

Miyazaki International College
Course Syllabus
FALL SEMESTER 2018

Course Title (Credits)	SSC102: Introduction to Economics (3 credits)
Course Designation for TC	n/a
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Paweł Młodkowski (Ph.D.)
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Office hours	Tue 14:00 – 16:00, Wed 8:30 – 11:00
Language Teacher	
Instructor	Alan Simpson
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Office/Ext	1-201/telephone number 3719
Office hours	Tue 13:00 – 17:00

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:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Course introduction Discussion of the syllabus
2	Unit two: Basic concepts	Vocabulary work Reading: What is Economics?
3	Unit two: Basic concepts	Reading: What is Economics? Discussion & writing
4	Unit two: Basic concepts	Reading: What is Economics? Discussion & writing
5	Unit two: Basic concepts	Video: Price stability Vocabulary work & listening
6	Unit two: Basic concepts	Video: Price stability Vocabulary work & listening
7	Review	Review assignment 1
8	Unit three: Microeconomics	Budget constraint tasks
9	Unit three: Microeconomics	Reading: Consumer choice Discussion / language work
10	Unit three: Microeconomics	Reading: Theory of a firm 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	Field trip to Cross Mall: 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
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 economics	Reading: International trade Discussion / language work
28	Unit five: International economics	Reading: Balance of payments 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 possible.
- 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 25% Homework 25% Projects 25% 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): <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 nations3. The ability to identify and solve problems4. Advanced communicative proficiency in English5. Proficiency in the use of information technology
Notes:

文部科学省から採択された 大学教育再生加速プログラム 		Advanced	Proficient	Developing	Emerging	No Attempt
Critical Thinking	Ability to Identify & Solve Problems	Insightful comments in class discussions Student shows proven ability to analyze data, gather and assess resources, and disseminate opinions in a scholarly manner.	Able to contribute to class discussions, and to perform a basic analysis of data, gather and assess resources, and express opinions in an adequate manner.	Beginning to visualize the ways in which information can be combined and applied to solving a given problem, but struggles with complex and relationships	Student shows motivation but must learn the concepts and mechanisms that apply to critical thinking, such as information gathering, assessment and synthesis	Insufficient effort or evidence of achievement.
	Information Gathering					
	Assessment of Credibility					
Advanced Communication Proficiency	Public Speaking	Speaking is clear, using a broad range of vocabulary and relative jargon. Student uses appropriate social cues and nuance.	Able to create a relevant response when asked to express an opinion or respond to a complicated situation, but pronunciation and grammar can often make responses and explanations unclear to a listener and must be interpreted.	Able to answer questions and give basic information. However, inconsistent pronunciation, intonation and stress may sometimes make their responses difficult to understand or interpret.	Student is unsuccessful or finds it very difficult when attempting to explain an opinion or respond to a complicated scenario. The response may be limited to a single sentence or part of a sentence.	
	Social Skills					
	Professional Skills					
Global Perspectives	Cultural Relevancy	Fully engaged in current events and shows and understanding of social inequalities and cultural differences.	Student is aware of current events and world cultures, but is unable to apply macro-level situations to her/his own life.	Exhibits interest and intrigue in current events and world culture, but has difficulty understanding relevancy.	Student expresses one-sided ideals from an ethnocentric point of view. Completely lacks awareness of world issues or events.	
	Awareness of Current Events & Global Issues					
English Language Ability	Reading	Exhibits fluency/near fluency in speaking and writing. Grammar and reading ability similar to native English speaker. Able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.	Proficient English ability; relies mainly on familiar vocabulary. Should be encouraged to advanced beyond comfort zone.	Adequate English ability; must reference dictionary often	Student has some English ability, but lacks confidence in using and understanding. Very limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar and pronunciation. Unable to form questions	
	Writing					
	Oral Communication					
Japanese Language Ability	Reading	Able to express one's self clearly and succinctly both in writing and orally. Able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.	Proficient oral and written communication; relies mainly on familiar vocabulary. Should be encouraged to advanced beyond comfort zone.	Adequate oral and written communication; tends to have difficulty clearly expressing ideas.	Student shows a lack of confidence in writing, reading, and oral communication. Very limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar Unable to form questions	
	Writing					
	Oral Communication					