

Florida Gulf Coast University
Application for Creative Course Design in General Education Faculty Grant

Proposal for substantive redesign of existing general education courses.

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Courses:

ECO 2023 Principles of Microeconomics: Individual components of an economic system. Special emphasis is placed on decision-making by individuals and firms. Market structures of competition and monopoly; supply and demand; international trade and finance.

ECO 2013 Principles of Macroeconomics: Fundamental relationships in the aggregate, or macroeconomy. Basic measures, uses and limitations of macroeconomic activity. Public policy goals and alternative policy proposals regarding inflation, economic growth, unemployment, and scarcity.

General Education Subject Area: Social Sciences

Description of course objectives for enhancing student learning of the General Education Subject Area:

ECO 2023 (Principles of Microeconomics) Course Objectives

At the end of the course students shall have an understanding of the following key concepts:

- The economic way of thinking.
- The basics of supply and demand.
- The economics of government.
- Consumer choice and elasticity.
- Costs and the supply of goods.
- The models of perfect competition, monopolistic competition, monopoly, and oligopoly.
- Price discrimination.
- The economics of labor markets.

EOC 2013 (Principles of Macroeconomics) Course Objectives

At the end of the course students shall have an understanding of the following key concepts:

- GDP as a measure of the whole economy.
- Business cycles, unemployment, and inflation.
- The basic macroeconomic model of an economy and macroeconomic equilibrium.

- Keynesian macroeconomics and fiscal policy.
- Money and its role in the economy.
- The Federal Reserve System and monetary policy.
- Policy activism and the Phillips curve.
- Economic growth and its principal determinants.
- International trade, exchange rates, and the balance of payments.

General Education Competencies: Competency 4 - Critical Thinking

Description of course objectives for enhancing student learning in each General Education

Competency: ECO 2023 focuses on developing “the economic way of thinking” through an emphasis on individual decision-making, which overlaps with the “critical thinking” competency. ECO 2013 builds upon that and applies it to issues in the aggregate economy as a whole. Mastery of each of the individual course objectives in those two classes requires good critical thinking skills.

Plan and criteria for assessing student achievement of each General Education

Competency: We would select a set of specific questions on each exam that most directly involve the use of critical thinking skills and use the student performance on those particular questions as our method of assessing student achievement of the critical thinking competency.

Description of creative and innovative course design features: Receipt of this grant would enable the economics faculty to purchase the Test of Understanding in College Economics (TUCE) and incorporate it into the curriculum in all Principles of Microeconomics (ECO 2023) and Principles of Macroeconomics (ECO 2013) courses at Florida Gulf Coast University. The TUCE is comprised of 30 multiple choice questions that evaluate students’ mastery of key economic concepts. The TUCE would be administered as a pretest at the beginning of the semester and as a posttest at the end of the semester. It is a nationally-normed test which enables instructors to compare the performance of their classes with that of a national sample of students. This will improve our ability to assess student achievement of the General Education Competency, as well as achievement of the specific course learning outcomes. By comparing results across instructors, it would also help us to make any necessary adjustments to assure that students are achieving similar outcomes regardless of who their instructor is.

Letter of support from the dean of the appropriate academic unit, confirming support for the new/redesigned course, and for offering it during the following academic year.