

Antalya Bilim University
Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences
Department of Economics
ECON 1408– Special Topics in Economics II
ECON 4106 (Contemporary Economic Problem)
Spring, 2025

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Class time& Place: Friday 14:00-16:50 (B1-03)

Course Objective

This course aims to thoroughly explore contemporary economic problems and their impact on the economy. Students will analyze modern issues such as natural resources, the environment, education, crime, and discrimination from an economic perspective, enhancing their ability to develop policies addressing these challenges.

The course begins with an introduction to contemporary economic problems and covers key topics such as natural resources and environmental issues, energy prices, farm policies, and rent control. It also addresses the relationship between economics and law, stock market crashes, the economics of education, and sports economics. More specific topics such as the economics of crime, race and gender discrimination, and the economic impact of casinos are included. Additionally, the course examines the economic effects of terrorism, encouraging students to think critically and propose solutions to these problems.

Course Book

- Robert C. Guelle (2018), Issues in Economics Today, Eight Edition, The McGraw-Hill Economics Series

Recommended Additional Reading

- Roger LeRoy Miller (2021) - Economics Today, The Micro View-Pearson.
- Roger LeRoy Miller, Daniel K. Benjamin (2017)- The Economics of Macro Issues-Pearson.
- Bandi Kamaiah,C.S. Shylajan,S. Venkata Seshaiah,M. Aruna,Subhadip Mukherjee (2017), Current Issues in Economics and Finance, Springer.
- Roger LeRoy Miller (2015)- Economics Today, The Macro View-Pearson.

Enhancing Graduate Attributes

Through participation in course activities and engagement with the course material, students are guided to cultivate the following graduate characteristics. These attributes are evaluated through assessment tasks:

- Proficiency in academic research skills;
- Meaningful interaction with pertinent subject knowledge;

- Developing the knack for thinking analytically and critically;
- Fostering the habit of learning independently and reflectively

Engage with Pre-Reading Materials

Familiarize yourself with the foundational concepts by engaging with any pre-reading or preliminary resources provided before the course officially begins, aiding in a smoother transition into more complex topics.

Active Participation

Plan to actively participate in all class discussions and activities, as engagement not only reinforces learning but also fosters a collaborative and dynamic educational environment.

Utilize Available Resources

Take advantage of the multitude of resources available, including textbooks, online platforms, and library services, to supplement your learning and clarify any concepts you find challenging.

Assessment Criteria

- Midterm (40%): Students are responsible for all class material covered until the midterm exam.
- Final Exam (60%): This exam is cumulative and will cover all units and topics studied throughout the course. However, the emphasis of the final exam will be on those topics covered after the midterm.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism means using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit, and it is considered a serious offense. Therefore, plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. This could be intentional or unintentional, such as not citing a source properly. In Turkey's educational system, there are strict penalties for those caught plagiarizing.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1- Natural Resources, the Environment, and Climate Change

WEEK 2- Energy Prices

WEEK 3- Farm Policy

WEEK 4- Rent Control

WEEK 5- Economics and the Law

WEEK 6- The Stock Market and Crashes

WEEK 7- Ticket Brokers and Ticket Scalping

WEEK 8- MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 9- The Economics of Education

WEEK 10- The Economics of Sports

WEEK 11- The Economics of Crime
WEEK 12- The Economics of Race and Sex Discrimination
WEEK 13- The Economic Impact of Casino and Sports Gambling
WEEK 14- The Economics of Terrorism
WEEK 15- Antitrust