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Course Syllabus

*Teaching and Learning form the mission of Bethany College*

**Senior Seminar in Economics  
Economics 476**

**Credit hours: 2**

**Grading: A/B/C/D/F**

**Class meeting time(s): MF 3:00 - 3:50**

**Prerequisite Course(s): MATH 201 or ECON 205, ECON 376, and Senior Standing or permission**

**LAC/Gen Ed designation: *Writing Intensive* (when combined with ECON 376)**

Economists were invented to make weather forecasters look accurate.

**Instructor(s):** Wilfrid W. Csaplar Jr., Ph.D.  
**Contact Information:** [WCsaplarJr@bethanywv.edu](mailto:WCsaplarJr@bethanywv.edu)

Office: x7856

Home: 829-4348

<http://www.WCsaplarJr.info/>

**Office Location:** 022 Richardson

**Office Hours:** MWF: 11:00 - 11:50, 1:30 - 1:50

TTh: 10:30 - 11:50 (if no meetings), 2:00 - 3:30

My preferred contact is via the [Zoom link in Canvas](#), but a phone calls or visits to my office are acceptable.

Contact me if you want to see me at other times.

**I. Rationale:** This course combined with ECON 376 is a capstone course with multiple, diverse goals. The first is to apply advanced calculus to the economic models you studied in various courses. The second goal is to have you see how economics can be seen in every aspect of the world. This course will continue to prepare you for writing your Senior Project and making presentations using PowerPoint. The two courses combined have been classified as a single writing intensive course.

**II. Course Description:** The *Senior Seminar* in Economics is a review of economic analysis with attention to the mathematical concepts and writing in Economics. In the course students improve their command of the research methods characteristic of contemporary economics and their incorporation in the preparation of oral and written reports in economics.



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**IIIA. Course Delivery Mode and Structure:** This course will be a hyflex course. I will be teaching the class in the scheduled room at the scheduled time. I will also be recording it on Zoom via Canvas for the students who cannot make it to class. If the college goes entirely online, the only difference will be that no students will be in the room when I teach the class. All assignments will be handed in electronically on Canvas.

**IIIB. Course Communication Plan:** Announcements will be made on both my personal webpage, <http://www.WCsaplarJr.info>, and on Canvas. I generally check my e-mail irregularly, but at least on a daily basis in the evening. I normally reply to an e-mail once I have read it. I expect the student will reply within 24 hours to an e-mail.

**IIIC. Technical Requirements:** This course uses Canvas for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Canvas course site can be accessed at <https://bethanywv.instructure.com>. Your Bethany College username and password are used to access the system.

You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the term. *Caution! You will be at a disadvantage if you attempt to complete all coursework on a smartphone or tablet.* It may not be possible to submit the files required for your homework assignments.

The following list details a minimum recommended computer set-up and the software packages you will need to have access to, and be able to use:

Feature	Laptop
Screen Size	15" or smaller or portability
Operating System	Windows 10 or Max OSX or higher recommended; Windows 7 not recommended
Base Memory	4 GB – minimum 8 GG – recommended
Hard Drive Storage	128 GB - minimum 256 GB - recommended
Optical Drive	Optional



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Network/Wireless	802.11 ac Wave 2 or 802.11ax wireless – both connect at the 802.11 ac Wave 1 level, Ethernet port
Mic and Camera	Built-in microphone and webcam

Students should be able to use email, a word processor, spreadsheet program and presentation software to complete this course successfully. All students have access to Office 365 with their Bethany username and password. Students are reminded that sharing their credentials with others or using the credentials assigned to others to prepare or submit work, attend online classes, or view grades and assignments is a violation of the student code of conduct as well as academic rules. Each student should keep their password to Bethany’s services confidential. [Edit as needed for specific courses.]

**IIID. Technical Assistance:**

If you need technical assistance with access to email, Self-Service, Canvas, or Office 365, you can submit a help request to [hdesk@bethanywv.edu](mailto:hdesk@bethanywv.edu).

