



The Maine Economy
ECO370 (03)

James H. Breece
Fall 2015

Office: 220 Stevens Hall
Office Hours: 10:30 –12:00 T&Th;
and by appointment

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FirstClass: James Breece

Prerequisite: Minimum C- in ECO 120 and ECO 121 or permission

Required Readings

1. **Textbook:** *Changing Maine: 1960-2010*, Richard Barringer et al, Tilbury House Publishers, 2004
2. **Supplemental reading:** *Changing Maine: Teaching Guide*, Richard Barringer, 2006 [on FirstClass]
3. **Media:** *The Wall Street Journal*; enroll at WSJ.com/studentoffer

FirstClass: a course conference has been automatically added to your desktop. Announcements and course materials will be posted in the course conference throughout the semester.

Course Requirements: All students must take both exams and complete both assignments. Each exam and the writing assignment are 30% of the course grade. The remaining 10% of the course grade is based on class participation with particular emphases on the in-class presentation. There will be plus-minus grading.

1. Exam 1..... October 21
2. Assignment 1 On assigned class day
2. Assignment 2 (paper) December 9
3. Final Exam..... Finals week

- **Assignment 1:** each student is to “volunteer” to be responsible for the course material of a particular class day. The student is asked to know the subject material, update the textbook material with new data and recent events, provide an updated reading list, and to address the questions in the *Changing Maine: Teaching Guide*. At the end of each class meeting the

student will distribute a 2-3 page overview of the material and lead a discussion on the materials.

- **Assignment 2:** to complete and submit an original written economic investigation on any Maine topic that interests the student (approximately 10 – 12 pages). The instructor must approve the topic beforehand.

- ❖ Each class meeting will have an outside speaker; all students are expected to engage with questions, take notes and use the information for exams and writing assignments.

Missed Exams: are counted as zero. Students wishing to have the privilege of taking a make-up exam must notify me **prior** to the scheduled exam date. Attendance of the classes is the student's responsibility and any cheating during the exams will result in automatic failure of the assignment.

Course Description: Analysis of past and current transformations of the Maine economy and their impact on the labor force, economic performance, environment, distribution of wealth, and trading patterns. Both micro and macro economic theory will be utilized to investigate the transformation process.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will have an appreciation and understanding of the strengths and complexities of the Maine economy and the economic transformation process that took place in Maine's recent history and what it means for the future. Students will also gain an appreciation of Maine's history, geography, political system, and its role in the national and global economies. Students' understanding of the underlying economic forces responsible for the transformation will have been displayed through their learned analytical skills and narrative explanations as demonstrated by the course requirements.

Course Outline and Reading List

Readings will include chapters in *Changing Maine: 1960-2010* (shown below). Additional readings including speakers' notes, reports, and articles (to be posted on FirstClass).

PART I:

- September 2: Dick Barringer – Overview of Maine

- September 9: Richard Judd – History of Maine

- September 16: Amanda Rector – Current and Past Economic Trends
 - Chapters 2, 13, 19, and 20

- September 23: Glenn Mills – Demographics and the Workforce
 - Chapters 1 and 3

- September 30: Evan Rickert – Economic Development Strategies
 - Chapters 11 and 12

- October 7: Mark Brewer and Amy Fried – Maine Politics
 - Chapters 9, 10, and 16

- October 14: Michael Allen – State Budget and Tax Reform
 - Chapter 8

PART II: TBD – based on students' interests

University of Maine Policy Statements

- 1) **Academic Honesty Statement:** Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.
- 2) **Students with disabilities statement:** If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.
- 3) **Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause):** In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.
- 4) **Sexual Discrimination Reporting**
The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of **sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination** involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For *confidential resources on campus*: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392** or **Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000**.

For *confidential resources off campus*: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000** or **Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909**.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For *support services on campus*: **Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406**, **Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409**, **University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911**. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>