Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

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| Course Title (Credits) | SSC 102: Introduction to Economics (3 credits) |
| Course Designation for TC | n/a |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | VU, Manh Tien (Ph.D.) |
| E-mail address | [mvu@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp](mailto:mvu@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp) |
| Office/Ext | 1-201, 3710 |
| Office hours | Tuesday, Thursday: 16:15-17:15; Wednesday: 10:45-11:45 |
| Language Teacher | |
| Instructor | White, Jason (Ph.D.) |
| E-mail address | [jwhite@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp](mailto:jwhite@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp) |
| Office/Ext | 1-329, 3772 |
| Office hours | Tuesday 14:00-17:00 |

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| Course Description: | | |
| Introduces basic theories of economics. Topics covered may include: economics as a science; production, specialization and exchange; demand and supply; elasticity; utility; output and costs; industry structure; factor markets; business cycles; national output and macro-economic policies; market failure; and international trade. | | |
| Course Objectives: | | |
| Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:   1. Explain the behavior of buyers and sellers in the market using basic economic theories 2. Explain the role of government in influencing buyer and seller behavior in the market 3. Describe basic economic theories that explain economic outcomes of the aggregate economy 4. State basic economic principles that influence global trading 5. Recognize and analyze common economic issues which relate to individual markets and the aggregate economy 6. Explain economic events in individual markets and the aggregate economy using basic economic theory and tools 7. Outline the implications of various economic policies on individuals and on the economy 8. Demonstrate competence in using simple diagrams and graphs to explain economic principles and their applications. 9. Appreciate how your individual decisions and actions, as a member of society, affect the economy locally, nationally and internationally. | | |
| Course Schedule | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Unit one: Introduction to the course | Self-introduction  Course introduction  Discussion of the syllabus |
| 2 | Unit two: Basic concepts | Vocabulary work  How to study  Discussion: Who are billionaires?  Reading and discussion: What is Economics?  Scarcity |
| 3 | Unit two: Basic concepts | Review  Vocabulary and Reading: What is Economics?  Opportunity cost  Group discussion |
| 4 | Unit two: Basic concepts | Review  Vocabulary and Reading: What is Economics?  What are macro and micro?  Project and group discussion: Let’s plan to go to the Universal Studio of Japan |
| 5 | Unit two: Basic concepts | Video: Price …  Vocabulary work & listening |
| 6 | Unit two: Basic concepts | Video: Price …  Vocabulary work & listening |
| 7 | Review | Review assignment 1  Review, discussion |
| 8 | Unit three: Microeconomics | Budget constraint tasks |
| 9 | Unit three: Microeconomics | Reading: Consumer choice  Discussion / language work |
| 10 | Unit three: Microeconomics | Reading: Production and cost of production  Discussion / language work |
| 11 | Unit three: Microeconomics | Reading: Market structures  Discussion / language work |
| 12 | Unit three: Microeconomics | Reading: Demand and supply analysis  Discussion / language work |
| 13 | Unit three: Microeconomics | Project: Pricing substitutes and complementary products |
| 14 | Review | Review assignment 2 |
| 15 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Macroeconomics and everyday life  Discussion / language work |
| 16 | Mid-term examination | Mid-term examination and discussion |
| 17 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Gross Domestic Product  Discussion / language work |
| 18 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Economic growth  Discussion / language work |
| 19 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Inflation  Discussion / language work |
| 20 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Unemployment  Discussion / language work |
| 21 | Review | Review assignment 3 |
| 22 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Unemployment in Japan  Discussion / language work |
| 23 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Monetary policy  Discussion / language work |
| 24 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Fiscal policy  Discussion / language work |
| 25 | Unit four: Macroeconomics | Reading: Fiscal policy in Japan  Discussion / language work |
| 26 | Review | Review assignment 4 |
| 27 | Unit five: International trade | Reading: Comparative advantage  Discussion / language work |
| 28 | Unit five: International trade | Reading: Winners and losers from trade  Discussion / language work |
| 29 | Review | Review assignment 5 |
| 30 | Review | Review of all topics |
|  | Finals | Final examination (written) |
| Required Materials: | | |
| In this course, you will need the following materials:  • Writing paper and a file  • Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters  • A bilingual dictionary  • A two-ring binder  There is no set textbook for this course. However, you will receive many handouts, so it is important that you have a binder just for this course. | | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | | |
| • You must attend every class.  • If you have to miss class because you are sick, please get a note from your doctor. A doctor’s note means that I can excuse your absence.  • If you have more than 5 unexcused absences, you will have to withdraw from the course.  • If you miss a class for any reason, you should contact us (email is best) to find out about the coursework you need to complete.  • If you arrive late for class three times, we will count this as one absence. | | |
| Class Preparation and Review: | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. | | |
| Grades and Grading Standards: | | |
| Participation 20%  Homework 20%  Mid-term 15%  Projects 20%  Final examination 25% | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| Feedback on the form and content of the written work is provided within one week from submission of the written work. This feedback will be in the form of comments on written work and suggestions for how to improve the form of answer presentation and hints on the missing merit content.  Feedback on students’ oral answers will be provided ad hoc in the classroom during open discussions.  Feedback on students’ presentations and presentation skills will be provided individually during office hours, in order to avoid embarrassing comments in front of the whole class. | | |
| Diploma Policy Objectives: | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):   1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought) 2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations 3. The ability to identify and solve problems 4. Advanced communicative proficiency in English 5. Proficiency in the use of information technology | | |
| SDGsとの関連  （注）SDGsとの関連がない場合は枠を作らなくて結構です。 | | |
| This course goes along with SDG Goal 4 “*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”.* The course initiates curiosity and self-learning methods which will last for life for students. | | |
| Notes: | | |

