

Course Syllabus for EC 3400 (Fall 2020)

Economic Decision Analysis

Dr. Laura Connolly

Office Hours & Contact Information

Instructor: Laura Connolly, PhD
Office: 125 Academic Office Building (first floor)
Office Hours: F2F: Tues & Thurs, 9:30 – 10:15 AM and by appointment
Virtual: Tues & Thurs, 10:15 – 11 AM and by appointment
*Zoom meeting info posted to Canvas
E-mail: leconn@mtu.edu ***PLEASE INCLUDE “EC 3400” IN THE SUBJECT LINE***
Office Phone: (906) 487-2809
*Office hours are not a one size fits all. I understand that many of you likely have another class, a job, etc. during office hours. I am available to meet outside of office hours; please email me to set up an alternative meeting time.

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Tomisin Akinbo
Office: G022 Academic Office Building (basement level)
Office Hours: F2F: Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs 12 – 1 PM and by appointment
Virtual: Mon & Wed, 5 – 6 PM ; Tues & Thurs, 11 AM – 12 PM and by appt
*Zoom meeting info posted to Canvas
E-mail: oakinbo@mtu.edu

Course Information

Course Number: EC3400-0A & 0B (Hybrid/F2F OR Online)
Course Location: FISHER 135 (0A) OR DOW 641 (0B) OR ONLINE
Class Times: TR 8:00 – 9:15 AM (0A) OR 3:30 – 4:45 PM (0B)

*F2F: Attend class once per week (Tues or Thurs – same class will be taught twice each week); Only watch weekly recorded lecture if you are unable to attend F2F on scheduled day one week.

*Online: Watch weekly recorded lecture. Announcement on Canvas when recorded lecture is posted.

*Everyone: Complete before class and after class materials on Canvas

Prerequisites: UN 1015 and UN 1025 or Modern Language-3000 level or higher

Course Website: Canvas; Gradescope

Technology: iClicker REEF; Calculator

University Learning Goal 4: Critical & Creative Thinking ([Rubric](#))

Course Description (MTU Course Catalog)

Studies economic decision-making for actions occurring over time. Covers decision tools for comparing alternatives, public project evaluation, risk and uncertainty, mutually exclusive decisions, multiple objective decisions, interest rate calculations, cash flow analysis, depreciation and taxes, cost of capital,

and capital budgeting. Note: Course content, assignments, syllabus, deadlines, etc. are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Course Learning Objectives

The purpose of this class is to learn the tools of financial decision making that are commonly used by engineers. The course has two objectives: (1) To become proficient with the tools used to make effective use of capital and money, and (2) To become accurate in your calculations. All aspects of financial decision making require close attention to detail. You will learn to avoid errors by stressing the importance of paying attention to details, making careful calculations, and checking your work.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Estimate monthly/annual payments and total interest paid for personal or business loans.
- (2) Calculate the return of investments to determine if the return outweighs the cost.
- (3) Construct cash flow diagrams and use these diagrams to solve investment problems.
- (4) Identify and measure the direct and indirect costs and benefits of competing alternatives.
- (5) Understand how the corporate tax system influences choice of alternatives.

I hope that you will work hard, actively participate, ask questions, and perform to the best of your ability in this class. This course requires a significant amount of practice in order to master the material. Still, the purpose of this course is to teach you about economic decision making, not to destroy your GPA.

Pandemic Objectives

This semester will look a little different than what we are used to in the classroom. As we navigate the semester, it is important for us to keep this in mind and be sure to:

- (1) Be patient and kind with ourselves and each other.
- (2) Do our best, knowing that this will probably look different than other terms.
- (3) Communicate openly and clearly. Tell me what you need; I'll tell you how I can help.
- (4) Be flexible. We're all a bit anxious. Circumstances will likely change over the semester. Let's work together to make this the best class possible, recognizing this may be a moving target.

Required Texts

Economic Decision Analysis. 4th Edition by Roberts, M., Nelson, P., & Gale, J. Published by Pearson Custom Publishing, 2006 (ISBN-13: 978-1-256-08599-7) *You may also use the 3rd edition (orange cover)

Course Outline

Chapter 1: Time Value of Money
Chapter 2: Nominal and Effective Interest Rates
Chapter 3: Basic Decision Methods
Chapter 4: Cash Flow Statements
Chapter 5: Depreciation and Taxes
Chapter 6: Project Evaluation Decision Methods
Chapter 7: Capital Budgeting, Independent Project Selection
Chapter 8: Mutually Exclusive Decisions

Homework Assignments (Canvas Quizzes)

Homework assignments help you achieve the mastery level necessary for exams. Tentative homework due dates are noted on the course schedule.

