

Course Information

Course Number: ECON 285
Course Title: First Year Experience; Econ 285 Directed Studies
Section: 500
Time: T 12:45 – 1:35¹
Location: WCSS 172
Credit Hours: 1

Instructor Details

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Peer Mentor: TBD

Email Instructors or Peer Mentor with any questions or to set up an in-person or Zoom appointment!!

Course Description

The purpose of Hullabaloo U is to create a welcoming and affirming environment for each new student and to introduce new students to Texas A&M and the TAMU economics department and major. Students will develop self-efficacy, self-awareness, and a sense of purpose; become actively engaged in the learning environment inside and outside of the classroom; and become socially integrated within the university and economics department communities. **Prerequisite:** Economics major

Course Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives

I. Discover and Connect with Texas A&M University and the Department of Economics

As a result of this course, students will...

- Develop positive relationships and a sense of community with peers, staff and faculty.
- Identify and use appropriate campus resources and engage in opportunities that contribute to learning and career goals.

II. Develop the skills to achieve personal and academic goals

As a result of this course, students will...

- Apply appropriate academic success strategies to their courses and learning experiences.
- Identify and apply strategies to effectively manage time and priorities.
- Identify resources to support academic success and timely progress towards a degree/career.
- Understand and develop strategies to promote wellbeing and impact academic and personal success.

¹ On designated weeks (#3, 4, 5, 6, and 11, class will meet on Wednesday from 3:00 – 3:50p in HECC 207). The class will meet only once each week, EITHER at its individual time listed above OR at the group meeting time each week - never both. See course schedule for specific information for each week.

III. Understand and promote mental wellness

As a result of this course, students will...

- a) Be able to recognize and describe wellbeing and mental wellness and the Aggie core values.
- b) Identify resources and strategies that help support academic goals, mental and physical wellbeing, and career goals.

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

No resources to purchase. Supplemental readings/articles/videos/materials provided through Canvas.

Grading Policy

Note: This is a 1 credit hour course (not all Hullabaloo U courses are taken for credit, but this one IS). You will receive 1 semester hour credit toward graduation for a grade of satisfactory for the course, though an “S” grade does not affect your GPA. However, you will NOT receive credit for a grade of unsatisfactory for the course (a “U” grade WILL negatively impact your GPA).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Grading Components

1. Attendance/Participation – 50%
100 pts; 5 pts each for 15 weeks, 10 points for peer mentor meeting, 10 points for instructor meeting, 5 points possible for week 8 Canvas assignment
2. Assignments – 50%
Careers in Economics Assignment – 25 points
Aggie Bucket List Challenge – 50 points
Dear New Aggie Letter – 25 points

Satisfactory/Passing: minimum 160 points, 80%

You can earn 5 participation points for attendance at social and academic events throughout the semester (e.g. Career Fairs, Department events). A max of 10 bonus points can be added to your points for the course, though you are encouraged to attend all events you can! See the bonus points document on Canvas for instructions on receiving bonus points.

Late Work

Some assignments (e.g. Careers in Economics and Aggie Bucket List Challenge) are to be prepared outside of class but will be shared with classmates during class on the scheduled date. Therefore, late work for these assignments will earn reduced points. The New Aggie Letter must be completed by the end-of semester deadline. If you have extenuating circumstances, please email your instructor before the due date. See Rule 7 for more information regarding excused absences <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

Attendance & Participation

This is a course that is dependent on active student participation and engagement. You are expected to attend all class meetings and participate fully. **A student will fail the course upon receiving a 3rd unexcused absence** (see Rule 7 for requirements for an excused absence on the TAMU website). Rule 7 is important for all TAMU students to know about and understand. Please review Rule 7 BEFORE you have an absence and ask the instructor in class or office hours if you have any questions!

Note that for designated weeks (#3, 4, 5, 6, 11), all Econ 285 sections will meet in **HECC 207 on Wednesday from 3 – 3:50p** rather than at the individual section time/location. You must sit with your section during the HECC group meetings Your individual sections will NOT meet during those weeks (that is, you will only ever meet for this class once each week). Refer to the course schedule.

Active participation will be assessed through discussion, participation in class activities, completion of in-class assignments and positive attitude. Your participation grade for each class period will be evaluated on the following scale:

Table: Attendance/Participation Points

5 points	1-4 Points	0 Points
Arrived on time and prepared and actively participated in class discussion and activities. Contributed positively to the class community.	Participated in class discussions and activities but may have required prompting; did not detract from class community.	Did not attend or did not participate in class discussions or activities, and/or detracted from the class community.
		Did not attend one-on-one meetings.

As a component of your attendance and participation grade, you are required to meet with your peer mentor (by 10/10) AND your instructor (by 12/2) to check in about your progress this semester. Meeting scheduling will be discussed in class.

Career in Economics Assignment

Watch the American Economics Association video “A Career in Economics” and read the article in Forbes “Careers in Economics, 6 Jobs to Check Out” on the Canvas course site. Attend one of the career fairs (Arts and Sciences, Business, or Economics), if possible. Research to find an economist with a career you find interesting that is NOT in finance or business (i.e. they work in a career that most people would not necessarily associate with an economist). Create a 1-page handout that illustrates your economist’s education and training, career path, and current position. Include a brief (2 – 3 sentence) explanation of why their work falls under the definition of economics. That is, how does their work involve scarcity, choice, and decision making? Identify three important skills they use in their work. Include a picture of the economist on your handout and be prepared to briefly introduce your economist to the class and explain why you found their career interesting. Your handout should be in your own work- do NOT copy from any source and do NOT use AI. Correctly cite the source(s) you use.

Aggie Bucket List Challenge

In teams of 3-4, complete 5 items on the Aggie Bucket List and 3 items on the Econ Bucket List. Document your adventures together through photos, video, or other media. Prepare a creative 2-minute multimedia presentation (Video, Prezi, PowerPoint presentation, etc.) to post on Canvas and share in class.

Dear New Aggie Letter

Write a letter to a future new student about your first semester of college. For example, describe something you've learned, a challenging experience, highlights of your first semester, or advice you have for an incoming Aggie economics major. Minimum Length: 1 page, single spaced OR 2-minute video.

Additional information regarding each assignments is posted on Canvas.

University Policies

Attendance and Makeup Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions.

All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources. Please arrange to meet with the instructor, in-person, as soon as possible after the start of the semester to discuss accommodations for the class.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy selfcare by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.