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem within Canvas (i.e. submitting an assignment, taking a quiz, etc.), you can submit a help request to [canvashelp@bethanywv.edu](mailto:canvashelp@bethanywv.edu).

**IV. Student Learning Outcomes:** Students in this course will know how to apply Lagrangian equations and multi-variable calculus to economic problems. You will also apply economic theory to news stories using graphical analysis. You will make several presentations using PowerPoint.

**V. Format and Procedures:** For the first half of this course will consist of predominately modified lecture format. What I mean by that, is that I will ask questions and we will figure out the material as we go. There will be weekly semi-weekly homework assignments. We will review them when they are handed back. You will make several presentations. Some of them are “current events” (see VIII, C below) while one other will be a presentation about your Senior Project. All of which will be done using PowerPoint. The last few weeks, you will be preparing for *comps*. During those classes, you will ask me about a topic from any course which will be on the *comps*, and I will help you to understand the material. Occasionally, I will not be familiar with the



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topic, but the other students should be able to help you with that.

### **VI. My Assumptions:** I assume you have **passed *Calculus or Quantitative Methods***.

It is a pre-requisite for this course. You will also participate in every class. When you are making a presentation using PowerPoint, you will dress in “business professional.” That means the men will wear a suit or a sports jacket and tie with nice pants and dress shoes. For women, a business-suit or a dress is appropriate. When others are presenting, you will pay attention, and think about suggestions and/or questions.

### **VII. Course Requirements:**

**(A) COVID-19 Policy:** Because I am borderline of more than one group of people at a high risk for COVID-19, you will wear a mask in class. If you come to my office, you will be wearing a mask. You will stay at least six feet from me. If you suspect that you may have COVID-19 or another serious illness, you will not come to class nor will you come to my office. The preferred contact for all students during office hours is via Zoom. If you miss class because of exposure to COVID-19 or other illness, you are expected to watch the video of the class, either live as the class is going on, or later after it is posted.

If this class is forced to go fully online, then all aspects of this syllabus will remain the same except for class participation. I will stop recording the class participation grade. Your class participation grade for the semester will be whatever it was prior to going online. This means all class recordings will be done at the time the class is scheduled to meet. You can watch them live or at a later time. The assignments will be due when they were originally scheduled.

**(B) Class attendance and participation policy:** Because of the class participation grade, it is expected that you will attend all classes and actively participate. That means you will answer questions that I ask, or that other students ask, and you will ask questions when you are uncertain about something. If you miss a large number of classes, then you will have a poor participation grade, and more important, you will not have heard the material. Not hearing the material will hurt your grade more than the lower participation grade (see grading rubric below). Not participating, showing up late, or leaving early will lower your participation grade. A valid reason for missing class, as explained in *Late Work Policy* below, will not hurt your participation grade.

**(C) Late Work Policy:** If you miss an assignment or test because of an unanticipated

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event like an illness, you have two choices. The first is to get me a note signed by the appropriate person, or you can tell me what the problem was and I will decide whether or not it is a valid reason for missing the assignment. **You do NOT have to tell me why you are absent.** If you know beforehand that you will be missing an exam and have a valid reason to do so, then contact me beforehand to determine how it will be made up. I will ask for external verification of your reason, so do not wait until the day before the exam. Either a note from an appropriate person **or** my personal decision can be used to determine if you have a valid explanation for missing the assignment.

If you have no valid explanation, then there will be a 10% penalty per day, including the weekend. The assignment is considered late if it is not handed in at the start of class on the day it is due and the day we go over it. It is considered to be handed in the next day if it is handed in after the start of class or if class did not meet that day, then after I leave to go home. **Makeup exams require 24 hour advance notice so that I can write another exam.** Suppose that an assignment or exam is scheduled on a Wednesday and you are sick and I determine that you have a valid reason for Wednesday and Thursday. If you turn it in on the following Monday after class has met, then it will be considered four days late. Those days are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday because it was the day that we went over it in class – it was due at the start of class – so it is counted as handed in on Tuesday.

