Additional Text
Tuesday, September 2, 2025	What is Economics?	1	1
Thursday, September 4, 2025	Demand and Supply Analysis	2	4
Tuesday, September 9, 2025	Market Equilibrium, Shifts, Movement	2	4,7
Thursday, September 11, 2025	Elasticity and Total Revenue	3	5
Tuesday, September 16, 2025	DWL, Welfare, Tariffs and Taxes	3	6
Thursday, September 18, 2025	Perfect Competition and Monopoly	4	
Tuesday, September 23, 2025	Rationale for Trade – PPF and Ricardo	17	
Thursday, September 25, 2025	Rationale for Trade – PPF and Ricardo	17	
Tuesday, September 30, 2025	Game Theory and Strategic Interactions		10
Thursday, October 2, 2025	Market Failures: Externalities, Public Goods, CPR		11
Tuesday, October 7, 2025	Review		
Thursday, October 9, 2025	Midterm Exam 1		
Tuesday, October 14, 2025	Fall Break - No Class		
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Fall Break - No Class		
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	GDP, Inflation, Unemployment	6	23,24,28
Thursday, October 23, 2025	GDP, Inflation, Unemployment	6	23,24,28
Tuesday, October 28, 2025	Money and the Role of the Federal Reserve	10	29
Thursday, October 30, 2025	Federal Reserve continued	10	30
Tuesday, November 4, 2025	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	8	33
Thursday, November 6, 2025	Fiscal and Monetary Policy	9	34
Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Fiscal and Monetary Policy	9	34
Thursday, November 13, 2025	Exchange Rate	18	
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	Review		
Thursday, November 20, 2025	Midterm Exam 2		
Tuesday, November 25, 2025	Policies in globalized world		
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving Break - No Class		
Tuesday, December 2, 2025	Inequality	34,38	
Thursday, December 4, 2025	Colonialism and Long-run Impacts		
Tuesday, December 9, 2025	Colonialism and Long-run Impacts		
Thursday, December 11, 2025	Presentations		