

Professor: Francisco J Pallares, DED

Class Meeting: Online

Office Hours: by appointment

E-mail: francisco.pallares@sulross.eduCourse Syllabus

Textbook: No required textbook we will be going over multiple readings provided throughout the semester.

1. Course Overview

This course is designed to provide a one-term overview (introduction) of readings in economics incorporating discussions about business and government. We will initially include introductory discussions of microeconomics and macroeconomics, market failures, and readings that describe the role of government when trying to contest market inequities through regulation, taxation, and subsidies. Governments may also intervene in markets to promote general economic fairness.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 MESSAGE

Although I prefer the traditional face to face interaction, I do understand that we are in a difficult time during the pandemic of COVID-19. This class is listed as online, this means that all coursework will be online, not in person. At this time it is imperious you should please adhere to the COVID-19 safe practices as established here for all courses: <https://srinfo.sulross.edu/covid-19/#915>

Course Objectives

- Development of critical thinking.
- Explain the concepts of opportunity cost and scarcity.

1. Course Grade

There will be a total of 2 exams in the semester (1 midterm and 1 final; the final will be on the second half of the course—non-comprehensive). Both exams are open book, mandatory, timed, and will be made available online for a whole week. Besides this, there are going to be 10 reaction papers **ALL REACTION PAPERS ARE MANDATORY** and 10 discussions **ALL DISCUSSIONS ARE MANDATORY** throughout the semester.

There will be a total of 2 regular exams in the semester:

- 2 Exams...25% each (25%+25%=50%) (both mandatory)
- 10 Reaction Papers... 2% each (2% X 10 = 20%) (All Mandatory)
- 10 Discussions... 2% each (2% X 10 = 20%) (All Mandatory)
- 1 Group Presentation 10%-Mandatory

2 Regular exams=	50%
10 Reaction Papers=	20%
10 Discussions=	20%
1 Presentation	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

The grading scale follows:

A... 100%-90%

B... 89%-80%

C... 79%-70%

D... 69%-60%

F... 59% and below

- There are NO extra credit opportunities.
- **No makeup Reaction Papers/Exams/Discussions are allowed or offered or accepted, except for the University Excused Absences. If an exam date is in conflict with your schedule, please let me know ahead of time to place the Test/Reaction Papers/Discussion –BEFORE- the date.**
- **All discussions and Reaction Papers will be due on the Saturday of each week at midnight. You'll have an entire week to submit it, therefore plan ahead of time.**
- **Reaction Papers**
 - Each reaction paper should be one page long, double spaced, and with a font not larger than 12.
 - Provide a concise review of the main parts of the article.
 - Describe the research questions posed, methods employed, and outcomes of the work.
 - Include a brief critique of the article. Did you find this to be solid research, well thought out and executed? Was the article well-crafted to communicate the message involved?
 - Did you find "holes" in the research that may lead to future work? Did you find things that you can borrow and use?
- Please look at the calendar to see when each of these assignments is due each week, they will always have to be submitted before Saturday at midnight. Each of these 10 reaction papers is worth a maximum of 2% of your final grade, which in total is worth 20% of your overall grade.
- **Discussions**
 - Please tell me what is the **thesis/argument** or the intellectual proposition of the reading.
 - Please also indicate what is the counter argument or **antithesis** which is the negation of the **thesis**, or a reaction to the proposition.
 - Please also indicate the **synthesis** or the common ground where both thesis and antithesis can have to form new proposition.
 - **In order to receive full grade on discussions, it is necessary to participate and contribute with material of substance in at least once or more with classmate's responses.** Do you agree with your classmate's propositions/Disagree—**PLEASE KEEP IT COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL** I urge you to maintain electronic etiquette on all arguments that get posted on the discussion.
 - Please look at the calendar to see when each of these discussions is due, they will always have to be submitted before Saturday at midnight. Participation in each of these 10 weekly discussions is worth 2% of the final grade for a total amount for discussions of 20% of the final grade.

