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ECON100 Economics and Society Course -- Queens College

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ECON100 ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY

Fall 2025

1. Basic Information

Instructor: Professor Clive R. Belfield (BA, MA, PhD(Econ.)).

Contact information: Email me (24/7) at clive.belfield@qc.cuny.edu – I will respond quickly if the message follows basic rules of grammar and syntax.

Description: This course is for students who want to learn general economics. You must be registered. *ECON100 does not count towards the Economics major*.

Learning objectives: Understand fundamental economic concepts; apply economic concepts to policy problems; and explain/utilize these concepts.

Calendar: We meet Mon/Wed 9:15am-10:30am in PH154. But the QC calendar has many off-dates; and we will have a number of zoom classes in October. *Keep checking the calendar for the course*.

Assessment: In-class exercises with extra credit (50%); in-class midterm (10%); cumulative final exam (50%).

2. You and This Course

Effort level: Attend every class. Learn the foundation material. Do the readings before each class. Talk with friends about the topics. Email me if you are having difficulty. Go to the Advising Center in Kiely Hall for free tutoring. *You must attend and actively participate in all classes by asking/answering questions.*

Valuing your studies: Studying this course should be congruent with your social identity (who you are) and be connected to your behavior (what you do). *Find your way to make this course seem relevant to you.*

Course rules: By registering for this class, you accept these rules:

1. Make-up exams: No make-up exams will be given. If you are unable to get to class for the exam, you must email before.
2. Final Exam: If you miss the final exam, you will receive an F for this course.
3. Plagiarism: A student who copies work will receive an F.

Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should register with the Special Services Office by email. For information about services for QC students, go to Office of Special Services.

Academic integrity: Academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. See the CUNY Academic Integrity policy.

3. Learning Materials

Zero Textbook Cost: This class uses open educational resources or zero-textbook-cost materials. There are no required textbooks for purchase. All materials are freely available or will be provided by the instructor.*

Website: Everything – all slides, information, assignments, readings and calendar updates – is on CUNY Brightspace.

Textbook: *Principles of Economics 3e* is a free textbook from Openstax. See below for the chapters which we will study (indicated by *PE*).

Readings: Selected case study readings will be posted on CUNY Brightspace. We will make weekly reference to live/breaking articles in the *New York Times*. CUNY students can freely access these articles; you just need to register.

Data: During the semester we will analyze selected economic data from FRED, a data repository at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

4. Course Outline

The course has 9 modules:

Module 1: Economic principles; development (*PE* Ch. 1-2, 19-20)

Module 2: Supply and Demand (*PE* Ch. 3-5)

Module 3: Case studies 1: Housing, Taylor Swift tickets, congestion pricing

Module 4: Firms, markets, pricing and corporate power (*PE* Ch. 7-10)

Module 5: Case studies 2: climate change; cryptocurrencies; platforms; social media

Module 6: International trade and tariffs (*PE* Ch. 23)

Module 7: Workers versus robots (*PE* Ch. 21)

Module 8: Inflation (*PE* Ch. 22)

Module 9: Poverty, inequality and opportunity (*PE* Ch. 15-16)

Examples of articles from the *New York Times* include ones on price discrimination, concert tickets, and tariffs.

* This course is funded in part by the CUNY OER Initiative.