

Moravian College

Spring 2010

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))

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| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----|
| ECON 210 | | 8:55 – 10:05 | | 8:55 – 10:05 | |
| MGMT 260 A | | 10:20 – 11:30 | | 10:20 – 11:30 | |
| Office Hours | 11:30 – 12:00 | 11:30 – 2:00 | 11:30 – 12:00 | 11:30 – 12:00 | |
| Office Hours | | 2:00 – 2:30 | | 2:00 – 2:30 | |
| MGMT 260 B | | 2:35 – 3:45 | | 2:35 – 3:45 | |
| Office Hours | | 3:45 – 4:15 | | 3:45 – 4:15 | |

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:

Becker, Gary S. (1968) "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach".

The Journal of Political Economy (76): 169-217.

The Constitution of the United States (written 1787; in force 1789).

Cooper, Cynthia (2009) *Extraordinary Circumstances*. Hoboken NJ: John Wiley

Winter, Harold (2008) *The Economics of Crime*. New York: Routledge.

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| Assignment: | Points | Due Date |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Morality, sin, crime, law, and economics | 100 | 10.0% Friday, January 29 |
| Cooper: Morality, sin, crime, law, and economics | 150 | 15.0% Friday, February 19 |
| Term paper topic selection IN CLASS | 0 | 0.0% Thursday, March 4 |
| Term project outline and draft literature review section | 100 | 10.0% Friday, March 26 |
| Term project outline and draft theory section | 100 | 10.0% Friday, April 2 |
| Term project outline and draft method section | 100 | 10.0% Friday, April 9 |
| Term project outline and analysis section | 100 | 10.0% Friday, April 16 |
| Term project complete draft | 150 | 15.0% Friday, April 23 |
| Term project due | 200 | 20.0% Friday, April 30 |
| Attendance | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 1,000 | 100.0% NOON except Mar 4 |

Course Policies

Academic Honesty: Students are responsible for abiding by the College's

Academic Honesty policy in the [Moravian College Student Handbook](#)

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.

Preparing for & participating in class matters more than a grade step:

- 10% of course points are between two letter grades (B to A, C+ to B+, etc), so your first 99 points of the 1,000 available would earn a "J+" if letter grades continued to 0.0% of total points.
- A grade step is one-third of a letter grade, or 3.33%.
- 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.

*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 except hearing aids during classes and exams.***

Email is like a postcard. I do not use it for confidential topics like grades.

Do not use email to submit ANYTHING for a grade 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.

Extra Help:

- **See me as soon as you realize you could use help! That's why I'm here!**
- The Department and Learning Center (x1510) will help you find a tutor.

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Grades: See the College Catalog for further details.

| Points | Percent | Letter | GPTs | Catalog Definition | Minimum Cum GPA for: |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1,000 | 100.00% | | | ... achievement of the highest caliber.... | |
| 933 | 93.33% | A | 4.00 | independent work, original thinking,... | |
| 900 | 90.00% | A- | 3.67 | acquire and use knowledge effectively | |
| 867 | 86.67% | B+ | 3.33 | ... higher than average achievement. | |
| 833 | 83.33% | B | 3.00 | Evidence of independent work and original thinking... | Honors Program |
| 800 | 80.00% | B- | 2.67 | | 2.70: Field & Independent Study |
| 767 | 76.67% | C+ | 2.33 | ... reasonable ... time, effort, and attention ... | |
| 733 | 73.33% | C | 2.00 | familiarity with the content[,] ... methods of | Major and Graduation |
| 700 | 70.00% | C- | 1.67 | study ... active participation ... | |
| 667 | 66.67% | D+ | 1.33 | ... unsatisfactory work, below... standard ... | |
| 633 | 63.33% | D | 1.00 | one or more important aspects falls below | |
| 600 | 60.00% | D- | 0.67 | the average expected ... for graduation. | |
| <600 | <60.00% | F | 0.00 | No points. This indicates failure. | |

- Record your grades to compare with mine and see 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/m210 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 a class? See a colleague for class notes and assignments, then see me.
- 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.

Syllabus and Calendar Changes will be distributed in class before taking effect. **You are responsible for using the current versions, including due dates.**

This syllabus is on file in the Moravian College Academic Affairs Office (Monocacy Hall, 2nd Floor) and available on the Registrar's web page on AMOS.

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| Date | | | Activities, Assignments, and Due Dates |
|-------------|------------|-----------|---|
| Tu | Jan | 19 | Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics |
| Th | Jan | 21 | Research and Writing in Economics (Winter, Ch 9) |
| Tu | Jan | 26 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> : Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics |
| Th | Jan | 28 | Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics (Cooper through p 104) |
| Fr | Jan | 29 | Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Econ Papers due at NOON |
| Tu | Feb | 2 | Return & discuss Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, and Econ papers |
| Th | Feb | 4 | Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics (Cooper through p 216) |
| Tu | Feb | 9 | Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Economics (Cooper all) |
| Th | Feb | 11 | Law and Economics: Data and Research (Winter, Ch 1) |
| Tu | Feb | 16 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> : Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Econ |
| Th | Feb | 18 | Cooper and the Economics of Crime + Winter: Ch 2-3 |
| Fr | Feb | 19 | Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Econ Papers due at NOON |
| Tu | Feb | 23 | Return & discuss Cooper: Morality, Sin, Crime, Law, & Econ |
| Th | Feb | 25 | Becker |
| Tu | Mar | 2 | Becker |
| Th | Mar | 4 | Becker AND select term paper topics in class |
| Tu | Mar | 16 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> : Questions? Change or narrow your topic? |
| Th | Mar | 18 | Capital punishment: Winter, Ch 4 |
| Tu | Mar | 23 | Race and crime: Winter, Ch 5 |
| Th | Mar | 25 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> |
| Fr | Mar | 26 | Outline & Draft literature review due at NOON |
| Tu | Mar | 30 | Private crime deterrence: Winter, Ch 6 |
| Th | Apr | 1 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> |
| Fr | Apr | 2 | Draft theory section due at the beginning of class |
| Tu | Apr | 6 | Drugs and crime: Winter, Ch 7 |
| Th | Apr | 8 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> |
| Fr | Apr | 9 | Draft method section due at NOON |
| Tu | Apr | 13 | Social reforms and crime deterrence: Winter, Ch 8 |
| Th | Apr | 15 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> |
| Fr | Apr | 16 | Draft analysis section due at NOON |
| Tu | Apr | 20 | Cooper and Winter |
| Th | Apr | 22 | <i>Writing Workshop</i> |
| Fr | Apr | 23 | Term project complete drafts due at NOON |
| Tu | Apr | 27 | <i>Writing workshop</i> : Return & discuss term project drafts |
| Th | Apr | 29 | Conclusion, course evaluation, etc |
| Fr | Apr | 30 | Term project due at NOON |