



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**

<b>Instruction Type</b>	<b>Credits/Hours</b>
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**

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Additional information and forms can be found at: [www.southcentral.edu/disability](http://www.southcentral.edu/disability)

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