In this course you will develop an understanding of how economists examine a variety of issues in K-12 and higher education. The course will illustrate how basic economic principals such as incentives, resource allocation, and market forces can be applied to educational settings. Through discussions of academic papers, the course will also provide a very basic grounding in how economists evaluate education policies.

Textbook, Materials and Readings

In addition to the text, we will also be reading a number of academic articles. The majority of readings can be found through the library’s online resources; those that are not available online will be posted to the Canvas course site.

Grading Policies
Homework 20%
Exam 1 20%
Exam 2 20%
Participation 15%
Reading Responses 20%
Paper Presentation/Lead Discussion 5%

Class Attendance
Class attendance is particularly important for this course because of the emphasis on in-class discussion. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. If you need to miss class for any reason, you are responsible for obtaining class notes, handouts, announcements, etc.

- You are allowed two absences for any reason, without penalty. There are no “excused” absences for medical reasons unless someone from the Office of Academic Services and/or the Access, Disability Services and Resources (ADSR) office contacts me directly about your particular situation. If you realize you will be missing multiple classes for a medical reason, please contact Lauren Braun in Academic Services ASAP so she can notify all of your professors.
- Please note that it is impossible to receive credit for class participation if you are absent, and your participation grade will be adversely affected by more than two absences. In addition, excessive unexcused absences may result in failure of the course.
• As soon as possible, please inform me of any religious holidays or approved Oxford athletic or other commitments that might require you to miss class so that alternative arrangements for completing work can be made at the earliest opportunity.
• Please be on time. If you come to class more than 10 minutes late, you will be counted as absent.

Homework
The homework assignments in this class will have a variety of components. Some of the course material lends itself to numerical problems that need “solving” while some material really requires a more substantial written answer. The analytical skill set of economists includes graphical tools, mathematical solutions, and written responses, and frequently it is some combination of all of the above. The homework assignments reflect this. All homework will be posted on Canvas and is due at the start of class on the date it is due. You will have a week to complete these assignments. Therefore, missed homework cannot be made up regardless of the reason. You can talk to your classmates about questions but please make sure that you complete the work independently and that you understand submitted answers.

Exams
There will be two exams over the course of the semester. The first test will be taken in class on February 21, and the second test will be taken in class on March 30. The tests are not cumulative. Tests will consist of problems, short answer, and essay questions. Questions will be drawn both from your readings and from material covered in class and will emphasize the synthesis and application of your knowledge rather than recitation of memorized material. Only under extraordinary circumstances will a make-up test be administered. If you miss an exam, only absences due to medical or family emergencies are valid. You will need to present written evidence of your illness or family emergency. It is your responsibility to make all arrangements for the make-up test BEFORE the start of the regularly scheduled test. In such cases where a valid excuse has been provided, the weight of the missed examination will be split between the other exam and the discussion reflections.

Participation
The success of this class depends on the assigned readings be completed before the date they will be covered in class along with thoroughly and thoughtfully completing any corresponding assignments. I expect you to be thoroughly engaged with the material, your colleagues, and me for the full 50 minutes of each class session. Your contribution to the class discussion is viewed as an essential component of your own learning process in this course as well as that of your classmates. Thus, 15% of your grade in the course is based on participation in class discussions. Everyone is expected to participate in discussion at every class meeting. You are expected to bring the day’s assigned articles (printed out or on your laptop- NOT your phone) to class. If you are hesitant about speaking up in class, talk to me about it without delay, and I will help you get started. Remember that the quality of your contributions is more important than the quantity.

Readings Responses
We will be reading scholarly articles in this class (after Chapter 3). Each of these readings is the basis for our in-class discussions and activities. At several points throughout the semester you will submit a reading response via Canvas by 10pm on the evening before class. There will be specific questions to help you engage with the material and prepare you for the following day’s work. This is also a space for you to raise questions you want to discuss in class, possible discussion points, synthesis, critiques, and thoughts about extensions or possible future work to be done in this area. Rubrics for the reading responses will be posted on Canvas and you are
asked to bring your reading responses (either printed or on your laptop or tablet) to class. An excused absence from class does not exempt you from submitting a reading response. Reading responses are designed to get your individual response to the readings and facilitate class discussion. As such, late reading responses will NOT be accepted.

**Present Paper/Lead Discussion**
At some point in the semester, you will be asked to briefly present one of the assigned scholarly articles and then lead the class discussion. Prior to your class presentation/discussion, you will meet with me to discuss your article and your plan for the class. This meeting will count towards your grade for this component. Further details will be posted on Canvas.

**Final Course Grades**
Grades are NOT curved. Final course grades will be based on a +/- system. Letter course grades are as follows:
There is NO extra credit. In the case of grades near the cutoff, good attendance, class participation, and improvement over the course of the semester can have a (+) marginal effect on your final grade. Poor attendance and class participation can likewise have a (-) marginal affect.

**College & Course Policies**

**Honor Code**
We are a community of scholars and therefore academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Your name on any submitted work shall indicate you have neither given nor received unauthorized information or assistance, nor have you condoned the giving or receiving of unauthorized information or assistance by others. As a student at Oxford College of Emory University you have agreed to abide by the honor pledge and uphold the Honor Code. For additional information please see: [http://oxford.emory.edu/catalog/regulations/honor-code.html](http://oxford.emory.edu/catalog/regulations/honor-code.html). The usual penalty for violations of the honor code is an F in this course.

**Communication Policy**
You are responsible for any announcements or assignments made in class. Homework, class documents and information on any additional weekly readings (not in the main textbook) will be posted on Canvas. Unless specifically told otherwise, no electronic devices are to be used during the course.

**Students with Accommodations**
The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, students must contact OAS and complete the registration process. Faculty may not provide disability accommodations until an accommodation letter has been processed; accommodations are not retroactive. Students registered with OAS who receive a letter outlining specific academic accommodations are strongly encouraged to coordinate a meeting time with me via email (teresa.romano@emory.edu) to discuss a protocol to implement the accommodations as needed throughout the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the semester as possible. Contact OAS for more information at (770) 784-4690 or oas_oxford@emory.edu. Additional information is available at the OAS website at [http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html](http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html)

**Student Athletes & Religious Holidays**
If you will miss class due to athletic commitments or for a religious holiday, please let me know within the first two weeks of the semester; waiting longer may compromise my ability to extend satisfactory arrangements. If you need guidance negotiating your needs related to a religious holiday, the College Chaplain, Rev. Lyn Pace, ppace@emory.edu, Candler Hall 202, is willing and available to help. **Please be aware that Rev. Pace is not tasked with excusing students from classes or writing excuses for students to take to their professors.** Emory’s official list of religious holidays may be found at http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith_traditions/holidays.html.

Classroom Conduct
We believe the manner in which we interact with each other is critical to cultivating and maintaining a meaningful and effective intellectual environment. We encourage a climate of respect and inclusiveness that welcomes and embraces community members with diverse backgrounds and life experiences. We deliberately seek multiple perspectives and support the free and open exchange of ideas and civil discourse. We affirm the inherent dignity in all of us and we strive to maintain a climate of justice marked by respect for each other. Our community can only continue to thrive when we approach each conversation with an open mind and when each member can contribute fully.

Course Schedule
The course schedule will be posted on Canvas. The schedule is tentative, and I reserve the right to amend the schedule at any time. When changes are made, I will update the schedule and make an announcement on Canvas.