

University of Missouri  
Econ 4356-01/7356-01 online  
Economics in the Digital Era  
Spring Semester 2025

**Economics 4356-01/7356-01** meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30AM – 10:45AM CT online via Zoom. This is a live synchronous class – students are expected to participate in the live scheduled Zoom classes with their videos on.

**Instructor:** Robert Hazel, [rahvzr@missouri.edu](mailto:rahvzr@missouri.edu), Cell: 571-723-3515

**Office hours:** I will stay online at the end of each class. Also, please don't hesitate to request a Zoom meeting.

**Course description:** From what we watch, to whom we meet, to how we find out next job, platforms such as Facebook, Amazon, Google, and LinkedIn have come to play a role in almost every decision we make. Along the way, these platforms have become the most valuable companies in the world. This course compares the economics of the digital era with that of the "old economy." How do information goods differ from physical goods? How do digital markets compare with traditional markets? How are property rights created and maintained in the digital economy? How does competition differ? What is the role of personal data and privacy?

Credit Hours: 3

**Prerequisite:** Econ 3251 or 4351 (or equivalent).

**Course objective and learning outcome:** Gain familiarity with principles of economics applicable to digital markets.

**Required text:** None. Articles and other material will be posted on Canvas or available online.

**Grading:**

Two exams:	44% (Each exam is worth 22%)
Class participation:	22% (attendance and two short PPT presentations)
Paper:	25% (draft & final)
AI assignment	9%

In determining your raw score for the course, do not rely on the Grade Total column in Canvas because it may not weight assignments correctly. Take the raw scores from Canvas and then weight them based on the syllabus weightings.

**Final course grades** will be assigned to undergraduates as follows:

A+ = 98-100+	B- = 80-82	D = 63-65
A = 93-97	C+ = 76-79	D- = 60-62
A- = 90-92	C = 73-75	F = below 60
B+ = 86-89	C- = 70-72	
B = 83-85	D+ = 66-69	

The graduate school grading scheme does not include D grades. Note that a 97.9 is not a 98. The minimum grade average for an A+ is 98.0. Grade averages are not rounded.

I reserve the right to raise the grade of students who make a substantial contribution to class discussions.

**Monitoring of grades on Canvas:** Students are responsible for monitoring their grades on Canvas and for promptly reporting any discrepancies between the grade they think they received on an assignment and the grade reported on Canvas. Complaints received more than two weeks after the relevant grade is posted will not be investigated, nor will the relevant grade be changed.

**Important Dates:**

Exam 1:	Tuesday, Feb. 25 – during class
Draft Paper is due:	Tues, Mar. 11
Final paper is due	Thurs Apr 17
AI assignment is due	Thurs Apr 24
Exam 2:	Thursday, May 8 – during class

**Exams** will be held during the scheduled class time and taken on Canvas using the university’s online proctoring system. Exams are closed book, except that everyone is allowed to use a cheat sheet consisting of a single 8-1/2 x 11 sheet on which you can write or print anything you want on both sides of the sheet. An unexcused absence from an exam will receive a score of 0 on that exam. In limited cases, with sufficient justification, we will try to accommodate requests to reschedule exams.

**Participation: Two components**

**PPT Presentations:** 12 points – During the semester, each student will make two short PowerPoint presentations to the class summarizing articles they have chosen from a list of articles posted.

**Class participation:** 10 points – Class participation will be based on video-on participation during Zoom class sessions. Students are expected to participate with their videos on and should expect to be called on. All students start with 10 participation points and get three “free” class absences. After that, one point is deducted for each unexcused absence. **Log-ins with video off do not count towards class participation.**

**Papers:** Students will write and revise a “reaction” paper – submitting draft and final versions of each.

- A reaction paper is an economic analysis of a topic in digital economics. You should choose a subject that you find interesting.
- I am looking for a short explanation of the subject, including a summary of different perspectives if applicable, and then your own analysis and opinion. You should write your reaction papers with the thought that I am the audience, so you do not need to define basic terms and concepts.
- You should write your paper as a traditional research paper with an introduction, body, and

conclusion.

