
Economics 235

Telecommunications Economics and Public Policy

Dr. David Loomis
Spring 2017

TR 9:35 a.m. -10:50 a.m.
MLT 210

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Course Prerequisites: ECO 101/105

REQUIRED RESOURCES: *

There is no outside assigned book for this course. Instead, I am working on writing my own textbook for this class. I will post chapters for each section on ReggieNet. I will also post the Powerpoint slides before each class. This will enable you to take notes more quickly in class. If absenteeism becomes a problem, I will, at my discretion, decide to no longer post the Powerpoint slides. Material from the readings that is not directly mentioned in class **WILL** be on the exams. Likewise, material discussed in class that is not in the readings **WILL** be on the exams.

A ReggieNet site will be maintained for the course. The chapters for each section will be posted in ReggieNet in PDF format. I will also post lecture notes, assignments, announcements, etc. Please access ReggieNet daily to find announcements, assignments, readings and other information.

Papers referenced in the syllabus that are not on ReggieNet will be on e- reserves at the Milner Library website. To access the articles, go to www.mlb.ilstu.edu, Reserve Readings, Enter On-line Catalog, Course Reserves, and choose ECO 235.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course covers the economic and public policy issues related to the telecommunications industry from a historical, present and future perspective. Students will learn the economic, legal and regulatory history of the industry to better understand the current issues confronting the telecommunications marketplace. Without a proper understanding of the past, the analysis of current issues facing the industry is meaningless. Much of the industry's structure, conduct and performance is related to the historical context of its economic and regulatory past.

*Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability should contact Disability Concerns at 350 Fell Hall, 438-5853 (voice), 438-8620 (TDD).

A proper economic framework will be developed to allow students to analyze the complex public policy issues that face the telecommunications industry. In addition, students will gain a better understanding of the managerial decision-making that takes place in the industry. Although the course's focus is on the telecommunications industry, much of the economic analysis is applicable to other industries as well.

Students will also examine the future issues that will confront this rapidly changing industry. Using economic models as a foundation, students will analyze complicated real-world situations. The course will have an emphasis on actual case studies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be 5 exams and an optional comprehensive final. *No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the exam and approved by the instructor.* Problem sets and quizzes will be given throughout the semester, usually one per week. *No late problem sets or quizzes will be accepted.* Each problem set/quiz will be graded out of 100 points. The average of all problem sets/quizzes will figure into your final grade. A major writing assignment will be due towards the end of the semester.

The final grade will be based on the following point scheme:

Exam #1	50 points
Exam #2	50 points
Exam #3	50 points
Exam #4	50 points
Exam #5	50 points
Problem Set/Quiz	100 points
Class Participation	50 points
<u>Writing Assignment</u>	<u>100 points</u>
TOTAL	500 points
<u>Final (optional)</u>	<u>200 points</u>
TOTAL	700 points

The following point scale will be used to evaluate your performance:

Grade	Total Points (without final)	Total Points (with final)
A	450 or above	630 or more
B	400 or above	560 or more
C	350 or above	490 or more
D	300 or above	420 or more
F	less than 300	less than 420

Class Participation grades will be determined at the end of the semester based on the following criteria (I reserve the right to assign points in between these categories):

Points	Characteristics
50	This student always attends class, is always prepared for class and regularly makes positive major contributions to class discussion
40	This student always attends class, is mostly prepared for class and frequently makes positive major contributions to class discussion
35	This student regularly attends class, is sometimes prepared for class and occasionally makes positive major contributions to class discussion
25	This student mostly attends class, is sometimes prepared for class and occasionally makes some contribution to class discussion
10	This student misses class frequently, is sometimes prepared for class and occasionally makes some contribution to class discussion
0	This student misses class frequently, is rarely prepared for class and rarely makes a contribution to class discussion

KEYS TO SUCCESS

This course has a large volume of reading. Some of the reading is technical, focused on economic theory and some of the reading is narrative, focused on historical events. ***It is imperative that you read the assigned material in both areas.*** Because part of the class is discussion oriented, you will not maximize your classroom learning if you have not read the material in advance. In addition, ***participating in classroom discussion will help you clarify your own thinking.*** As you listen to others' economic reasoning and express your own ideas, true learning takes place. The goal of this course is not to memorize a set of facts the night before the exam but to develop economic reasoning in the area of telecommunications. This cannot be done by cramming the night before the exam!! Finally, ***do the problem set independently so that you know not only the correct answer but also how to arrive at the correct answer.*** Many exam questions will be similar to problem set questions; so view problem sets as practice exams.

If, after reading the assigned material, participating in class discussion and working independently on problem sets, you are not achieving the level of success that you expect of yourself, please come to see me regularly during office hours. My goal as your professor is to see you succeed. If you are doing your best to learn, I will do my best to help you learn.

Schedule		
Date	Topic	Chapter
January 17	Overview of Telecom	1
January 19	Overview of Telecom	1
January 24	Wireline Voice How does it work? / Structure, Conduct, Performance	2
January 26	Regulatory History	3
January 31	Economic Models	4
February 2	Current Issues	5
February 7	EXAM #1	
February 9	Wireless Voice How does it work? / Structure, Conduct, Performance	6
February 14	Regulatory History	7
February 16	Economic Models	8
February 21	Current Issues	9
February 23	Review Session	
February 28	EXAM #2	
March 2	Wireline Data How does it work? / Structure, Conduct, Performance	10
March 7	Regulatory History	11
March 9	Economic Models	
March 14-16	Spring Break	
March 21	Current Issues	12
March 23	EXAM #3	13
March 28	Wireless Data How does it work? / Structure, Conduct, Performance	
March 30	Regulatory History	14
April 4	Economic Models	15
April 6	Current Issues	16
April 11	EXAM #4	17
April 13	Wireline/Wireless Video How does it work?	
April 18	Structure, Conduct, Performance	18
April 20	Regulatory History	
April 25	Economic Models / Current Issues	19
April 27	NO CLASS – IRPS CONFERENCE	20
May 2	EXAM #5	21
May 4	Review	
May 8-12	Final – TBD	