**(D) Calculators:** I will not permit use of cellphones, graphing calculators or any other calculator which can store equations. The HP 10B and the TI BA II Plus are acceptable in all courses in Economics, Business, and Accounting courses. The former is the preferred calculator for some of the non-Economics courses in Business and Accounting.

### **(E) Course readings:**

**(i) Required text:** *Making Sense: A Students Guide to Research and Writing, Social Sciences* by Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman, and Patrizia Albanese. The seventh Edition is copyright 2018 by Oxford University Press. You should have this from ECON 376.

**(ii) Background readings:** All assignments from every time I taught this course are available on my web page: <http://www.WCsaplarJr.info>. You will also want to check out ECON 477's assignments.



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**VIII. Grading, Evaluation and Assessment Procedures, including Grading Scale:**

**(A) Point Distribution:** There will be daily class participation, three homework assignments, one exam, seven current events, one oral presentations using PowerPoint, an outline for your Senior Project and the literature survey for it. There are 1000 points available during the semester. The grades are calculated as follows:

Class participation	3%	30 points
3 homework assignments	6% (2% each)	60 points (100*2/10 = 20 each)
7 current events	21% (3% each)	210 points (30 points each)
The exam	25%	250 points (250 = 100*2.5)
Sr. project assignments combined	10%	100 points
Progress report oral presentation	20%	200 points (100*2)
Summary of an oral presentation	15%	150 points (100*1.5)

**(B) Grading Scale:** The minimum scores necessary to get each grade will be:

A+ 97% = 970 points	A 93% = 930 points	A- 90% = 900 points
B+ 87% = 870 points	B 83% = 830 points	B- 80% = 800 points
C+ 77% = 770 points	C 73% = 730 points	C- 70% = 700 points
D+ 67% = 670 points	D 63% = 630 points	D- 60% = 600 points
	F 0%	

The borders are not firm. Any student near the border of two grades will have their case looked at on a case by case basis after the final exam has been graded.

**IX. Grading Rubric:**

**(A) Class Participation:** The class participation grade is 0 to 5. 0 means you were not in class and 5 means you were there on time, participated, did not leave in the middle or early, did not text message or use the phone, did not carry on a private conversation, did not sleep, and did not do work for another class. Each of those discouraged activities lowers your grade. If you have an excused absence, you will get no grade, so your grade is not affected. If you do not have an excused absence and watch the video rather than attending class, you will get a 4/5. You must e-mail me that you have watched the video to avoid getting a zero. I will verify on Canvas that you did watch it.

**(B) Homework Assignments:** This course has semi-weekly homework assignments. Homework assignments are the only area that I allow students to work together other than current events. In fact, I recommend that you work together on these assignments because the better students learn the material better by teaching it and the poorer



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students get another person teaching it and may learn it better. However, if I find that students have worked together on any assignment other than the homework assignments, I will consider it as cheating. See the section below. The assignments will be handed in via Canvas. The pictures of any hand drawn or handwritten parts of the answer will be converted into PDF files and merged with the PDF files of the typed answers. The final assignment will be one PDF file with size A4 pages. pdfcandy.com can be used to convert pictures into PDF files, merge PDF files, and resize PDF files. If you have an Apple product, there is software CamScanner which can be used to create PDF files of photographs. If you do not use CamScanner, Apple products save pictures in a format which cannot be read by pdfcandy.com.