You will complete homework assignments through Canvas. You will have 2 attempts for each homework. Only your highest score will count – the second attempt is optional and there is no penalty for attempting the homework a second time. If you repeat the homework, you must repeat the entire assignment (not just the problems you missed on a previous version). Please note that the information in the problems change with each attempt and might require new calculations. You may save your progress on an assignment and come back to it at a later time.

Participation: iClicker Reef (F2F); Canvas (Online)

You will regularly have the opportunity to apply the concepts we learn to example problems using [iClicker Reef](#) to answer questions in class (F2F students). I will only grade your participation in answering these questions in class. Online students will answer the clicker questions each week through the recorded lecture; **in order to earn participation points each week, online students need to watch the weekly recorded lecture by the specified date in each recorded lecture assignment.** F2F students need to have an iClicker ready to use in class by Thurs, Sept. 3rd, 2020.

I strongly recommend that you purchase a REEF subscription for this semester. The REEF subscription allows you to answer questions using your cell phone, tablet, or laptop (via an app or a website). REEF also allows students to see an image of each question, your specific answer, and the correct answer outside of class. A classic iClicker remote will work, but please be aware that you will only be able to respond to multiple choice questions and will not be able to see the questions or answers. Please see <https://www.iclicker.com/students/apps-and-remotes/apps> for more information.

iClicker REEF requires a small subscription fee (\$16). When registering through the app or student web portal, please search for “EC3400 (0A; 8AM) – Fall 2020” or “EC3400 (0A; 3:30PM) – Fall 2020”

Exams

There will be three midterms to assess your mastery of course material. Exam dates are as follows:

Exam 1:	Tues, October 13 th 5 PM - Wed, October 14 th 5 PM	(Chapters 1, 2, and 3)
Exam 2:	Thurs, November 19 th 5 PM - Fri, November 20 th 5 PM	(Chapters 4, 5, and 6)
Exam 3:	TBD – scheduled during the week of Dec 14 th – 18 th	(Chapters 7, 8 and 9)

You will complete your exams through Canvas. In order to succeed on the exams, you need to understand the course material very well. Previous students who were not prepared often did not finish the exams. More information on exams will be provided in class/on Canvas.

Attendance

If you become ill, suspect that you have been exposed or have a known exposure to COVID-19, please stay home to protect others from infection. In the event that you are unable to attend class F2F on your scheduled day one week, you should watch the weekly recorded lecture and answer the clicker questions through Canvas instead. The course is designed so that students can seamlessly transition from F2F to online, or visa versa, as needed, so any student can take the course online as needed.

If you are attending class F2F, you are expected to wear a mask at all times, arrive on time, participate in class discussions and assignments, and ask questions. We are likely to experience disruptions this semester and you will likely miss a few classes. I will communicate regularly with you all through Canvas, primarily via announcements. Please note that you are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and material presented in class and on Canvas. All assignments are posted well in advance of the deadline, so please plan accordingly. **Please send all documentation for excused absences (more than 3 consecutive days or if you missed a major assignment or exam) to the Dean of Students Office.**

It is expected that you will respect your classmates and the instructor while in class. We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all students/individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect.

Policy on Missed Coursework

You are expected to take the exams during the time frame scheduled. Exam dates are announced well in advance and I expect you to schedule your time accordingly. If you must miss an exam for a university sanctioned reason, **please contact me at least one week prior to the exam unless it is an emergency.** In the event of an emergency (including COVID), please contact me as soon as possible prior to the start of the exam. ***In order to take a makeup exam, you must provide documentation from the Dean of Students Office for your absence.***

All assignments and activities must be submitted before the deadline. However, I understand that things get busy during the semester and you may forget a deadline or something urgent may come up. Therefore, **each student may submit ONE late assignment (one homework or activity) within 48 hours of the deadline and earn partial credit (70%).** Any additional late assignments will earn zero points. ***Please note that an excused absence for only the due date of an assignment does NOT excuse you from submitting the assignment on time.*** The assignments are posted well in advance of the deadline and can all be completed early.

Grading Policy

Exams – 55%

Homework Assignments – 35%

Activities – 5%

iClicker Participation – 5% (0, 50 or 100 points)

If you answer at least 70% of the iClicker questions, either in class or online, throughout the semester, you will earn 100 points (full credit). If you answer less than 70% but more than 50% of the iClicker

questions, you will earn 50 points for your participation grade. If you answer less than 50% of the questions, you will earn 0 points for your participation grade.

