I. ASCRC General Education Form

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>VII Social Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept/Program</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course #</td>
<td>100S</td>
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| Course Title    | Introduction to Political Economy |
| Prerequisite    | none |

| Credits | 3 |

II. Endorsement/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office

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<tr>
<th>Please type / print name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Michael Kuplik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone / Email</td>
<td>4575/ <a href="mailto:michael.kuplik@mso.umt.edu">michael.kuplik@mso.umt.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Douglas Dalenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>Jerry Fetz</td>
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III. Description and purpose of the course: General Education courses must be introductory and foundational. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness; and relate course content to students’ future lives: See Preamble: http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm

This course provides a critical examination of the market mechanism as a social decision-making device that we use to guide the use of our nation’s resources. The strengths and limitations of this market process are studied along with the role of government actions in the face of market failure. An understanding of the market system is a fundamental piece of a high quality intellectual foundation.

IV. Criteria: Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See: http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm

1. systematically study individuals, groups, or social institutions; The market system is a key U.S. social institution.

2. analyze individuals, groups, or social problems and structures; and/or The course addresses successes and failures of the market system and the social problems and structures inherent in the U.S. market-based economy.

3. give considerable attention to ways in which conclusions and generalizations are developed and justified as well as the methods of data collection and analysis. The course pays considerable attention to the ways economic models are used to draw conclusions and generalizations. It also illustrates the role of data in economic models.

V. Student Learning Goals: Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. See: http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm

1. Students taking courses in the Social Sciences Perspective will be able to: Describe the nature, structure, and historical development of human behavior, organizations, social phenomena, and/or relationships; The student will gain enough insight to demonstrate how economic theory gives insights into important issues in the world today.
2. use theory in explaining these individual, group, or social phenomena; and/or

Students, using the issues approach, should master the basic economic theory necessary to explore a variety of real world issues.

3. understand, assess, and evaluate how conclusions and generalizations are justified based on data

Students understand and evaluate how data from the financial press is consistent with or contradictory to the predictions of economic models.

| VII. Syllabus: Paste syllabus below or attach and send digital copy with form. The syllabus should clearly describe how the above criteria are satisfied. For assistance on syllabus preparation see: [http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html](http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html) |

*Please note: As an instructor of a general education course, you will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.*
Syllabus
Introduction to Political Economics
Fall Semester 2008

Dr. Michael Kupilik
Office: Liberal Arts 405
Office Hours: 10-11 and 12-1 MWF
Phone: 243-4575
e-mail: michael.kupilik@mso.umt.edu
Economics web site: www.cas.umt.edu/econ

Fundamental Course Goals

This course is designed as a one-semester, issues based, general economics course. Its purpose is the interest the non-economics major in what the discipline of economics can do. Students, using the issues approach, should master the basic economic theory necessary to explore a variety of real world issues. If this is the only economics course the student takes, the student should, at least, gain enough insight to be able to intelligently discuss the way economic theory applies to important issues in the world today.

Part One – Theory

Week One – Week Four: 25 August – 19 September. 1 September - Holiday
Introduction to basic economic theory. Coverage of opportunity cost, supply and demand, elasticity, basic macroeconomic theory.
Text: Chapters 1-3 and 6 – 8.

Examination One – 19 September

Part Two – Issues

Week Five: 22 – 26 September
Federal Spending. How much is too much?
Text: Chapter 9

Week Six: 29 September – 3 October
Federal Deficits, Surpluses and the National Debt.
Text: Chapter 10

Week Seven: 6 - 10 October
Fiscal Policy. Can the government control the business cycle?
Text: Chapter 11

Examination Two – 10 October
Week Eight: 12 - 17 October  
Monetary Policy. Does the Federal Reserve know what it is doing?  
Text: Chapter 12.

Week Nine: 20 - 24 October  
International Trade. Good for America?  
Text: Chapter 13.

Week Ten: 27 - 31 October  
The Environment. Go green.  
Text: Chapter 17.

Week Eleven: 3 – 7 November  
The economics of health care. Can you afford to get sick?  
Text: Chapter 18 and 19  
4th November – Election Day, no classes  
Examination Three: 7 November

Week Twelve: 10 - 14 November  
Antitrust Policy. Is Microsoft a monopoly?  
Text: Chapter 28.  
11 November – Holiday

Week Thirteen – Week Fourteen: 17 – 28 November  
Poverty and Welfare. Can we fix Social Security?  
Text: Chapter 31-32  
26-28 November - Holiday

Week Fifteen: 3-7 December  
Poverty and Welfare Continued – The Head Start Program  
Text: Chapter 33.

Finals Week: 8 – 12 December  
Final Examination: 8:00-10:00 am, Friday, 12 December 2008

Exams will be left outside my office (LA405) for pickup unless other arrangements are requested.