**(C) Current events:** Approximately every other Monday, we will cover current events. Part of the class will be the topic listed. The rest of the time will be covering the current events. Each group will bring to class articles about current events. You will then discuss how that event is explained by economic theory and/or what the economic impact of the event will be. It is expected that each group will have an article and will lead the discussion of that topic. The *Current Events* grade will be based upon how well the group applies economic theory to an article that does not immediately appear to be about economics. The grade will have two components. The first component is the ***unusualness of the application of economics***. The second is part is ***how well you described the economic application***. The former component of the grade will be judged on a scale of 1 to 5. 1 means a routine application. For example, it may be an article about how a drop in the GDP affects the country. 5 means the application is very original. For example, it may be an article about a study of how Giant Pandas reproduce. If you apply both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, you will get a better grade. The latter component of the grade will be graded on a scale of 0 to 5. 0 means your analysis is wrong. 1 means your analysis comes directly from the article without adding anything new. 2, 3, 4, and 5 represent increasing levels of new analysis added by you. Inaccurate analysis will lower the grade. The numbers will be added together and the average of all presentations will be your grade for the *Current Events* for the semester. You will be expected to give me a copy of the article in class on the day it is presented. The group should summarize – **not read** – the article for the class. The group will be expected to present for **eight minutes** and answer questions for another two minutes. You will lose 1 point for every minute away from eight minutes your presentation is. All current events will be done with PowerPoint. You will turn it in as a single file on Canvas at least a half hour before the class meets. I will connect the computer to the projector and change the pages while you speak.

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**(D) Summaries of Reports:** For the progress report, you will write a 1 to 2 page paper summarizing what **somebody else presented**. Your paper will be due the Monday after the last presentation was made. The summary must be turned in on Canvas as well as via hard copy. **If it is not turned in both Canvas and hard copy, it will not be counted as turned in until both the hard and electronic copies are turned in and will be subject to the late assignment penalty.** These papers will be graded using the following rubric:

**Excellent summary** that includes the following: Clear main idea in the first sentence. All important details are included. Details are in a logical order. Ideas are connected to make the writing flow. Author restates the main idea again as a conclusion without writing it the same as in the first sentence. Summary is paraphrased extremely well

**Good summary** includes the following: Clear main idea in the first sentence. Important details are included but some might be missing. Ideas are in logical order. Restated main idea doesn't differ from the first sentence. Summary is well-paraphrased.

**Below average summary** includes: Main idea is unclear — not specifically stated in the writing. Some critical information is missing. Ideas are in a random order and not logical. Restated main idea is not in this piece of writing. Summary is uses the exact language of the text.

**Ineffective summary** includes: The main idea is not present in the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the writing. Contains only some details. Ideas are not in logical order. Missing a concluding sentence with the restated main idea. Summary uses the exact language of the text.

**(E) Review for comprehensives:** In these classes, you will bring questions to ask me about topics from different classes. You can ask about any course, even ones I do not teach. Two of the classes will be set aside for Microeconomics and Macroeconomics respectively.

**(F) Progress Reports for Senior Project:** The presentation will be 20 minutes long and will be graded by the following criteria:

10% will be how accurate your facts are and the number of facts. (The precise number for each grade is not precise because some topics have more available information than

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other topics.) You do not need to cover your literature survey. Go over the most important points. Were you able to answer the questions that came after your 20 minute talk? (There will be around 5 minutes of questions after your talk. The length of time for questions will depend upon the length of your presentation and the other presentation.)

40% will be the quality of the economic analysis. In other words, did you avoid errors in the analysis? Did your analysis include theoretical graphs, plots of actual data, and/or regression analysis (as appropriate)? Did you cover the most important economic aspects of the topic? Did you add your own work to the literature you cited?

50% will be the quality of the presentation. Were you dressed as if it was a presentation at a business? Did you use PowerPoint? Did you have the PowerPoint presentation pre-loaded? Did you make effective use of PowerPoint? (Use it for graphs, data, pictures, and an outline, but not to cover everything you said.) Did you use your notes as notes rather than reading them? Was it done in the 20 minute time frame? (Every minute short and every half-minute long will cost you 1 point of the 50.) Did you avoid hemming and hawing? Did you look like a professional? Did you avoid talking fast or too slow? Did you aim the economic level of your talk at Senior Economics Majors? Did you include sources with data and graphics?