- **Presentation** the end of the semester there will be 3 classes where the last part of the class will be dedicated to presenting an article related to Business and Government. You will work individually on this presentation. You will have an option to select a paper to present. The presentation is worth 10% of your final grade.
 - Provide a concise review of the main parts of the article.
 - Describe the research questions posed, methods employed, and outcomes of the work.
 - Include a brief critique of the article. Did you find this to be solid research, well thought out and executed? Was the article well-crafted to communicate the message involved?
 - Did you find “holes” in the research that may lead to future work?
 - Each presentation should last 10 minutes total. 7 minutes will be dedicated to the presentation itself, while 3 minutes will be for Q&A session. PowerPoints are suggested, but not necessary.
 - Be professional, and amply prepared (PowerPoint is for visual aid, not for reading the entire presentation).
- **Both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam** will be open book/notes and each is weighted at 25% of your overall grade. Specific study and review materials for these exams will be made available as exam dates approach. The Midterm will cover the first half of our course, while the final will cover the second half of our course. The Exam is 60 minutes long and it is open book: this means that you’ll be able to use your textbook, Ebook, calculators (except online calculators), notes, note cards, formula sheets, and scratch paper. However, they will have to be taken in an online format via Blackboard.
 - The exam schedule is as follows:
 - Midterm exam will be open on October 10th and closes on October 16th.
 - Final exam will be open from December 5th and closes on December 11th.

Rubric on Problem Sets and Discussions

Rubric for Problem Sets				
Category	2%	1.5 %	1 %	0.5%
Completion	Work is 100% complete.	Work is about 75% complete.	Works is about 50% complete.	Work is about 25% complete.
Student Work	Student work is thorough and clear. All relevant diagrams or explanations are included, Answers demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the concepts.	Student shows a moderate amount of work. Not all relevant diagrams or explanations are included. Answers demonstrate adequate understanding of concepts.	Student shows a marginal amount of work. Relevant diagrams or explanations are inadequate. Answers demonstrate weak understanding of concepts.	Student shows some work but it is grossly inadequate. Relevant diagrams or explanations are not included. Answers demonstrate minimum understanding of concepts.
Accuracy	Answers are essentially 100% accurate.	Answers are approximately 75% accurate.	Answers are approximately 50% accurate.	Answers are approximately 25% accurate.

Rubric for Discussion Participation			
Category	2 %	1 – 1.5 %	0-0.5 %
Participation	Student participated in the discussion by responding at least one time	Student participated in the discussion.	Student logged into the discussion but did not participate.
Contribution	Original ideas and/or constructive comments/questions were contributed to the discussion.	Useful comments or questions were contributed to the discussion.	There was little substantive contribution to the discussion.

2. Official Communications

Official outside-of-class-meeting communications will be delivered to the students via their SRSU e-mail. Students are responsible to check their e-mail daily. Not having checked messages is not a valid excuse for missed course work. Communications can also be done by appointment. IT support regarding blackboard is listed in the link below.

<https://www.sulross.edu/bb/>

Who should I contact?

<p>Online Support Desk</p> <p>☎ 888.837.6055 ✉ blackboardsupport@sulross.edu</p> <p>Available: 24/7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging into Blackboard • Questions about Blackboard tools/software • Trouble with tests/quizzes/assignments • Error messages on Blackboard • Online course video problems 	<p>Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)</p> <p>☎ 888.837.2882 ✉ techassist@sulross.edu</p> <p>Available: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logging into your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email • Campus computer, computer lab, or campus Wi-Fi issues • Security concerns with your SRSU or VPN account • Questions about Office 365 or OneDrive
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3. Policy on Academic Misconduct

(Please refer to https://d1mg6ms3faonj.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/student_handbook_2019-2020_revision_12.7.2020.pdf)

Students should familiarize themselves with the SRSU Student Code of Conduct Cheating, plagiarism, and/or other form of academic misconduct are **NOT TOLERATED** in class. Any student found guilty of such misconduct will be subject to disciplinary actions. Including, but not limited to, **Zero** score on his/her class activities.

4. Special Needs

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box

C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

All medical information is treated confidentially

5. Course Outline and Tentative Schedule

(Please remember that **this schedule is tentative** and it can be subject to changes, if appropriate changes are necessary they will be announced in class).

Week	Weekly Saturday	What's Due?	Date and Class Topic	Reading Material: *Assignment is a Discussion; ***Assignment is a Reaction Paper
1	28-Aug	Discussion 1 Reaction P. 1	Role of Businesses in Society	*M. Friedman: "The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits," New York Times Magazine, Sept 13, 1970 D. Vogel: "Limits of the market for virtue," Ethical Corporation, 2005 ***T. Moore: "Can We Rein in Corporate Power Within Capitalism? Or is Socialism Necessary?" Socialist Alternative 2004
2	4-Sep	Discussion 2 Reaction P. 2	Values in Political Economy	*M. Friedman: Capitalism and Freedom, Ch. 2 ***N. Goodwin: "The limitations of markets: Background essay," Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts Univ. 2005
3	18-Sep	Discussion 3 Reaction P. 3	Market Failures	Public Goods, by Tyler Cowen, from the Concise Encyclopedia of Economics *Externalities, by Bryan Caplan, from the Concise Encyclopedia of Economics Econlib.org *** Monopoly, by George Stigler, from the Concise Encyclopedia of Economics Econlib.org
4	25-Sep	Discussion 4 Reaction P. 4	Competitive Capitalism vs. Regulated Capitalism	Case: Global climate change and BP (HBS 9-708-026, rev. May 2008) ***N. Klein: "Capitalism vs the Climate," The Nation, 2011 *I.M. Goklany: "What to Do about Climate Change," Cato, 2008
5	2-Oct	Discussion 5	Ethical Capitalism	Case: Whole Foods: Balancing social mission and growth (HBS 9-410-023, rev'd Sept 2011)