- The title or subtitle of your papers will be “An Economic Analysis of [the topic you choose].”
- You must obtain prior approval of your topic by emailing me. I will respond promptly.
- I will provide written comments on your draft paper, and you will have time to consider those comments in making revisions before submitting your final paper.
- Reaction papers should be at least 1,500 words (approximately five pages), excluding any tables, graphs, or references. (For Econ 7356 students, the paper should be a minimum of 2,400 words (about 8-10 double-spaced pages).
- Papers will be submitted electronically via Canvas. You should use standard social science conventions for citations and references. For example, use (last name, year) in the text and include the full reference in a list at the end of your paper.
- Reaction papers should be well-structured, well-written, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. You should rewrite and proofread to make your writing better. Poorly written papers will receive a low grade. You are encouraged to have your paper reviewed outside of class by a peer or by a Tutor at the Writing Center.
- Draft reaction papers need not be the full length of the final paper but must reflect substantial effort and be at least 4 pages.
- Draft reaction papers will not receive a separate grade, but up to five points will be deducted from the final grade if the draft does not reflect substantial effort or is late.
- Late drafts – Papers are graded on 25-point scale. Late drafts – 1 point/day deduction. Late final papers – 3 points/day deduction.
- Primary paper grading criteria: (1) quality of economic analysis, and (2) quality of writing. In addition, students are encouraged to pick challenging and creative topics – paper grades will reflect the degree of challenge of the topic.

**AI assignment:** Students will use one of the freely available LLMs to do a small project such as preparing for a job interview, answering a consulting case interview question, answering a law exam question, analyzing a company, analyzing a problem in digital economics, etc. Prompts and final output will be submitted on Canvas.

**Class outline:** We will generally follow the outline below. Readings are posted on Canvas. (Key to abbreviations: JEP = Journal of Economic Perspectives; SCDP = Stigler Committee on Digital Platforms Final Report). **The preliminary reading list provided below will be updated before and during the semester.**

1. Introduction – Digital economics, and the digital economy
  - Digital Economics – Goldfarb, J. Econ. Lit. 2019 (skim and come back to later in the course)
  - Government and Economics in the Digital Economy – Spence, J. Gov. & Econ. 2021
2. Information goods; network effects, and externalities
  - How Digitization Is Changing Everything, Ch. 14 in Economics for the Common Good – Tirole 2016
  - Important Features of the Digital Business Environment – SCDP pp 34-43
3. Platform economics
  - Overview of Network Effects & Platforms in Digital Markets – Yun, The Global Antitrust Institute Report on the Digital Economy, 2020
  - Platforms: Definitions and Typology, in Economics of Platforms - Belleflamme 2019, pp 28-40
4. Market power and pricing
  - How Big Data Affects Digital Products and the Sale of Advertisements – SCDP pp 44-56
  - Personalized Pricing in the Digital Era – OECD 2018, pp 8-26
  - The Evolving Concept of Market Power in the Digital Economy – Note by the United Kingdom – OECD 2022, pp 2-21
5. Case studies
  - How Digitization Has Created a Golden Age of Music, Movies, Books, and Television – Waldfogel, JEP 2017
6. Property rights in the digital era – Intellectual property, and digital property rights
  - Where Do Property Rights Come From? – Anderson 2013
  - We Need Smart Intellectual Property Laws for Artificial Intelligence – Love, Sci. Amer. 2023
7. Harms associated with digital services – Misinformation and mental health
  - Problems Arising in Digital Markets, SCDP – pp 57-66
8. Labor and technology
  - Labor, excerpt from The Coming Wave – Suleyman 2023
  - Historical Impacts of Technology, excerpts from The Technology Trap, – Frey 2019
9. Innovation and productivity
  - Harm to Innovation, SCDP – pp 74-78
  - America is sleepwalking into an economic storm – Acemoglu, NYT Oct 2024
10. Privacy economics, disclosure economics

