

Moravian College

Fall 2008

Economics 210: The Economics of Crime

SYLLABUS *n* 1: a compendium or summary outline of a discourse, treatise, course of study, or examination requirements : a series of abstracts. (Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1966))

Dr. George Brower Comenius Hall 212 610-861-1379 browerg@moravian.edu

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Class Time		10:20 – 11:30		10:20 – 11:30	
Office Hours	10:00 – 10:30	11:30 – 12:00	10:00 – 10:30	11:30 – 12:00 12:30 – 1:30	
	2:00 – 2:30		2:00 – 2:30		

You are welcome to an appointment at other mutually convenient times.

Ask in person, email, or telephone, including some times that would work for you.

These hours and any changes to them will be posted on my office door.

Course Prerequisites: The only prerequisite for this course is sophomore standing, presumably including Writing 100.

Course Goals: The Economics of Crime introduces the interdisciplinary study of economics, the science of maximizing an objective subject to limited time, money, and other resources, and law, the social determination that particular behaviors are harmful to the group. Violations of law are called crimes, hence the economics of crime. Econ 210 is also a writing intense or "W" course under the College's general education requirements. During this course you will learn:

- I. how economists and lawyers apply economic concepts and graphic methods to crime and law, including topics like:
 - A. liability,
 - B. contracts,
 - C. crimes against persons, and
 - D. crimes against property as well as:
- II. how economists develop an idea into a paper, including:
 - A. narrowing the topic,
 - B. finding or collecting data, and
 - C. designing, drafting, and most importantly revising a paper.

Required Texts, Suggested Text, and Suggested Materials:

The Constitution of the United States (1787) (On line at <http://www.usconstitution.net/>)
Cooper, Cynthia (2008) *Extraordinary Circumstances*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons.
Winter, Harold (2008) *The Economics of Crime*. New York: Routledge.

<i>Course Work:</i>	<i>Points</i>	
Morality, sin, crime, law, and economics	100	10.0% Friday, September 5
Cooper: Morality, sin, crime, law, and economics	150	15.0% Thursday, October 2
Term project outline and draft literature review section	50	5.0% Tuesday, October 28
Term project outline and draft theory section	50	5.0% Tuesday November 4
Term project outline and draft method section	50	5.0% Tuesday November 11
Term project outline and analysis section	50	5.0% Tuesday November 18
Term project complete draft	150	15.0% Friday November 21
Term project due	200	20% Friday December 5
Take home final exam	200	20% TBA
Attendance	0	0.00%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Course Policies

Academic Honesty: Students are responsible for abiding by the College's Academic Honesty policy in the [Moravian College Student Handbook](#)

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Attendance: I take attendance but, since it does not affect your grade, I do not consider the reason for an absence. Instead, I use attendance to:

1. Attach faces to names,
2. Know who is present and ready to work at the scheduled time,
3. Assist the Academic Affairs Office when a student withdraws, and
4. Guide benefit-of-the-doubt decisions when course grades are due.

Even so, preparation for and participation in each class matters more than a grade step:

- A. 10% of course points are between two letter grades (B to A, C+ to B+, etc), so your first 99 points or the 1000 available would earn a "J+" if letter grades continued to 0.0% of total points.
- B. A grade step is one-third of a letter grade, or 3.33%.
- C. The 29 scheduled class meetings support the graded projects and exams, so preparation for and participation in each class is implicitly worth 3.4%. Therefore, each class, including preparation and participation, contributes more than one grade step to your course grade.

Syllabus and Calendar changes will be distributed before taking effect. You are responsible for using the current version, including due dates.

*Due Dates: **Except by prior approval:*** projects must be turned in by 4:30 pm, problem sets must be submitted in class, and exams must be taken as scheduled or receive a zero.

Electronics: You may use a hand-held calculator but must *turn off all other electronic devices, including all portable computers and wireless gear (headsets)*, during classes and exams.

Email is like a postcard, so I do not use it to discuss confidential topics like grades.

You may not use email to submit ANYTHING for evaluation without PRIOR permission.

Exam Aids: You may use no aids except those listed on review materials.

Extra Credit opportunities would be open to all of you but, since there are many opportunities to demonstrate your learning, there are none. If you find a topic more interesting than class time allows and your GPA is at least 2.7, see me about independent study.

