

Grading and Attendance Policy Revisions for Econ 101-008 in Light of H1N1

Attendance Policy

Very regular attendance is expected of students who are well. Students who have contracted flu or who exhibit flu-like symptoms are required to stay away from classes until they are fever free for 24 hours.

Recitation Grades

Three components make up the recitation grade: recitation quizzes, the grade on the course journal, and a recitation participation grade.

There will be three small stakes quizzes given in recitation during the semester. Only the higher two quiz scores will be included in a student's recitation grade. Thus, every student can miss one quiz without penalty.

The course journal grade also is part of the recitation grade. The course journal will be collected during lecture on Thursday, December 3. Students who are ill on that day should arrange with a friend who is not ill to turn in the journal for them. Journals turned in to the Economics Department office, 108 Garner Hall, by 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 3, 2009 will be considered on time. Late penalties will apply to journals submitted after that time.

Teaching Assistants will compute the recitation participation grade with sensitivity to the likelihood that some absences from recitation are due to H1N1. Students who miss a recitation due to H1N1 will not be penalized. However, students who routinely miss recitation or who are routinely passive during recitation will be penalized.

Clicker Quiz Grade

The normal policy is that only the highest 90 percent of clicker assessments will count toward a student's course grade. This means that, on average, a student can miss clicker quizzes in three classes and still earn perfect marks for clicker quizzes for the semester. In light of H1N1, the policy will be changed so that only the highest 86 percent of clicker assessments will count toward a student's course grade. This means that, on average, a student can miss clicker quizzes in four classes and still earn perfect marks for clicker quizzes for the semester. We suggest that students use their 14 percent allowance wisely.

Midterm Examinations

Students who report to Professor Salemi prior to a midterm examination that they have the flu or flu-like symptoms will be excused from the midterm examination. The makeup exam for missed midterm examinations will be the relevant portion of the final examination. Professor Salemi will create a final examination that provides a fair and comprehensive opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of each part of the course. The final will be longer than normal for that reason.

Offering makeup midterms before the end of the semester is not feasible because of the large number of students in the class, the virtual impossibility of finding classroom space outside of regular class time, and the fact that student schedules are full. If, for example, we set an evening time for a midterm makeup, students who work would ask for a makeup for the makeup. And so forth.