

Moravian College  
Economics 390: Readings in the Economics of Crime  
Syllabus -- Fall 2012

[SYLLABUS 1: a compendium or summary outline of a discourse, treatise, course of study,  
or examination requirements: a series of abstracts.

*Webster's 3rd New International Dictionary (1966)]*

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Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
?:??- 9:45	Drop in . . .	Drop in or: send email or call with 2 or more times that fit our schedules to arrange an appointment.	Drop in . . .	Drop in or: send email or call with 2 or more times that fit our schedules to arrange an appointment.	Drop in or: send email or call with 2 or more times that fit our schedules to arrange an appointment.
9:45-10:15	FCFS: Com 212		FCFS: Com 212		
10:20-11:30	ECON 390 Com-213		ECON 390 Com-213		
11:30-12:00	FCFS: Com 212		FCFS: Com 212		
1:10- 2:20	ECON 156A Mem 202		ECON 156A Mem 202		
2:35- 3:45	ECON 156B Mem 202		ECON 156B Mem 202		
3:45- 4:15	FCFS: Com 212		FCFS: Com 212		

Office Hours: FCFS? No appointments! . . . "Walk right in, sit right down . . ." [1]

Else: a) drop in any time, or

b) send email or call with 2+ times that work for you to arrange a time and place.

Prerequisites: ECON 225 - Intermediate Microeconomics.

Goals: Students who complete this course should be able, in writing and orally, to:

1. State a thesis that leads to testable hypotheses.
2. Find and report peer reviewed work that supports and refutes their thesis.
3. Test and report their thesis, including conclusions and possible extensions.
- 4.

Texts & Materials:

There are no required texts because the course depends on peer reviewed publications.

Class Preparation and Participation:

- On average, students who do the assigned reading and other work before class find it easier to complete high-quality writing assignments and earn higher grades.
- Increasing your grade by a letter takes 10% of available points (B to A, for example), so it takes 3.333% of them to increase your grade by one step.
- If the class meets 40 time, each class contributes 2.5% to your grade. After the first four classes, someone who earned all 10% of the points available at that time would have earned a "J-," if such a thing existed. After 24 classes, that student could have earned a D-, after 32 classes a B-, etc.
- In effect, preparation and participation for each class is worth 3/4 of a grade step.

Therefore, I assume you will:

- 1) read assignments and learn (ask about) unfamiliar vocabulary / concepts in advance;
- 2) be ready to discuss applications of the material and begin work on problems in class.

### Minimum Points per Grade:

Points	Percent	Letter	GPts	Catalog Definitions [2]	Min GPA [3] for:
1000	100.00%	A	4.00	... achievement of the highest caliber. ...	
933	93.33%	A	4.00	Evidence of independent work and original thinking. ...	
900	90.00%	A-	3.67		
867	86.67%	B+	3.33		
833	83.33%	B	3.00	... higher than average achievement.	3.0 Honors Program
800	80.00%	B-	2.67		2.7 Field & Ind Study
767	76.67%	C+	2.33	... reasonable ... time, effort, and attention	
733	73.33%	C	2.00	... familiar ... with content[,] ... methods of study. ... active participation. ...	2.0 Major, Grad
700	70.00%	C-	1.67		
667	66.67%	D+	1.33	... unsatisfactory ..., below ... standard ...	
633	63.33%	D	1.00	one or more important aspects falls below the average ... for graduation.	
600	60.00%	D-	0.67		
<600	<60.00%	F	0.00	No points. This indicates failure.	

- Record your grades when work is returned to help you know if you need extra help.
- Extra Help: See me! That's why I'm here!
- Grading requires qualitative judgments that are not easily translated to a number. I cannot discuss grades by email (see: Confidentiality) but am happy to do so during office hours or by appointment.

### Assignments and Points Available

	Assignment	Due Date	Points
Participation	Quality of participation: 0-10 points per class	25 / 28 classes	250
Interest	What makes crime interesting to you?	F 8/31 Noon	50
Lit Review 1	What did Gary Becker say about the economics of crime?	F 9/21 Noon	50
Lit Review 2	How have economists (not political scientists, psychologists, sociologists, ...) responded?	F 10/05 Noon	50
Plan	Thesis Statement, Outline, Annotated Bibliography	F 10/19 Noon	50
1st Draft	Theory, Method, Analysis	F 11/02 Noon	100
2nd Draft	Theory, Method, Analysis	F 11/16 Noon	100
Presentations	2 per day 11/19, 11/26, 11/28, 12/03, 12/05; handouts due:	M 11/19 10:20	100
Final Draft	Intro., Lit. Review, Theory, Method, Analysis, Conclusion	W 12/12 1:30	250
Total			1,000

### Course Policies:

**Academic Honesty:** The policy in the current *Moravian College Student Handbook* [4] applies. Anything you turn in for evaluation must be your individual work unless the assignment allows group work. Do not let enthusiasm in a group study session lead to submitted work that seems shared to me!

