

Syllabus
Econ 480, Special Topics in Economics and Business
Dr. Lynn G. Gillette
Fall 2014

Office: Third floor of Prim Library
Office Hours: By appointment. I encourage you to come by, but it is best to set up an appointment.
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Text

There is no required text for the course. We will read many articles but no text.

Course Description

This is a special topics course that will focus on current economic and business events in the world.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course has two major outcomes. First, students will be able to discuss, summarize, and analyze the eurozone debt crisis, and current economic events in the U.S., Europe, and the BRIC nations. Two, students will be able to effectively interact with various business leaders who speak in the class. These business leaders will cover a wide range of topics.

Active Learning

Learning is not a spectator sport. In this class you will be engaged in your learning. You will come to each class prepared and you will write and talk about what you are learning. Get ready to have a great learning experience that will challenge you, and that will engage your heart and your mind.

Professional Behavior

I expect everyone to demonstrate professional behavior at all times. The dress is business casual.

Grading System

Your grade will be determined by two categories of work: (1) class preparation assignments and (2) quizzes, class participation, attendance at approved events, and exams.

Course Grade	CPAs	Quizzes, Exams, Events, & Class Participation
A	Credit for 14 of the 15 assignments	201 – 225 points (90% - 100%)
B	Credit for 12 or 13 of the assignments	180 – 200 points (80% - 89%)
C	Credit for 10 or 11 of the assignments	157 – 179 points (70% - 79%)
D	Credit for 8 or 9 of the assignments	135 – 156 points (60% - 69%)
F	Credit for < 8 of the assignments	Below 135 points (< 60%)

If you earn 90% on the quizzes, class participation, attendance at approved events, and exams, but earn credit for only 9 of the CPAs, you will receive a D in the course, because the D is the highest level at which you met or exceeded the standards for both categories of work. **You must meet the standards in both categories separately; the two categories of work are not added together.**

If you are taking the class for one credit, you do not have to take the final and your grade will be based on the same system as above but out of a total of 175 points.

Class Preparation Assignments (CPAs)

There will be 15 class preparation assignments (CPAs). For each assignment you will have to answer questions over the assigned reading and bring to class two copies of your answers – one to hand to me at the beginning of class and one to use and expand on during class. To earn credit for a CPA you must:

1. Give a good faith effort on each and every question.
2. Bring two copies of your answers to class, and give me one copy before class starts.
3. Attend class to modify and expand your answers and add value to the discussion.
4. Bring name tent to class.

If you do not show a good faith effort on all of the assignment's questions, or you do not bring two copies of your answers, or you do not give me one copy before class starts, or you miss class (even if you have answered all of the assignment questions), you will not earn credit for that CPA.

Before class starts, place one copy of your CPA answers on the table in front of the class. If you come to class more than five minutes late, then you will be counted as tardy. Two tardies will equal one absence, meaning that you will not receive credit for the CPA on the second tardy. If you miss class, be sure to get the CPA for the next class.

Quizzes

There is one quiz worth a total of 50 points. The quiz questions will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and/or essay. If you miss a quiz and do not receive an excused absence, you will receive a zero on that quiz. If you have an excused absence for a quiz, the makeup will be the final exam.

Quiz (50 points)

October 7

Final Exam

The final exam is worth a total of 75 points. The exam questions will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and/or essay. The final exam will be cumulative.

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 10, 3:00 pm,

Class Participation

100 total points will be based on class participation. We learn by being actively involved and engaged, and I therefore expect you to come to class prepared. I will ask many questions. Class participation is designed to engage you in the learning process, and to maximize what you learn in this class. Also, we will do a lot of work in class that involves writing, speaking, critical thinking, and working in teams.

Class participation grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:

A: 90 - 100

A leader! Student is actively engaged in every class. Answers multiple questions each class. Excels at answering the harder questions. Always prepared. Works well with his or her team. Leads and listens well. Produces excellent products in class.

B: 80 – 89

A leader sometimes. Student frequently participates in class, but does not excel every class. Answers many questions; sometimes answers the harder questions. Prepared most of the time, but not always. Performance is good, but not

consistently excellent. Works well with his or her team. Produces quality products in class.

- C: 70 - 79 Mr. or Mrs. Mediocre. Student attends class and answers some questions, but performance is not consistent. Student is engaged in some classes and disengaged in others. Student answers correctly most questions I ask, but does little beyond that. Student knows the basics from the CPAs, but cannot go beyond that. Works well with his or her team, but not a leader. Expects and accepts mediocre performance from himself or herself.
- D: 60 - 69 A problem. Student attends class. Only answers questions that I ask. Student pays attention in class, but reluctantly participates. Student seldom volunteers to answer questions. Student is present in class, but rather passive. Adds little to his or her team or to class for that matter.
- F: < 60 A walking disaster. Student does not attend all classes. Seldom answers questions correctly even when asked. Comes to class unprepared to answer the basic questions from the CPAs. Seldom volunteers for anything, very passive, sometimes disruptive behavior. Usually seems to be present only in body, but not in mind and spirit. Takes notes and hopes that he/she will not have to speak. Adds nothing to class or to his or her team.

Attendance

I expect you to attend class. If you do not attend class, you will not receive credit for that day's CPA. I also expect you to come to class on time and stay until the end of class. If you arrive in class more than 5 minutes late, you are tardy and two tardies equal one absence. If you leave class early, you are a "two-percenter" and two "two-percenter" actions equal one absence.

Excused Absence

An absence will be excused with a doctor's note. All SNC Sport Team members must inform and make arrangements in advance when assignments and exam dates conflict with competition schedule.

Laptops, Cell Phones, and Professional Behavior

I expect professional behavior.

Before you come to class, turn your cell phone off. I do not want to see your cell phones. No text messages. No iPods; no earphones. You can use your laptop for taking notes. You cannot use your laptop for viewing the internet. I expect appropriate dress.

Academic accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

Academic Policies

The current University catalog and relevant College/School handbooks delineate pertinent academic policies, including academic and professional integrity. The catalog is available on-line at <http://www.sierranevada.edu/home.php>. Each student is responsible for compliance with these policies.

Student Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes of our mission statement are: (1) Liberal Arts, (2) Professional Preparedness, (3) Entrepreneurial Thinking, and (4) Sustainability.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just the Internet) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments. As we go through the course, I will direct you to library resources that I will expect you to use.