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ECON 101      FALL 2020

# The Economics of COVID-19

(a.k.a. The Economics of Social Issues)

**Class Meeting Days & Times:** MWF 3-3:50 PM, CLARK A207 (or online)

**Class Location:** Course instruction will be hybrid: some classes will be conducted over Zoom during class time, while others will be in person, meeting in CLARK A207. In-person classes will be recorded and posted on Canvas so students can watch remotely if they prefer. The first module of the semester will be online, and the delivery method for subsequent modules will be announced a week in advance.

**Instructors:** The course will be jointly taught by seven professors from the Department of Economics.

Dr. Terry Iverson ([Terry.Iverson@colostate.edu](mailto:Terry.Iverson@colostate.edu)) is responsible for organizing the course and overseeing the integration of different modules (1- to 2-week course sections). You should contact Dr. Iverson (or attend his office hours) if you have general questions about the class, including grades. In addition, the following faculty will lead their own course modules: Dr. Alex Bernasek ([Alexandra.Bernasek@colostate.edu](mailto:Alexandra.Bernasek@colostate.edu)), Dr. Elissa Braunstein ([Elissa.Braunstein@colostate.edu](mailto:Elissa.Braunstein@colostate.edu)), Dr. Harvey Cutler ([Harvey.Cutler@colostate.edu](mailto:Harvey.Cutler@colostate.edu)), Dr. Anita Pena ([Anita.Pena@colostate.edu](mailto:Anita.Pena@colostate.edu)), Dr. Steven Shulman ([Steven.Shulman@colostate.edu](mailto:Steven.Shulman@colostate.edu)), and Dr. Ramaa Vasudevan ([Ramaa.Vasudevan@colostate.edu](mailto:Ramaa.Vasudevan@colostate.edu)).

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2-3:30 PM or by appointment.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economics is a broad social science discipline that brings together diverse tools for understanding the choices we make about how we provision for ourselves and our families and communities, and the consequences for the critical social issues of equity, efficiency, and sustainability. The COVID-19 crisis is a complex social phenomenon with many dimensions that can be usefully studied through an economic lens. Does it make economic sense to have a lockdown in the face of a spreading pandemic? What is the optimal timing and duration of such a policy? How do such policies differentially impact people from different races, gender or class? Should college kids be treated the same as older adults? What are the environmental effects of recent economic changes, and how might policy be used to steer us away from business-as-usual levels of pollution? This course will bring together seven professors from across the CSU Economics Department to explore these questions and more.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

At least some of the exams will require use of Respondus Monitor, an online proctoring software. To use this, students must have access to that internet from a computer that has a camera. If necessary,

this equipment can be checked out from the library or accessed in a computer lab on campus. Please contact Dr. Iverson if you have trouble accessing a computer for testing purposes.

## READINGS

- There is no textbook for the course
- Required readings will be posted on CANVAS under the corresponding class module.

## COURSE WEBSITE

Canvas is our class website: <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu>.

- Login using your Colorado State University eID and password
- Under Course List, click on the relevant course
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your **CSU rams email address**.
- Grades will be posted on Canvas.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Module	Instructor(s)	Topics
Mon Aug 24 - Fri Sept 4 (6 classes)	1	Dr. Terry Iverson	Introduction to Econ 101; Background on COVID-19; Externalities, public goods, and the economic case for policy
<i>LABOR DAY RECESS</i>			
Wed Sept 9 - Mon Sept 21 (6 classes)	2	Dr. Alex Bernasek Dr. Elissa Braunstein	The role of race and gender; Impacts on the Care Economy
Wed Sept 23 - Mon Oct 5 (6 classes)	3	Dr. Ramaa Vasudevan	The Political Economy of COVID-19
<b>MIDTERM 1</b>			
Fri Oct 9 - Wed Oct 21 (6 classes)	4	Dr. Harvey Cutler	Economic impacts of COVID-19; Local and regional impacts
Fri Oct 23 - Wed Nov 4 (6 classes)	5	Dr. Terry Iverson	Policy options: social distancing, vaccine research, etc.; Optimal policy considerations
Fri Nov 6 - Wed Nov 11 (3 classes)	6	Dr. Anita Pena	Impacts of COVID-19 on food production and agriculture
Fri Nov 13 - Wed Nov 18 (3 classes)	7	Dr. Edward Barbier	Greening the post COVID recovery
<b>MIDTERM 2</b>			
<i>FALL BREAK</i>			
Mon Nov 30 - Wed Dec 9 (5 classes)	8	Dr. Alex Bernasek Dr. Steven Shulman	COVID impacts on Higher Ed
Fri Dec 11	9	Dr. Terry Iverson	Lessons, takeaways, outstanding questions
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>			