- The Economics of Digital Privacy – Goldfarb and Que, *Ann. Rev. Econ* 2023, 267-282
11. Competition law and economics, and technology regulation
    - US Antitrust, SCDP – pp 81-95
  12. Trust in the digital era – Reputation and ratings
    - The Trust Revolution, The Digitization of Trust – Henderson and Churi, 2019
  13. Special topics

### Other readings:

The articles listed below are examples of articles that students can review and discuss in their two short PPT presentations. The list will be updated before and during the semester. We will try to coordinate the timing of article presentations with the associated lecture subjects.

1. Echoes of the Gilded Age, excerpt from *Techlash* – Wheeler 2023
2. Elon Musk, Fremont Hell, the Algorithm – Isaacson 2023, pp 276-286
3. The Economics of Spam – Rao and Reiley – *JEP* 2012
4. Long Tail Economics, in *The Long Tail* – Chris Anderson, 2006
5. The Attention Economy – Hendrix 2019
6. Economics of Attention Markets – Evans 2020
7. The Battle for Attention (relevant portions) – Heller, *New Yorker* 2024
8. Network Effects and Market Power: What Have We Learned in the Last Decade? – Tucker, *Antitrust* 2018
9. The Biggest Winners: Stars and Superstars, excerpt from *The Second Machine Age* – Brynjolfsson 2014
10. Looking at the Stars: Are the Top Firms Really Different? Excerpt from *The Great Reversal* – Philippon 2019, Ch. 13
11. The Baumol effect, Why Are the Prices So Damn High? – Helland and Tabarrok 2019
12. Zero as a Special Price – Shampain'er, *Mktg Sci* 2007
13. How The Internet Changed the Market for Print Media (read selectively) – Bhuller, NBER Feb 2023
14. A Few Blockbuster Podcasts Are Making All the Money – Steele, *WSJ* Jul 2024
15. Social Media Influencers Aren't Getting Rich – They're Barely Getting By – Needleman, *WSJ* Jun 2024
16. Four Stars and Rotten Tomatoes: When Piracy Hurts and When It Doesn't, excerpt from *Copy This Book!* – Heald 2021
17. Digital Music and the "Death of the Long Tail" – Coelho, *J. Bus. Research* 2019
18. Digital Textbooks Are Forcing a Radical Shift – Barrett, *Wired* April 2019
19. Digitization and the Market for Physical Works: Evidence from the Google Books Project – Nagaraj, *AEJ-EP* 2023
20. Trump's Win Cemented It: New Media Is Leaving the Old Guard Behind – Simonetti, *WSJ* Nov 2024
21. Sorry, Mad Men, The Ad Revolution is Here – Vranica, *WSJ* Dec 2024  
The Corporate Capture of Open-Access Publishing – Kember, *Chron. Higher Ed.* August 2023
22. The Industrial Organization of Online Education – Cowen and Tabarrok, *AER* 2014