Attendance is your personal and professional responsibility. I use attendance to:

1. Attach faces to names,
2. Know who is present and ready to work at the scheduled time.
3. Document tardiness.

- Everyone is tardy sometimes but frequent tardiness or a pattern of tardiness indicates inadequate planning. Late arrivals: disrupt the class, draw attention to themselves, are not ready to begin work. Late arrivals distract me and their classmates from the point at that moment. They missed part of the presentation or activity, often requiring restatement or individual guidance while other students wait. Their undoubtedly sincere apologies do not compensate for the disruption they cause.
  - Those who travel to campus from home or work should expect more difficulty being on time. Include adequate time for travel uncertainties (construction, accidents, ...) finding a place to park, and reaching the classroom before class begins in your plans. Those challenges are ordinary parts of everyone's planning.
  - I reserve the right to penalize those who are tardy more than three (3) times. The fourth time you are tardy, I may impose a ten (10) points penalty for each tardiness, past or future. Ten points are 1% of the total for the course, so the penalty for being tardy four times, is 4% of the points available for the course. Since a step is 3.33% of total points, the tardiness penalty could be significant.
4. Guide benefit-of-the-doubt decisions when course grades are due.
  5. Assist the Academic Affairs Office when a student withdraws.

Changes to this document are announced in advance, posted at p:/econ/brower/e156 and, in the case of schedule changes, on my office door; use the current version!

Computers: Log out of the network and close laptop, etc. lids except for assigned activities.

Confidentiality: The FERPA (1974) forbids posting grades or discussing them by email.

Course Content Policy: 300-level Courses

- Generally have prerequisites
- Build on concepts, skills, and vocabulary from 100- and 200-level courses
- Bring together higher-level concepts from the discipline with life experiences (including, ... field work, performance, service learning, and other activities which draw on students' own experiences and/or practical applications of course content)
- Bring together higher-level concepts from the discipline [[and]] related disciplines
- ... higher order thinking skills: analysis, synthesis, and critique (incl. self critique)
- ... more sophisticated ... discourse ... producers of knowledge, ideas, and content
- ... define problems, ... create and explore original ideas in the discipline(s)...
- Move ... towards independent functioning and learning in the discipline(s) ....

Due Dates: Except by prior arrangement assignments must be turned in before their deadline and exams must be taken as scheduled, including the day before or after a College scheduled recess, or you will receive zero points for that activity.

Electronics: Turn off all other electronics, including wireless gear (headsets), cell phone, personal digital assistant (blackberry, etc), music player (iPod, etc.) during class.

Email Do not submit ANYTHING for evaluation by email without PRIOR permission.

Academic Honesty - The current *Moravian College Student Handbook* [[2]] policy applies.

Extra Credit: To learn more about a topic, ask about independent study (GPA 2.7+).

Grades: See the table on page 2 and the College Catalog.

Handouts: including this syllabus will be at <p:/econ/brower/e156> after distribution in class.

Learning and Other Disabilities: Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510.

Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Making-up an Absence:

- While you recuperate, read the assignment(s) and do any assignment(s). If you:
- Miss a class or two, see a colleague for notes, download any handouts, then see me.
- Planned absence? See me first. College-scheduled trips are the only travel-exceptions.
- Unexpected extended absences: contact me and Mrs. Laurie Roth (1510) asap.

Returned Work that is not picked up in class on the day it is returned is filed in an accordion folder ("Dr Brower's Out Box") near my office door. The folder's contents are shredded 48 hours after the Registrar's deadline for course grades.

Syllabus: This syllabus is available in the Academic Affairs Office (Monocacy Hall) and on-line at: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/regis/spring12syllabi.htm>.

Notes:

[1] "Walk Right In," The Rooftop Singers (1962), by Gus Cannon & Hosie Woods was first recorded by Cannon's Jug Stompers in the late 1920s. Citation based on downloads from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walk\\_Right\\_In](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walk_Right_In) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gus\\_Cannon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gus_Cannon) 15 Jan '09

[2] The College's Academic Honesty Policy is on-line at:  
<http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm>

[3.] The College's grade definitions are at: <http://www.moravian.edu/assets/base/pdfs/catalog.pdf>, p. 47-48

[4.] The College's statement on independent and field study and its honors program is on-line at:  
<http://www.moravian.edu/assets/base/pdfs/catalog.pdf>, p. 39-40

Colophon: Goudy Bookletter 1911 is an open source version of Frederic Goudy's Kennerley Oldstyle, a text / display / serif / vintage (old-style) / Roman font by Barry Schwartz (2009), who thinks:

... Kennerley fits together tightly and evenly with almost no kerning. Thus the following words from Monotype specimen books are just: "[W]hen composed into words the characters appear to lock into one another with a closeness common in early types, but not so often seen in later-day creations." These are letters that take command of the space around them; notice, for instance, the bowed shapes of the v and w.

Quotation downloaded 18 August 2010 from <http://www.theleagueofmoveabletype.com/fonts/8-goudy-bookletter-1911>

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