South Central College

ECON 130  Economics of Public Issues

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description
Approaches used by economists to analyze controversial public policy issues will be introduced. In addition, students will read articles explaining or advocating contrasting sides to issues. A variety of topics will be studied, with the list changing in different semesters. Topic examples may include economic inequality, climate change, and remedies for the Great Recession. Prerequisites: READ0090 with a grade of C or higher or a minimum score of 78 on the reading portion of the Accuplacer test. Satisfies MnTC Goal areas 5 (History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences) and 9 (Ethical and Civic Responsibility).

Total Credits 3
Total Hours 48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits/Hours
Lecture 3

Pre/Corequisites
READ0090 with a grade of C or higher or a minimum score of 78 on the reading portion of the Accuplacer test

Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Course Competencies

1. Apply basic economic concepts.
   Learning Objectives
   - Interpret graphs.
   - Model changes in market price and quantity with graphs.
   - Identify issues in microeconomics and macroeconomics.
   - Explain how the scientific method is applied in economics.
2. **Analyze alternative policies proposed to alleviate the Great Recession.**

   Learning Objectives
   Describe fiscal policy tools.
   Describe monetary policy tools.
   Explain stabilization policies from a Keynesian perspective.
   Explain critiques of Keynesian policy from a classical perspective.
   Evaluate the effectiveness of policies employed in the Great Recession.
   Model macro policy objectives with an aggregate demand/aggregate supply diagram.

3. **Evaluate government tax policies.**

   Learning Objectives
   Describe different kinds of taxes.
   Evaluate taxes for efficiency and equity.
   Describe macroeconomic impacts of tax changes.

4. **Describe poverty in the U.S. and globally.**

   Learning Objectives
   Describe the official U.S. definition of poverty.
   Describe what it is like to live in poverty in the U.S.
   Describe current anti-poverty programs.
   Explain anti-poverty policies recommended by different economists.
   Define and describe extreme poverty globally.
   Evaluate development strategies in less developed countries.

5. **Analyze growing inequality in the U.S.**

   Learning Objectives
   Explain causes for growing income inequality.
   Describe different kinds of inequality.
   Explain differing views on the potential harm that comes from inequality.
   Explain proposals to reduce inequality.

6. **Analyze the process of globalization.**

   Learning Objectives
   Describe the history of globalization.
   Explain controversies surrounding global financial institutions.
   Describe the debt crisis in Europe.

7. **Evaluate the U.S. health care system.**

   Learning Objectives
   Identify strengths and shortcomings of the U.S. health care system.
   Identify features of the Affordable Care Act.
   Explain health care systems used in other industrialized countries.
   Explain how a single payer system health care system works.

8. **Evaluate remedies for climate change.**

   Learning Objectives
   Summarize the science behind climate change conclusions.
   Explain how benefit/cost analysis is applied to environmental problems.
   Explain proposals for alleviating climate change.

9. **Evaluate controversies over the U.S. debt.**

   Learning Objectives
   Explain when budget deficits or surpluses are appropriate from a Keynesian perspective.
   Evaluate the sustainability of the current U.S. debt.
   Examine proposals to reduce the public debt.
   Identify causes of the large public debt.
SCC Accessibility Statement

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations.  North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222;  Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at:  www.southcentral.edu/disability

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