		Reaction P. 5		<p>* J. O'Toole and D. Vogel: "Two and a half cheers for conscious capitalism," <i>CMR</i> 2011</p> <p>*** R Sisodia, (2011). <i>Conscious capitalism: A better way to win: A response to James O'Toole and David Vogel's "Two and a half cheers for conscious capitalism"</i>. <i>CMR</i>.</p>
6	9-Oct	Discussion 6 Reaction P. 6	Socialism	<p>Case: The USSR 1988: The search for growth (HBS 9-795-060, rev July 1996))</p> <p>*K. Marx and F. Engels: "The Communist Manifesto," 1848: Parts 1 and 2</p> <p>***W P Cockshott and A F Cottrell: "Information and Economics: A Critique of Hayek," 1996</p>
7	16-Oct	Prep for Midterm	Midterm Exam Week Exam	
8	23-Oct	Discussion 7 Reaction P. 7	Social Democracy	<p>Case: Denmark: Globalization and the Welfare State (HBS 9-709-015, rev June 2012)</p> <p>***O. Brøns-Petersen: "The Danish Model—Don't Try This at Home," <i>Cato</i>, 2015</p> <p>*A. M. Mulvad, R. M. Stahl: "The real Denmark," <i>Jacobin</i>, Oct 2018</p>
9	30-Oct	Discussion 8 Reaction P.8	Stakeholders: Investors	<p>Case: Ben and Jerry's: Preserving mission and brand within Unilever (HBS 306-037, rev'd Jan 2007)</p> <p>*L. Stout: "The problem of corporate purpose," <i>Issues in Governance Studies</i>, 2012</p> <p>*** Stout, L. A. (2012). <i>New Thinking on" Shareholder Primacy". Accounting, Economics, and Law: A Convivium, 2(2)</i>.</p>
10	6-Nov	Discussion 9 Reaction P. 9	Stakeholders: Suppliers	<p>Case: Rana Plaza: Workplace Safety in Bangladesh A, B (HBS 9-514-034, HBS 9-514-035, rev Feb 2015)</p> <p>* I. Maitland, "The great non-debate over international sweatshops," <i>British Academy of Management Proceedings</i>, 1997</p>

				***I. Suwandi, J.B. Foster: “Multinational corporations and the globalization of monopoly capital,” Monthly Review, 2016
11	13-Nov	Discussion 10 Reaction P 10	Stakeholders: Demanders	Case: Facebook: Can ethics scale in the digital age? (HBS 9-319-030, rev Sept 2018) * N Patel: “It’s time to break up Facebook,” The Verge, Sept 2018 ***B. Tarnoff: “A socialist Silicon Valley,” Jacobin 4.18.2018
12	20-Nov	Presentations	Stakeholders: Government	Case: Making Target the target: Boycotts and corporate political activity (HBS 9-317-113, rev’d Aug 2017) *R. J. Shapiro and D. Dowson: “Corporate political spending: why the critics are wrong,” Manhattan Institute, June 2012 ***M. Gilens and B. I. Page: “Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens,” Perspectives on Politics, 2014
13	27-Nov	Thanksgiving Week	No class	
14	4-Dec	Presentations	Stakeholders: Workers	J. Capretta: “The on-demand economy and worker benefits and protections” AEI/Aspen G. Standing: “Meet the precariat” World Economic Forum G. Bailey: “Precarious or precariat?” ISR 2012
15	11-Dec	Prep for Final Exam	Final Exam Week	

-Last day to withdraw with an automatic “W” is November 12th

Final Disclaimer: I reserve the right to modify this syllabus with a one week notice if I view doing so to be in the best interest of the educational process. The class will be notified of changes as soon as practical. Nothing in this syllabus is meant to conflict with the rules and regulations of SRSU, the college of business.