**(G) Senior Project Work:** On 8/28, 10/16, and at the time the final is scheduled, parts of the Senior Project are due. You will be graded on how much progress you made and how accurate your work is. Your grade will be the weighted average of the grades for the three written assignments, with the Literature Survey getting 80% weight and the other two assignments get 10% weights each. (The progress report on 11/9 or 11/13 is **not** part of your grade for the Senior Project.) The assignment due on 8/28 is a one-page summary of what question you are asking what type of analysis you will be doing. The 10/16 assignment is the outline for the project. You will have a paragraph long descriptions of what each part of the outline will include and you should have identified your sources. The assignment due when a final exam would have been scheduled is the Introduction, Statement of Purpose, Literature Survey, and Bibliography. **If the written assignments are not turned in both Canvas and hard copy, it will not be counted as turned in until both the hard and electronic copies are turned in and will be subject to the late assignment penalty.**

**X. Academic Honesty:** Each student in this course is expected to abide by the

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Bethany College Policy on Academic Honesty (see College Catalogue section on Academic Honesty). Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

For this course, collaboration is allowed for homework assignments. You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, an electronic copy, or a hard copy. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and College disciplinary action.

**I have zero tolerance for cheating, lying, copying, plagiarism, etc. The first time that I find you cheating, I will definitely give a zero for the assignment. I may also flunk you for the whole course. I have done it here and many times in the past at other schools.**

### **XI. Behavioral Expectations, Classroom Etiquette:**

**Classroom Etiquette:** See grading rubric.

### **XII. Electronic Communication and Course Management:**

My web page is <http://www.WCsaplarJr.info>. On it will be all current syllabi, current announcements, and old assignments for all courses I have taught at Bethany College. If you miss a class, you can find the material covered and any new assignment on the page. You can also find my class and office hours' schedule. I taught this course several times in the past (sometimes as ECON 477). Checking out those courses' exams and homework assignments could give you an idea of what my tests are like.

**All assignments will be turned in on Canvas.**

**XIII. Accommodations for students with disabilities:** This class respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. If there are circumstances that make our learning environment and activities difficult, if you have medical information that you need to share with the instructor, or if you need specific



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 arrangements in case of an emergency, please let the instructor know. The instructor is committed to creating an effective learning environment for all students, but the instructor can only do so if you discuss your needs with the instructor as early as possible. The instructor promises to maintain the confidentiality of these discussions. If appropriate, also contact the McCann Learning Center (accommodations for learning disabilities) or the 504 Coordinator (medical accommodations and accessibility) to get more information about specific information. The McCann Learning Center is located on the second floor of Cramblet Hall and the 504 Coordinator is located in Student Life.

**XIV. Anti-Racism Pledge:** As a member of the Bethany College faculty, I pledge to continually work to be anti-racist, to be an active ally for and create safe spaces for my students, colleagues, and community members.

**XV. Title IX Disclosure:** Your instructor is a mandated reporter of suspected discrimination. Please do not share anything regarding sexual harassment or discrimination if you wish to keep it expressly confidential. Please see the College's Title IX policy in Volume II of the Policy Manual. A hard copy can be obtained in the Office of Student Life, or an electronic copy can be found on the College's website (<http://www.bethanywv.edu/students/title-ix/>).