Grades	Points	Percent	Letter	Points	Minimum Cumulative GPA for:
	1,000	100.00%			
	933	93.33%	A	4.00	
	900	90.00%	A-	3.67	
	867	86.67%	B+	3.33	
	833	83.33%	B	3.00	Honors Program
	800	80.00%	B-	2.67	2.70 for Field & Independent Study
	767	76.67%	C+	2.33	
	733	73.33%	C	2.00	Major and Graduation
	700	70.00%	C-	1.67	
	667	66.67%	D+	1.33	
	633	63.33%	D	1.00	
	600	60.00%	D-	0.67	
	<600	<60.00%	F	0.00	

- **See me as soon as you realize you could use extra help! That's why I'm here!**
- The Department and Learning Center (x1510) will help you find a tutor for extra help.
- Record your grades to help you know if you need extra help.
- Grading requires qualitative judgments that are not easily translated to a numeric scale. See me **during office hours or by appointment** for questions on any grades.

Group Study is a great way to learn, but **all material you turn in for evaluation must be your individual work unless the assignment specifically authorizes group work**. Do not let enthusiasm lead to turning in material that appears to be the work of more than one person.

Handouts including this syllabus are available at p/econ/brower/m295 after class distribution.

Learning and Other Disabilities: Any student who wishes to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) **must first** meet with Mrs. Laurie Roth (x1510) in the Office of Learning Services (learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD) or Dr. Ronald Kline (x1510) in the Counseling Center (all other disabilities).

Make Up Work: Prepare for the first class after an absence by doing the reading assignment, answering the Questions for Review, and doing the Exercises assigned in class. After a(n):

- Missed class or two? See a colleague for class notes and assignments, then see me.

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- Planned one day or extended absence? *See me in advance* but **there are no make ups or extended due dates for travel** unless College-scheduled.
- Unexpected extended absence? Contact me **and** Learning Services (x1510) **asap**.
- Problem sets CANNOT be made up, but someone can turn yours in for you.

Returned Work is filed by last name in “Dr Brower's Out Box” outside my door if you are absent.
Everything in the folder is shredded 48 hours after the deadline for grade submissions.

A copy of this syllabus is on file in the Moravian College Academic Affairs Office (Monocacy Hall, 2nd Floor) and available [on line, on campus](#) during the current semester.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>ECON 210</i>
Tue	Aug	26	Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics
Thu	Aug	28	Research and Writing in Economics (Winter, chapter 9)
Tue	Sep	2	Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics Writing Workshop
Thu	Sep	4	Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics Presentations
Fri	Sep	5	<i>Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics papers due</i>
Tue	Sep	9	Return & discuss Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, and Economics papers
Thu	Sep	11	Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics (Cooper through page 104)
Tue	Sep	16	Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics (Cooper through page 216)
Thu	Sep	18	Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics (Cooper all)
Tue	Sep	23	Law in the United States: The Constitution and Federalism
Thu	Sep	25	Law and Economics: Data and Research (Winter, chapter 1)
Tue	Sep	30	Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics writing workshop
Thu	Oct	2	<i>Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics papers due at the BEGINNING of class – Select term paper topics</i>
Thu	Oct	9	Return & discuss Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics
Tue	Oct	14	Cooper and the Economics of Crime: Winter Chapter 2-3
Thu	Oct	16	Term project writing workshop: Questions? Change or narrow your topic?
Tue	Oct	21	Capital punishment: Winter, chapter 4
Thu	Oct	23	Race and crime: Winter, chapter 5
<i>Tue</i>	<i>Oct</i>	28	Term project writing workshop: Outline and draft literature review due
Thu	Oct	30	Private crime deterrence: Winter, chapter 6
<i>Tue</i>	<i>Nov</i>	4	Term project writing workshop: draft theory section due
Thu	Nov	6	Drugs and crime: Winter, chapter 7
<i>Tue</i>	<i>Nov</i>	11	Term project writing workshop: draft method section due
Thu	Nov	13	Social reforms and crime deterrence: Winter, chapter 8
<i>Tue</i>	<i>Nov</i>	18	Term project writing workshop: analysis section due
Thu	Nov	20	Term project writing workshop: complete draft
FRI	Nov	21	Term project complete drafts due at NOON
Tue	Nov	25	Return & discuss term project drafts
Tue	Dec	2	Writing workshop
Thu	Dec	4	Cooper and Winter:
FRI	Dec	5	Term project due at NOON
Tue	Dec	9	Conclusion, course evaluation, etc
Date & Time	TBA		Take home final exam