I will regularly post grades to Canvas. **If you feel that you were not fairly graded on an exam or an assignment, you have one week from the date grades are posted for that exam or assignment to submit a written request (feel free to email me) for a re-grade.** While requesting a re-grade does not guarantee you will receive additional points, I make mistakes from time to time and am happy to correct them when you bring them to my attention.

If you are having difficulty with any of the course material, have questions regarding your performance in the course, or have any related concerns, please set up a time to meet with either me or the TA by email. The TA and I both have weekly office hours so please take advantage of them.

The grading scale used in the course is outlined below.

A	93 – 100	B	83 – 86.99	C	73 – 76.99	D	60 – 66.99
AB	87-92.99	BC	77 – 82.99	CD	67 – 72.99	F	0 – 59.99

Technology Policy

Electronics should be used for class-related activities (i.e. taking notes, answering iClicker questions). **If you prefer to spend your time in class checking email, texting, browsing the internet, etc. please sit in the back of the classroom to minimize distraction to other students.** We all like to think we are good multi-taskers, but research shows that we can only focus on one thing at a time. I will regularly post content to Canvas that you are expected to bring to class if attending F2F (paper or electronic form – slides, examples, etc.). Former students overwhelmingly noted that coming to class prepared is their number one tip for future students.

Please make sure to have a reliable calculator and bring it to class with you (F2F students). You will need a calculator that can do basic power functions. A financial calculator is not necessary, but one or a calculator you can program equations into will make solving problems easier.

Academic Integrity

You are encouraged to work together with other students to study course material and learn how to complete assignments. **In fact, I suggest that you work with other students in class to complete example problems and outside of class to complete the homework, practice problems, and/or activities.** Working together with your classmates will save you a lot of time, effort, and frustration. However, you are responsible for all answers and work submitted in your name on Canvas. You may work with other students to learn how to do these assignments, but the answers you submit for graded assignments must be your own. **You are expected to complete each exam individually with no help from or talking with anyone else though.**

If you are not in class, your clicker should not be in class (you can miss several classes without penalty). You can also earn your iClicker points by watching the recorded lecture on Canvas and completing the embedded quiz questions. Any attempt to dishonestly earn clicker points or any attempt to help another student dishonestly earn clicker points is an academic integrity issue.

Any violation of these, and other reasonable standards of conduct, will be subject to disciplinary action. The first offense will result in a score of zero for that exam or assignment and possible referral to the Dean of Students at the instructor's discretion. Any additional offense will result in a failing grade for the entire course and I will file a report with the Dean of Students Office. We all have bad days and I understand that it is frustrating to not achieve your desired grade or to have multiple exams on one day. However, the consequences of cheating will only make both of our days worse and simply aren't worth it in the long run. One bad test grade will not ruin your grade for the entire semester, I promise.

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic misconduct cases will be handled in accordance with the University's policies. For more details on academic integrity, please review [Michigan Tech's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Disability Services

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in any class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact your instructor and Disability Services at 906-487-1494 as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please note that this includes if you are unable to medically tolerate wearing a mask in class.

Any student requiring accommodations due to a documented disability must provide me with notification of needed accommodations no later than five business days prior to the use of the accommodations. In situations where fewer than five days' notice is given, the instructor is encouraged, but not obligated, to provide accommodations. The instructor will determine, in consultation with the Testing Center in the Jackson Center for Teaching and Learning, whether these accommodations can be met.

Students who have an accommodation for extended time allowed on tests shall not be required to spend more than six hours per calendar day in final examinations. For a student with an accommodation for extended time, this may reduce the limit on examinations per day to less than the normal limit of three. To resolve time conflicts between two overlapping exams (either regular exams or final examinations), the current practices of the University shall be followed.

University Policies

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

Michigan Tech is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help or to find additional resources, contact Counseling Services at 906-487-2538 or visit the [Counseling Services website](#).

Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

For more information about reasonable accommodations or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office at 906-487-2212. More information is also available from the [Syllabi Policies webpage](#).

COVID-19

All students are expected to comply with University protocols in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which include wearing a face covering indoors at all times and maintaining six-foot social distancing whenever possible.

Students not in compliance with the face covering protocol may be asked to leave class until they are able to comply. Students unable to medically tolerate a face covering should contact [Student Disability Services](#) to explore possible accommodations. Chronically noncompliant or disruptive students may be reported to the [Office of Academic and Community Conduct](#).