**XVI. Tentative Course Schedule:**

Mon.	Monday Classes	Fri.	Friday Classes
8/17	Lagrangians	8/21	Lagrangians
8/24	Lagrangians, <b>Homework #1 Due</b>	8/28	Indifference curves, Review Homework #1 <b>Senior Project proposal due</b>
8/31	Valid Indifference Curves, <b>Current Events</b>	9/4	From Isoquants to Cost Curves
9/7	Cournot, <b>Homework #2 Due</b>	9/11	Cournot, Von Stackelberg, Review Homework #2
9/14	Von Stackelberg <b>Current Events</b>	9/18	Two Constraints
9/21	2 constraints intertemp. budget <b>HW#3 Due</b>	9/25	Intertemporal budget constraint, Review Homework #3
9/28	Game Theory, <b>Current Events</b>	10/2	Game Theory, Review Homework #3A
10/5	<b>Exam</b>	10/9	Review for <i>comps</i> MFT
10/12	Review for <i>comps</i> MFT <b>Current Events</b>	10/16	Review Exam <b>Outline for Senior Project Due</b>
10/19	Review for <i>comps</i> Microeconomics	10/23	Review for <i>comps</i> Microeconomics
10/26	Review for <i>comps</i> Macro <b>Current Events</b>	10/30	Review for <i>comps</i> Macroeconomics
11/2	Review for <i>comps</i> any course	11/6	Review for <i>comps</i> any course
11/9	<b>Progress Reports for Senior Project</b>	11/13	<b>Progress Reports for Senior Project continued*</b>
11/16	Rev. for <i>comps</i> any course <b>Summary of a presentation due Current Events</b>	11/21	Arrow's Impossibility Theorem, printout of grades
11/24	<b>Literature Survey for Senior Project due</b> at time of final		Review for <i>comps</i> <b>Current Events</b>

**Senior Project Literature Survey due at time of final (Tuesday, 11/24 3:00 PM).**

The review session for the exam will probably be the night before the exam.

### **XVII. Course Materials and Copyright Statement:**

Course material accessed from the Bethany College Canvas site is for the exclusive use of students who are currently enrolled in the course. Content from these courses cannot be reused or distributed without written permission of the instructor and/or the copyright holder. Duplication of materials protected by copyright, without permission of the copyright holder is a violation of the Federal copyright law.

### **XVIII. COVID-19 Statement:**

Bethany College has established specific requirements to create a safe in-person learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. My role as an instructor is to ensure that these requirements are followed to support equal opportunities for learning and respectful treatment of all individuals present in an instructional area. Anyone who does not comply with these requirements will not be permitted to enter or will be asked to leave any in-person instructional area. The ramifications for not following these expectations as stated in Bethany College's COVID-19 Policy ([www.bethanywv.edu/student-life/health-wellness](http://www.bethanywv.edu/student-life/health-wellness)) are as listed below.

- First Violation: written warning and education sanction
- Second Violation: loss of housing and, when possible, continued education at home with forfeiture of housing cost.

### **Requirements:**

#### **1. Before class**

- a. Complete a **daily self-check** of your temperature and any new or different COVID-19 symptoms and report this information using the designated Canvas monitored by the Student Health Center. Any student who has a temperature of 100.4 °F (37.8 °C) or higher, or has one or more symptoms of COVID-19 should stay in their residence and contact the Health Center. Please inform your instructor by email prior to the beginning of class if your screening indicates that you need further evaluation and that you will not be able to attend in-person class.
- b. **Hand hygiene** – All members of the Bethany community should regularly wash their hands with soap and water, or use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and also avoid eating until you are sure that your hands are properly cleaned.

2. **During class**

a. **Face masks** - Cloth face masks (multiple layers of material recommended) that completely cover your nose and mouth are required in public campus spaces and instructional areas to reduce the transmission of viruses from person to person through the air. If you have obtained permission to not wear a face covering, the wristband bracelet must be clearly visible when entering an instructional space and a face shield is recommended.

b. **Social distancing** – Social distancing (keep at least 6 ft. away from others) is required in public campus spaces and instructional areas. Social distancing reduces the risk that viruses will transmit through the air or by direct contact between people. Certain laboratory or studio experiences may require brief periods of contact where 6 ft. of distance cannot be maintained, but these interactions should be made as minimal and infrequent as possible.

3. **After class**

a. **Maintain hygiene** – All members of the Bethany community should regularly wash their hands with soap and water, or use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and also avoid eating until you are sure that your hands are properly cleaned.

b. **Disinfect your space** – Ensure that your workspace and belongings (desk, face mask, phone, keyboard, etc.) are properly cleaned using a disinfecting wipe, soap and water, or other CDC-recommended disinfectant as appropriate.

**XIX. Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.**