

**Syllabus**  
**Economics as a Social Science**  
**Economics 1010-090**  
**Fall, 2013**

**Instructor:** George J. Tsilis  
**Dept:** Economics  
**Office:** 357 OSH  
**Office hours:** By appointment  
**Phone:** 801-647-1512  
**E-mail:** g.tsilis@utah.edu  
**Alternative E-mail:** [gtsilis@msn.com](mailto:gtsilis@msn.com)  
**Course Meeting:** online  
**Course credits:** 3 semester credit hours  
**Course Prerequisites:** No prerequisites required.

**Required Text:** Heilbroner, Robert L. (1999) *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of Great Economic Thinkers.* NY: Simon and Schuster

**Supplemental Text: (optional)** Mankiw, N. G. (2007). *Principles of economics* (4th ed.).  
Mason, OH: South-Western

**Course Description:**

Economics 1010-090 is a general education course conducted entirely online through the Canvas system. Students will study economic theories and concepts from the evolution of economic thought as well as economics as a social science in the modern context. The course emphasizes the study of economics in the context of the social science framework by identifying how social viewpoints and arguments affect our understanding of economics. Our discussions will be based upon the profoundly influential ideas of great economists who have contributed to the shape of our modern social world. The course also covers the foundations of various modern economic theories including microeconomics, macroeconomics, price, value, and the dynamics of supply and demand models. Other topics include the foundation of money and banking, public policy and the role of government in the national economy.

**Course Objectives:**

- (1) To understand basic economics theories, key concepts, and the foundations of the modern market system.
- (2) To trace the evolution of economic thought through its historical and social context.
- (3) To understand the role of government in economics and policy making.
- (4) To recognize the role of the individual and what binds the economic fabric of our society.

**Class schedule: (Could be updated)****note: TWP refers to “The Worldly Philosophers”**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Important Events &amp; Due Dates</b>
Week 1 8/26 – 9/1	Mankiw Readings 1 & 2	Quiz #1 Posted 8/28, Due 9/1
Week 2 9/2 – 9/8	TWP Chapters 1 & 2	1st Class discussion topic starts : 9/04 Assignment #1 due 9/8
Week 3 9/9 – 9/15	Mankiw Readings 3 & 4	Quiz #2 Posted 9/11, Due 9/15
Week 4 9/16 – 09/22	TWP Chapter 3	2nd Class discussion topic starts : 9/18 Assignment #2 due 9/22
Week 5 9/23 – 9/29	Mankiw Readings 5 & 6	Quiz #3 Posted 9/25, Due 9/29
Week 6 9/30 – 10/6	TWP Chapter 4	3rd Class discussion topic starts : 10/2 Assignment # 3 due: 10/6
Week 7 10/7 – 10/13	Mankiw Readings 7 & 8	Quiz #4 Posted 10/9, Due 10/13
Week 8 10/14 – 10/20	N/A	<b>Fall Break</b>
Week 9 10/21 – 10/27	Review	<b>Midterm Exam:</b> Posted 10/23, Due 10/27

Week 10 10/28 – 11/3	TWP Chapter 5	4th Class discussion topic starts : 10/30 Assignment # 4 due: 11/3
Week 11 11/4 – 11/10	TWP Chapter 6	5th Class discussion topic starts : 11/6 Assignment # 5 due: 11/10
Week 12 11/11 – 11/17	Mankiw Readings 9 & 10	Quiz #5 Posted 11/13, Due 11/17
Week 13 11/18 – 11/24	TWP Chapter 8	6th Class discussion topic starts : 11/20 Assignment # 6 due : 11/24
Week 14 11/25 – 12/1	TWP Chapter 9	7th Class discussion topic starts : 11/27 Assignment # 7 due : 12/1
Week 15 12/2 – 12/8	TWP Chapters 10 & 11	8th Class discussion topic starts : 12/4 Assignment # 8 due : 12/8
Week 16 12/9 – 12/15	Review	<b>Final Exam</b> : Posted 12/11, Due 12/15

**Class Discussions and Participation:** 8 class discussion topics are scheduled during this semester. Each student is required to participate in class discussions with quality arguments. Discussion grading depends on how many topics you participate in, how well you engaged in discussions with other classmates, and most importantly how clearly you presented logic to support arguments. To receive full credit, you must participate in all 8 discussion topics. It is important to keep good manners in discussions and be respectful of classmates who have different viewpoints. Additional details regarding discussion requirements will be listed under 'Announcements' in Canvas

**Quizzes:** Multiple choice formats. Quizzes are based upon readings and topics in the supplemental text (Mankiw). Supplemental text materials are provided in PDF format at the beginning of the week in mention according to the course outline.

**Assignments:** Written essay and/or short answer format. Assignments will be based upon readings and topics in the required text (TWP). Specific assignment instructions will be included once posted in Canvas.

**Exams:** Written essay, short answer, and multiple choice. Exams will be similar to a combination of quizzes and assignments. Exams are submitted through Canvas rather than taken in the University testing center.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be based upon 5 components: assignments, quizzes, class discussions & participation, the midterm and the final exam. Each component is weighted as follows.

Discussions	10%
Quizzes	15%
Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

Grades will be assigned on absolute scale (not curved). Semester grade will be determined from the following scale:

A	Excellent	94% and above	4.0 GPA
A-	Excellent	85% to 93%	3.7 GPA
B+	Good	80% to 84%	3.3 GPA
B	Good	75% to 79%	3.0 GPA
B-	Good	70% to 74%	2.7 GPA
C+	Standard	65% to 69%	2.3 GPA
C	Standard	60% to 64%	2.0 GPA
C-	Standard	55% to 59%	1.7 GPA
D+	Substandard	50% to 54%	1.3 GPA
D	Substandard	45% to 49%	1.0 GPA
D-	Substandard	40% to 44%	0.7 GPA
E	Unsatisfactory	Below 39%	0.0 GPA

**Disability Policy:** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Faculty and Student responsibilities:** This class follows University of Utah policies and procedures. Please refer to the University of Utah Faculty Handbook (<http://www.admin.utah.edu/fhb/>) and Student Code (<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>). Students are required to log into class often (at least 3 times a week) to check what is going on, and keep good manners in discussions. The Instructor is responsible to maintain a respectable environment for learning. The Instructor will also keep all of records of class communication. Take notice that online class communications including Canvas E-mail are University property and be subject for GRAMA regulations. Privacy regarding Canvas communication must not be assumed.

**Accommodation:** On-line courses are different from traditional in-class lecture courses. Some students might prefer in-class lectures to on-line course. In addition, this class has many assignments and requirements. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is right for you. If you have special concerns, please discuss with me early. Please refer to the University of Utah Accommodations Policy at ([www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf](http://www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf))

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:** Cheating, plagiarism, and misconduct are strictly prohibited by U regulation. If you are borrowing any words and ideas that are not your own, always use cite/reference. Violating academic honesty will be resulted in failure or dismissal from the course and University.

**Disclaimer:** The instructor retains the right to update and adjust this syllabus at discretion to be respectful of students' right to get reasonable notice of changes. Class schedule could be updated during the semester, so please always pay attention to class announcements. If there is a difference between the Canvas calendar and syllabus for class schedule, refer to the syllabus unless a class announcement is made for any update.

Thank you.