## GRADES

Grading for the course will be based on four homeworks along with several short quizzes scattered throughout the semester. In addition, there will be two (non-cumulative) midterm

exams that will that combine multiple choice and short answer questions. There will also be a cumulative final exam, which will also consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Your grade be determined based on the total points earned in the following “assignments”:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Frequency/points per assignment</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Homeworks	4 @ 75 points each	30%
Quizzes	100 points total (number to be determined)	10%
Midterm Exams	2 @ 150 points	30%
Final Exam	300 points	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A+	966.7 pts. – 1000 pts.	B-	800 pts. – 833.2pts.
A	933.3 pts. – 966.6 pts.	C+	766.7 pts. – 799.9 pts.
A-	900 pts. – 933.2 pts.	C	700 pts. – 766.6 pts.
B+	866.7 pts. – 899.9 pts.	D	600 pts. – 699.9 pts.
B	833.3 pts. – 866.6 pts.	F	000 pts. – 599.9 pts.

Final grades will not be rounded at the end of the semester. If students would like to request a regrade of any assignment, they may do so within a week after the assignment grade has been released on Canvas. A regrade involves reconsidering the entire assignment, and thus may result in a higher or lower grade.

## POLICY ON DUE DATES

No make-up exams will be allowed in this course, except in the case of a documented medical emergency or conflicts with university-sanctioned activities. Usually the latter must be communicated to the instructor in advance of the actual deadline.

## POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Late assignments will be penalized by ten percent each day that they are late.

## POLICY ON EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit may be awarded at the discretion of the Instructor during the semester.

## WEEKLY COURSE TIME ESTIMATES

Attend class	2.5 hours
Review class material/studying	2 hours
Prepare for exams	3 hours
Homework	1.5 hours
<b>Total hours/week</b>	<b>9 hours</b>

## COVID-RELATED INFORMATION

All students should fill out a student-specific symptom checker each day before coming to class (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/daily-symptom-checker/>). In addition, please utilize the symptom checker to report symptoms, if you have a positive test, or exposed to a known COVID contact. If you know or believe you have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you report it through this checker. You will not be in trouble or penalized in any way for reporting. If you report symptoms or a positive test, you will receive immediate instructions on what to do and CSU's Public Health Office will be notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and most likely conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and/or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps. For the latest information about the University's response, please visit the CSU COVID-19 site (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

We take academic integrity seriously. At minimum, academic integrity means that no one will use another's work as their own. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

“Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding credit be given where credit is due.”

—Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism>

Academic Dishonesty could result in expulsion from the university. This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policies and Guiding Principles as found in the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. As per university policy: “Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action.” (General Catalog)

Any academic dishonesty in this course may result in a grade of “F” for the course and may be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. Please be aware that the General Catalog specifically identifies the following examples of academic dishonesty: cheating in the classroom, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials, falsification, and facilitation of cases of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is defined as follows: “Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgement. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one's own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source.” (General Catalog ). Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism and cheating. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students.

## CSU HONOR PLEDGE

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course. While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge, we will ask each you to write and sign the following statement on your papers and exams:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's **Practicing Academic Integrity**.

## DEPARTMENT COPYRIGHT POLICY

Please do not share material in this course in online, print or other media. Materials authorized by third parties and used in the course are subject to copyright protection. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face disciplinary or legal action.

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND TUTORING OPTIONS

- **Student Disability Center:** Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any learning disabilities. Please contact the instructor if a special accommodation is required. To request accommodations, students should contact the Student Disability Center: at (970) 491-6385 or go to <https://disabilitycenter.colostate.edu>. Documentation of disability is required and the SDC office will assist in this process.
- **Writing Center:** Help with written assignments can be found at the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.colostate.edu>).
- **Canvas technical support:** <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/student-resources.aspx>

## TITLE IX

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer

students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety. Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources: Emergency Response 911, Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350, Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425. For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement: <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

## DISCLAIMER

All of the information in this course syllabus is subject to change when deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class, via postings on the class homepage, or by email if such changes occur.