Course Syllabus
ECON 4250-001 (CRN 24326) – The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Campbell
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Office: FAB 409
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Course Overview
Economics 4250 examines the measurement, causes, and consequences of poverty, as well as the various policy solutions to poverty. It also examines numerous forms of discrimination and how they affect market outcomes. The course is writing-intensive and involves written exams, homework assignments, and a term paper.

Required Texts (and Related Materials)
The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination
Bradley R. Schiller
10th Edition

Location of Course Materials
Course information, such as the syllabus, homework assignments, review sheets, and exam grades will be available via ecourseware. I do not have a copy of the textbook on reserve at the library.

Course Objectives
By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. The student should be able to define poverty in both absolute and relative terms.

2. The student should be able to explain how poverty is measured, and shortcomings in our current measure of poverty.
3. The student should be able to explain the nature of global poverty, and how and why global poverty has diminished over time.

4. The student should be to explain how labor force participation, age, health, and family structure are related to poverty.

5. The student should be able to describe how educational achievement is related to poverty.

6. The student should be able to define discrimination and discuss its effects in education and labor markets.

7. The student should be able to analyze various social welfare programs, how they are designed, who they target, what effects they have on other economics variables, and what effect they have on poverty.

The Fogelman College of Business and Economics Learning Outcomes for Your Degree

Course Methodology
This is a traditional, in-class lecture course. Some content will be delivered online, but most will be in class.

Professor’s Expectations
I do expect you to arrive at class prepared for lecture and having read the necessary material in advance. Also, you should plan to arrive at class before the official time at which class begins.

Student's Expectations
In my role as your instructor, there are certain things you can expect from me including: well-organized and engaging learning experience, response to emails within two (2) business days or as quickly as possible, and feedback on all work submitted as quickly as possible.

Grading and Evaluation Criteria
There will be three midterm exams and a final. The final will be comprehensive and is mandatory – it cannot be dropped or avoided.

You can drop your lowest midterm exam score. Because of this, there will be no make-up exams. If you know in advance that you will be out of town on the day of an exam, let me know and I will schedule an alternate time for you to take the test.

There will also be approximately five homework assignments. The assignments may consist of questions from the text or other sources, or other assignments that require some research. You will be given 7-10 days to complete each assignment. The assignments will be issued as the material dictates. All assignments taken together will account for 10% of your final grade.
Finally, you’ll be required to write an 8 to 10 page term paper this semester. The paper topic will be chosen from a list of suggested topics I’ll post on ecourseware in the coming weeks. The final draft is due on the last day of class, Tuesday, April 26. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.

The tests and other assignments are weighted as follows in determining your final grade:

- **Exams One, Two and/or Three** 50% (25% each)
- **Final Exam** 30%
- **Homework Assignments** 10%
- **Term Paper** 10%

**Final Course Grades**

The grading scale is as follows:

- **A** 90 - 100
- **B** 80 - 90
- **C** 70 - 80
- **D** 60 - 70
- **F** < 60

There will be no curve on any assignment or exams. Any end-of-semester curve on final grades will be administered at my discretion and is extremely unlikely. Do not count on a curve, as I’ve never used one before.

**Course Topics**

Economics 4250 examines the measurement, causes, and consequences of poverty, as well as the various policy solutions to poverty. It also examines numerous forms of discrimination and how they affect market outcomes. The course is writing-intensive and involves written exams, homework assignments, and a term paper.

**List of Formal Assessed Activities**

There will be three midterm exams and a final. The final will be comprehensive and is mandatory – it cannot be dropped or avoided.

The midterm exams will be a combination of definitions, short-answer questions, and essays. Review sessions in class will be scheduled, time permitting. The tests should take approximately one hour. You can drop your lowest midterm exam score.

There will also be five homework assignments. The assignments may consist of questions from the text or other sources, or other assignments that require some research. You will be given 7-10 days to complete each assignment. The assignments will be issued as the material dictates.

Finally, you’ll be required to write an 8-10 page term paper this semester. The paper topic will be chosen from a list of suggested topics I’ll post on ecourseware in the coming weeks. The final draft is due on the last day of class, Tuesday, May 5. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.
Schedule of Activities

Following is an approximate schedule for the semester. The schedule is subject to revision as necessary. The exam dates listed are not likely to change, only the material covered on each day or on each exam. (Note that if there is no chapter listed for a particular day, this does not mean that there will be no class that day, just that what we cover that day is undetermined as of the beginning of the semester.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<th>Material Covered/Text Chapters</th>
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Final Exam Schedule

The final exam for this class has been scheduled according to the Registrar’s Academic Calendar, on Thursday, May 5, 2016, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in our regular classroom.
Course Policies

Email

Any inquiries about grades sent via email must be sent from your University of Memphis email account. I cannot respond to questions about grades sent from any other email service. All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox”, etc.) is the student’s responsibility.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily but does not factor directly into your grade. However, attending class regularly is important and will ultimately affect your final grade.

I do expect you to be here on time. Lateness is strongly discouraged.

Adding/Dropping Classes

If you have questions about adding or dropping classes, please refer to this page on the Registrar’s website.

Academic Integrity

Expectations for academic integrity and student conduct are described in detail on the website of the Office of Student Judicial and Ethical Affairs. Please take a look, in particular, at the sections about “Academic Dishonesty,” “Code of Rights and Responsibilities,” and “Examples of Disruptive Behaviors.” I expect students to be aware of these guidelines and to conduct themselves accordingly. Any incidents of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating on a test, plagiarizing, etc.) may result in a final grade of “F” for the course. Note that using a “Solutions Manual” is considered cheating. Should I obtain evidence that the use of a “Solutions Manual” has occurred, I might take steps as described on the campus’ Office of Student Conduct website.

Participation

To be successful in this course as a student, you must stay active and involved throughout the entire semester. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. You should also communicate with me if you have any questions.

Classroom Behavior

All participants in this course should be considerate of the other course participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. In the interest of promoting a classroom environment that is conducive to learning, you must turn off your cell phones before entering the room. Additionally, there will be no eating in class, unnecessary exits, excessive talking, or disruptive behavior. Keep in mind that you can be dropped from the class for violating these rules.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Extra Credit

Some opportunities to earn extra points will require your presence in class – missed opportunities for extra points cannot be made up.

Reporting Illness or Absence
If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed, either from me or from a classmate. I do not have notes to share with you, so you’ll have to get those elsewhere. I don’t require any notes or documentation to support your absence, but you are welcome to provide such if you like.

**Inclement Weather**

In the event of University closure (due to inclement weather or any other reason) or an unplanned instructor absence, you should check your student email account for instructions from me. (Your student email address is yourUUID@memphis.edu.) My policy is that if class is canceled for any reason, what we would have covered on the day(s) missed will be resumed *immediately* upon our return. This applies to lectures, exams, or anything else.

Additionally, The University of Memphis has established an Inclement Weather Hotline at (901) 678-0888, as well as TigerText, an emergency alert text messaging service available for students, faculty and staff. This optional service is used in the event of an on-campus emergency, an unscheduled university closing, or a delay or cancellation of classes due to, for instance, inclement weather. Click [here](#) for information on TigerText.

**Syllabus Changes**

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the semester; deviations might be necessary.

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**Student Services**

Please access the [FCBE Student Services](#) page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance