

## Course Syllabus: English for Economics

Professor: Nasser Elahi      Semester: Fall 2024      Level: Undergraduate Program

### 1. Introduction and Objectives

This English for Economics course, is specifically designed for undergraduate students aiming to enhance their English language proficiency within the realm of economic principles and concepts. This course is meticulously crafted to integrate language acquisition with economic theory, providing a comprehensive learning experience that bridges the gap between language skills and understanding the economic literature.

Throughout this dynamic course, students will engage in a variety of activities and exercises that focus on refining their ability to communicate and comprehend complex economic ideas in English. By seamlessly blending language learning with fundamental economic principles, the course aims to equip students with the necessary skills to effectively articulate and grasp economic concepts, both in written and spoken forms.

Key objectives of this course include:

- Language Proficiency: **Enhancing students' English language skills, with a particular emphasis on vocabulary and terminology relevant to economics.**
- Economic Understanding: **Deepening students' comprehension of core economic principles and theories.**
- Integrated Learning: **Combining language acquisition with economic content to foster a holistic understanding of both subjects.**
- Practical Application: **Providing opportunities for students to apply their language skills in real-world economic contexts, through discussions, presentations, and written assignments.**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Understand and use economic terminology:** Gain familiarity with key economic terms and concepts, enabling clear and precise communication in both written and spoken English.
- **Read and analyze economic texts:** Develop the ability to read, comprehend, and critically analyze economic literature, including textbooks, research papers, and articles.
- **Write effectively on economic topics:** Improve writing skills by composing essays, reports, and summaries on various economic issues, ensuring clarity, coherence, and academic rigor.
- **Engage in discussions and presentations:** Enhance speaking and listening skills through class discussions, debates, and presentations on economic topics, fostering confidence and fluency in English.

- **Apply economic concepts in real-world contexts:** Use English to explain and discuss economic phenomena, policies, and case studies, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

## 2. Professor:

- Nasser Elahi will guide you through the course material.



## 3. Prerequisites

To enroll in this course, students must have successfully completed the following prerequisites:

- **General English:** A foundational course in English language skills.
- **Microeconomics I:** An introductory course covering basic microeconomic principles.
- **Macroeconomics I:** An introductory course covering basic macroeconomic principles.

## 4. Required Textbook:

The primary textbook for this course is: *“Schaum’s Outline of Principles of Economics”* by Dominick Salvatore and Eugene A. Diulio

This book will serve as the foundation for our discussions and assignments. It provides comprehensive coverage of economic principles and concepts, which will be essential for your understanding and success in this course. Please ensure you have access to this textbook throughout the semester.

## 5. Course Schedule

The course will last 16 weeks. The following is a tentative schedule of the topics and readings for each session from the main source:

- Week 1: Introduction to the course
- Week 2: Chapter 1: Introduction to Economics
- Week 3: Chapter 2: The Economic Problem
- Week 4: Chapter 3: Demand, Supply, and Equilibrium
- Week 5: Chapter 4: Introduction to Macroeconomics
- Week 6: Chapter 5: Unemployment, Inflation, and National Income
- Week 7: Chapter 6: Consumption, Investment, and Net Exports
- Week 8: Chapter 7: Traditional Keynesian Approach to Equilibrium Output
- Week 9: Chapter 8: Fiscal Policy
- Week 10: Chapter 9: Money and Banking
- Week 11: Chapter 10: The Federal Reserve and the Money Supply
- Week 12: Chapter 11: Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- Week 13: Chapter 12: Inflation, Unemployment, Deficits, and Debt

Week 14: Chapter 13: Economic Growth and Productivity

Week 15: Chapter 14: Demand, Supply, and Elasticity

Week 16: Chapter 15: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly

## 6. Course Requirements:

- **Attendance and Participation:** Attend all classes and actively participate in discussions.
- **Reading Assignments:** Read Chapters 1 to 15 of the textbook, with one chapter assigned per week starting from the second week (the first week is dedicated to the course introduction).
- **Weekly Essays:** Write a 150-175 word essay each week from the second week to the sixteenth week on the following topics related to Iran's main socio-economic issues. These essays should be emailed to [elahi.mofid@gmail.com](mailto:elahi.mofid@gmail.com) at least one day before the class, with the subject line "EFE031" respectively:
  1. **Corruption in Economic Policies:** The impact of corruption on Iran's economic development and social equity.
  2. **Rent-Seeking Behavior:** How rent-seeking affects economic efficiency and social justice in Iran.
  3. **Oil Dependency:** The socio-economic consequences of Iran's reliance on oil exports.
  4. **Pollution:** The effects of air and water pollution on public health and the economy.
  5. **Environmental Justice:** Disparities in environmental quality and access to resources among different social groups.
  6. **Unemployment:** The socio-economic impacts of high unemployment rates in Iran.
  7. **Inflation:** How inflation affects different socio-economic classes and overall economic stability.
  8. **Sanctions:** The socio-economic effects of international sanctions on Iran.
  9. **Water Scarcity:** The impact of water shortages on agriculture, industry, and daily life.
  10. **Urbanization:** The challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanization in Iran.
  11. **Climate Change:** The socio-economic implications of climate change for Iran.
  12. **Waste Management:** The effectiveness of waste management policies and their socio-economic impacts.
  13. **Biodiversity Loss:** The socio-economic consequences of declining biodiversity.
  14. **Deforestation:** The impact of deforestation on local communities and the economy.
  15. **Energy Transition:** The socio-economic challenges and opportunities of transitioning to renewable energy sources.

## 7. Evaluation and Assessment:

- **Reading and Comprehension:** 4 out of 20
  - This component assesses your understanding of the assigned readings from the textbook and other materials.
- **Writing, Presenting, and Discussing Essays:** 3 out of 20

- This includes the quality of your weekly essays, your ability to present your ideas clearly, and your participation in class discussions.
- **Midterm Exam (November, 17<sup>th</sup>):** 5 out of 20
  - The midterm exam will cover the material discussed in the first half of the course and will test your comprehension and analytical skills.
- **Final Exam (January, 13<sup>th</sup>):** 8 out of 20
  - The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all the topics discussed throughout the course, and will assess your overall understanding and ability to apply the concepts learned.

## 8. Communication with Students

For any questions or to submit your essays, please email [elahi.mofid@gmail.com](mailto:elahi.mofid@gmail.com) with the subject line "EFE03". You can expect a response within 10 days, God willing.

Additionally, my office hours are for one-on-one counseling with undergraduate students on **Mondays from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM.**