

INET CORE TEACHING REVIEW

Pre-review note

1. The distinctive features of the CORE Introduction to Economics

The CORE Teaching materials differ from existing market-leading texts used for first year undergraduate economics courses along a number of dimensions. The following is a quick summary. There is more information on the www.core-econ.org website.

- This course uses historical and empirical context to situate economic theory, while most introduction to economics courses are taught in a history/context-free way (or use examples that are anecdotal rather than substantive). Students learn about the economy as an integral part of a biological, physical and social system.
- In contrast to the market-leading texts, which are written by one or two people, this course/textbook is developed by experts from different fields (including economic history).
- There is a common narrative/s running through the different units, whereas most texts treat different introduction to economics topics as standalone units with little focus on the big picture or the interrelationships among them. A recurrent theme is that economic interactions provide opportunities for mutual gain and for conflicts of interest over the distribution of the gains.
- A set of basic graphical models of broad applicability is used. For example feasible sets and preferences – from the individual to the macro policy maker; forward looking behaviour (e.g. the wage-setting firm; the household making saving decisions).
- The textbook is free, unlike any of the market leading texts
- The text is (non-trivially) online, so that students can self-test, watch diagrams being built up, check out videos of economists discussing their trade. Many other texts have 'companion websites' which are not really integrated with the book and are also not written by the expert.

2. Teaching using the CORE Introduction to Economics material

The CORE course is designed as a one semester or two-term course for first year undergraduates. It can be used flexibly in for courses allocated 25-30-hours of lecture time up to a 60-hour structure. It integrates micro and macroeconomics. Units 1-16 form the basic course material, with a strong conceptual connection from one unit to the next. Units 17-20 apply the concepts introduced earlier to the environment, inequality, innovation, and government successes and failures.

In addition to the Inkling eBook, the resources available to teachers will include printable PDFs, animated PowerPoint slides of all figures and the excel spreadsheets with all of the data used to produce the charts. Teachers will also have access to the 'Fact check' files, which provide additional references.

3. Reviewing the draft CORE material

In this survey, you will have access to Units 1-8 and 12 on the Inkling eBook platform and to these units plus Units 9, 10 and 13 in pdf format.

This survey is about your assessment of teaching with the CORE course materials and how you expect students to respond to it. Unless you indicate to the contrary, all responses will be treated anonymously and used only to improve the CORE resources. We thank you for your time in reviewing the resources and responding to this survey.

There are open text boxes after many of the questions and we encourage you to use to add full comments.

4. Reviewing the draft CORE material

We are still preparing the remaining units. For now a full outline of the course is available on our website www.core-econ.org and in table below.

Unit #	Unit Title	Link to Unit Outline
1	<i>The capitalist revolution</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/1-the-capitalist-revolution/
2	<i>Innovation and the escape from the poverty trap</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/2-innovation-and-the-escape/
3	<i>Scarcity, work and progress</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/3-scarcity-work/
4	<i>Strategy, altruism and cooperation</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/4-strategic-behaviour/
5	<i>Property, contract and power: allocation and distribution</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/5-property-contract-and-power/
6	<i>The firm and its employees</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/6-firm-and-employees/
7	<i>The firm and its customers</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/7-firm-and-customers/
8	<i>Competitive goods markets</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/8-competitive-goods/
9	<i>Market dynamics</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/9-market-dynamics/
10	<i>Market successes and failures</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/10-market-successes-and-failures/
11	<i>Credit markets, banks and money</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/11-credit-markets/
12	<i>Economic fluctuations and unemployment</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/12-economic-fluctuations/
13	<i>Macroeconomic policy: the central bank and the government</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/13-macro-policy/
14	<i>Employment and living standards in the long run</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/14-employment-long-run/
15	<i>The Great Depression, the golden age and the global financial crisis</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/15-depression-golden-age-crisis/
16	<i>The nation in the world economy</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/16-nation-in-the-world-economy/
17	<i>The economy of the earth</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/17-economy-of-the-earth/
18	<i>Economic inequality</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/18-economic-inequality/
19	<i>Innovation, information and property</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/19-innovation/
20	<i>Comparative performance of economies, past, present and future</i>	http://core-econ.org/the-core-curriculum/20-political-economy/