

Fundamentals of Economics

Two-Week Non-Credit Course

BC Experience (BCE) for High School Students

[Summer Session I](#)

6/29/2026 - 7/10/2026

I. Instructor Info

Instructor Name: Dr. Ira Lilian Abraham

BC Email: ira.abraham@bc.edu (best way to contact)

Class Location: [McGuinn Hall, Room 029](#) ([see Google Map link](#))

Class Meeting Times: Monday to Friday: 9:00 am – noon, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: 380 M, Maloney Hall ([see Google Map link](#))

II. Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

III. Course Description

Economics is a study of human behavior and helps explain many aspects of our everyday life. In this course, students will learn the basics of both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics to better understand both business and the economy. We will look at factors influencing individuals and businesses and how they make decisions. Then we will look at the economy

as a whole and address the measures of economic activities, role of the government and its policies, and the effects of those policies.

The focus of the course will be on applying the principles learned to the world around us. Students will not only apply the tools to current events and business issues but will also be encouraged to think about how this plays out in their own lives. This course is a good overview for students who may be interested in taking AP Economics.

IV. Textbooks & Readings

While lecture notes will be largely sufficient and be taught from first principles, students looking to build a strong understanding of the subject should also read the recommended textbook to follow along better.

Principles of Economics (9th edition)

By Gregory N. Mankiw

Publisher: Cengage

You can get the primary textbook for the course online in digital format relatively easily, or order a hard copy from [Amazon](#). [Boston College Library](#) will also have some copies.

Note that older versions of the textbook are fine too (they will be much cheaper and the content is largely the same as principles do not change over time, though there may be more recent examples/case studies in the newer versions). Furthermore, it is fine if you get *Principles of Microeconomics (8th edition)* and *Principles of Macroeconomics (8th edition)* separately (instead of *Principles of Economics*), which is just the combination of the two parts.

V. Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas and collaborate, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments to receive feedback, and much more.

In particular, I will be using the announcement feature on Canvas to notify the class about upcoming events/tasks that can range from simple day-to-day logistics. Furthermore, I will also share material with the class such as lecture notes, suggested readings, and tasks to do after each class. Thus, your course will make significant use of Canvas this semester and you should familiarize yourself with this important tool.

For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click [here](#).

In the case of any technical difficulties or concerns, please contact canvas@bc.edu or 617-552-HELP (4357) for immediate assistance. Canvas requires [particular computer specifications](#) and Wi-Fi access – please make sure you have access and are checking Canvas for notifications regularly once the course starts.

I will also be using [Dropbox](#) to share annotated lecture files and additional resources (as it is easier to manage files there). The link will be posted in Canvas.

VI. Course Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to

1. Use economic tools to analyze economic policies. Build their **critical thinking** skills. Develop their oral and written **communication skills**.
2. Understand consumer behavior.
3. Understand firm behavior.
4. Calculate producer and consumer surplus.
5. Use supply and demand diagrams to analyze the impact of overall changes in supply and demand on price and quantity.
6. Analyze the behavior of firms in a perfectly competitive market in the short run and the long run.
7. Analyze different types of market structures (monopoly, oligopoly, and competitive market).
8. Explain key principles used by economists to describe how the economy works.
9. Explain measures of macroeconomic performance.
10. Identify causes of long-term economic growth and explain how it impacts the standard of living.
11. Explain the different types of unemployment, and why zero unemployment is not the goal.
12. Explain the causes and costs of inflation.
13. Explain the causes and consequences of short-run fluctuations in the economy.
14. Explain how monetary policy affects the economy in the short run and the long run.
15. Explain how fiscal policy affects the economy in the short run and the long run.
16. Explain the pros and cons of utilizing monetary and fiscal policy to smooth short-run fluctuations in the economy.
17. Understand how to apply economic principles to a range of economic and business policy questions. You will be able to demonstrate **economic approaches to decision-making**.

VII. Assessments and Grading Policy

This is a non-credit course, so a letter grade will not be assigned.

- Certificates will be mailed to those students who have received a *Met All Expectations* or *Met Minimum Expectations*.
 - **Only these students are eligible to request letters of recommendations.**
- Students who want a letter of recommendation will in addition be required to submit all discussions on time, an R exercise and responses to additional questionnaire. **The instructor must be informed by the end of first week in person if they want a**

letter of recommendation. They are also expected to not miss any class and participate actively in the class and help their fellow members with the lecture material.

VIII. Course Schedule

The instructor will try to stay close to the proposed schedule as much as possible. Nonetheless, the course schedule below is subject to change during the course term due to a variety of reasons.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ECONOMICS							
Date	Time						
	9 am - 10 am	10 am - 11 am	11 am - 12 pm	12 pm - 1 pm	1 pm - 2 pm	2 pm - 3 pm	3 pm - 4:30 pm
Monday, June 29, 2026	Syllabus & Intro	PPF and CF model		Lunch	Demand & Supply model		Research/Group Work
Tuesday, June 30, 2026	Demand & Supply cont.		Elasticity	Lunch	Elasticity		
Wednesday, July 1, 2026	Consumer/Producer Surplus & Govt. Policy			Lunch	Externalities, Public Goods		
Thursday, July 2, 2026	Costs of Production			Lunch	Perfectly Competitive Firm		
Friday, July 3, 2026	No Classes						
Saturday, July 4, 2026	No Classes						
Sunday, July 5, 2026	No Classes						
Monday, July 6, 2026	Market for Factors of Production, Earnings & Discrimination			Lunch	Behavioral Economics		Research/Group Work
Tuesday, July 7, 2026	Principles of Econ	Measuring Output/GDP		Lunch	Measuring Prices/Inflation		
Wednesday, July 8, 2026	Production and Growth		Organising the Economy	Lunch	Unemployment		
Thursday, July 9, 2026	Monetary System		Classical Dichotomy	Lunch	Quantity Theory of Money	AD-AS Model	
Friday, July 10, 2026	AD-AS Model		Monetary & Fiscal Policy	Lunch	BCE Certificate Ceremony*		

- Thursday Research Days:**

Please note this year that Thursday afternoons (3 p.m.-5 p.m.) will be "Library Day". Students should receive an assignment that either requires them to do some research in the library and/or group project that will be due 5 p.m. on the same day. This is to not only encourage students to use the library but also to work together. The assignments/readings will be posted in Canvas.

- Final Friday Schedule:**

For the final Friday, class will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Lunch will be from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The End of Program ceremony will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. At this time, students will receive their BCE t-shirts and have a chance to say goodbye to instructors and classmates.

IX. Written Work

BC Experience students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor's requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and

specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. Please contact the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\), Connors Family Learning Center](#) for writing support.

X. Participation/Attendance

Participating in class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to participate in and complete all discussions, assignments, and assessments per the schedule outlined on the course Canvas site. Please inform me if you will be missing a class or are unable to turn in assigned work (due to any reason).

Consistent with BC's commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

XI. Accommodation and Accessibility

Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities.

Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in BCE courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- [The Connors Family Learning Center \(CFLC\)](#) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- [The Disabilities Services Office \(DSO\)](#) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC's commitment to accessibility at <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/sites/accessibility/>.

XII. Scholarship and Academic Integrity

Students in BCE courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or

interfering with another student's work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](#) for more information.

XIII. Health Integrity Policy

We must take even greater measures to care for ourselves, for each other and for our community. Therefore, we are asking that all BCE students care for themselves by monitoring their health. If feeling unwell, we ask that students demonstrate their care for others by wearing a mask/cloth face covering at all times when in the buildings on campus, maintain appropriate physical distancing and to even not attend class to keep the community safe.