

Eco/Ent 312: U.S. Technology and Innovation Policy

Dr. Al Link

Spring 2019

Tu, Th: 9:30am – 10:45am

Description of the Course

- This is an economics/entrepreneurship course. The entrepreneurship elements reflect the course's focus on entrepreneurial dimensions reflected in current U.S. technology and innovation policy. If one views entrepreneurship in terms of a person or a firm perceiving an opportunity and acting on that opportunity then it follows that the public sector can as well be entrepreneurial in its development of policy—technology and innovation policy in our case.
- The elements of economics stressed in this class related to “market failures” and how those failures have brought about a less than socially optimal level funding – R&D funding – for the development of new technology.
- In this course we will focus primarily on U.S. technology and innovation policy with an eye toward identifying new public sector opportunities for providing incentives for firms—entrepreneurial firms as well as traditional firms—to develop new technology and to bring it to market (an innovation is a technology put in use).

Learning Objectives

- Understand the economics/entrepreneurial foundations of U.S. technology and innovation policy
- Understand the social implications of U.S. technology and innovation policy
- Understand the relationship between public sector entrepreneurship and the policy focus of U.S. technology and innovation policy
- Be aware of the international dimensions of U.S. technology and innovation policy

Lectures and On-Line Learning Modules

- The Department of Economics is moving toward selected graduate and possibly undergraduate classes being taught on-line. This semester represents my first effort to transition EcoEnt 312 from a traditional lecture class to an on-line class. Thus, there will be on-line modules for some of the materials relevant to the class, and lecture modules for other materials.
- The lecture portion of the class will be reflected through PowerPoint presentations. All of my PowerPoint lectures will be placed on CANVAS after the class in which the lecture is given.
- A fluid class calendar is on CANVAS. It will likely change during the semester due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., snow), so please check it frequently.

Grading

- 2 in-class exams (February 21 and April 23) – 30% each

- If you choose not to take the first in-class exam, or if you miss the first exam for any reason at all, your second in-class exam will be valued at 60%. There is absolutely no exception to this policy.
- If you take the first in-class exam but choose not to take the second in-class exam, or if you miss the second in-class exam for any reason at all, your on-line final exam will be valued at 45%. There is absolutely no exception to this policy.
- If you choose not to take either of the in-class exams, or if you miss them both for any reason at all, your on-line final exam will be valued at 75%. There is absolutely no exception to this policy.
- On-line or independent assignments – 25%. Follow carefully the on-line assignment format. No late on-line assignments will be accepted. There is absolutely no exception to this policy.
- On-line final exam (due not later than 12:00 noon on May 7) – 15%
- Grading is on a 10-point scale with +/- at 2 point intervals (88-89 = B+; 80-81 = B-)

Class Expectations

- I expect that you be in class on time (with your cell phone off) and prepared to participate in the class discussion
- You should expect that I am in class on time (with my cell phone off) and prepared to deliver an organized lecture and to be receptive to questions from you
- You should also expect that the in-class exams and final exam will be fair and will reflect the important points made through the in-class lectures and on-line modules.

Office Hours

- Bryan 461
- The best and most efficient way to contact me with questions or to arrange an office appointment is by email: anlink@uncg.edu. Please put Eco/Ent 312 in the subject line to avoid the email from going into SPAM. DO NOT CONTACT ME THROUGH CANVAS. I am generally in my office from 8:45 to 9:30am, but I will accommodate your schedule.
- All assignments are to be submitted through CANVAS

UNCG Honor Code

- Please familiarize yourself with the University honor code.
<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

Faculty and Student Guidelines

- Please familiarize yourself with the Bryan School's *Faculty and Student Guidelines*. These guidelines establish principles and expectations for the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the Bryan School of Business and Economics.
http://www.uncg.edu/bae/faculty_student_guidelines.pdf