23. Back in the ESSR, e-government in Estonia, except from Extreme Economies – Davos 2019
24. Digital Advertising: Present and Future Prospects – Lee, Intl J. Adv. 2020
25. How Should Retail Advertisers Manage Multiple Keywords in Paid Search Advertising – Kim, J. Bus. Research 2021
26. Advertising Is Dead. Long Live Advertising – Vranica, WSJ Nov 2023
27. Wait, Does America Really Still Employ a Ton of News Reporters? – Van Dam, Wash Post Jul 2024
28. Crises at Boeing and Intel Are a National Emergency – Ip, WSJ Oct 2024
29. Four Singularities for Research, The Rise of AI Is Creating Both Crisis and Opportunity – Mollick, May 2024
30. Slices and lumps – Fennell 2019
31. An American’s Guide to the GDPR – Jones, Den. L.R. 2021
32. How GDPR Is Failing – Burgess, Wired 2022
33. Why Data Ownership Is the Wrong Approach to Protecting Privacy – Kerry, Brookings 2019
34. Privacy Is Not a Property Right in Personal Information – MacCarthy, Forbes 2018
35. The Case Against Patents – Boldrin and Levine, JEP 2013
36. Personal Data as Property – S. Hazel, Syracuse L. Rev. 2020
37. Is Digital Media Pulling Us Apart? – Gentzkow, research summary, May 20, 2020
38. Chaos Machine excerpts – Casino Effect, Moral Outrage, Shaming Mobs – Fisher 2022
39. The Great Rewiring Unplugged (book review) – Odgers, Nature Apr 2024; also read The Anxious Generation excerpts – Haidt 2024
40. Shifting Attention to Accuracy Can Reduce Misinformation Online – Pennycook, Nature 2021
41. Dark Patterns at Scale, Shopping Websites – Chetty, Human-Computer Interaction Nov 2019
42. The Spread of True and False News Online – Vosoughi, Science 2018
43. The Economics of Fake News – Kshetri and Voas, IT Professional 2017
44. The Economics of Media Bias – Fryer, WSJ Dec 2024
45. Study Finds X’s Community Notes Provides Accurate Responses to Vaccine Misinformation – Ono, UCSD Today online 2024
46. Informational Autocrats – Guriev, JEP 2019
47. Truth is Paywalled, Lies are Free –Robinson, Current Affairs 2020
48. Facts and Myths about Misperceptions – Nyhan, JEP 2020
49. The Conspiracy and Disinformation Challenge on Ecommerce Platforms – Jones, Brookings 2021
50. When Product Markets Become Collective Traps: The Case of Social Media – Bursztyn, BFI 2023
51. How Technology and Loneliness are Interlinked – Chen, NYT Nov 2024
52. The Elite College Students Who Can’t Read Books – Horowitch, Atlantic Nov 2024
53. Impatience Is Our Modern Curse, but There Are Ways to Beat It – Taitz, WSJ, Jul 2024

54. Pick Your Poison: Two Kinds of Error, excerpt from Third Millennium Thinking – Perlmutter 2024
55. Interventions & Causation: Hills Criteria, excerpt from Third Millennium Thinking – Perlmutter 2024
56. The Economics of Running Backs – Fryer, Sept 2024
57. Machinery and Labor in the Early Industrial Revolution and the Age of AI – Acemoglu, Ann. Rev. Econ 2024
58. The Evolution of Work from Home – Barerro, JEP 2023
59. The Work from Home Free-for-All Is Coming to an End – Fuhrmans, WSJ, Sept 2024 and What We Know About the Effects of Remote Work – Goldberg, NYT, October 2023
60. Artificial Intelligence: The Ambiguous Labor Market Impact of Automating Prediction – Agrawal, JEP 2019
61. What if A.I. Is Actually Good for Hollywood? – Gordon, NYT Nov 2024
62. Learning Fundamentals from Text – Kim, BFI Wkg Paper Dec 2024 (Using AI to discern what information investors pay attention to)
63. The Playwright in the Age of AI – Goldberg, Atlantic Nov 2024
64. ChatGPT Broke the Turing Test – The Race Is On For New Ways to Assess AI – Bieber, Nature July 2023
65. Elon Musk: Humanity is a Kind of Biological Boot Loader for AI – Wired interview, Sept 2019
66. Review of Moretti, The New Geography of Jobs – Glaeser, AER 2013
67. The Effect of High-Tech Clusters on the Productivity of Top Inventors – Moretti, AER 2021
68. Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation – Autor JEP 2015
69. Tech Clusters – Kerr, JEP 2020
70. Economists (and Economics) in Tech Companies, Athey – JEP 2019
71. What Elon Musk's 'Age of Abundance' Means for the Future of Capitalism – Higgins, WSJ Nov 2023
72. It's the End of the Web as We Know It – Mims, WSJ Feb 2024
73. Prediction Machines: The Simple Economics of Artificial Intelligence – book review 2018
74. The Death of Innovation and the End of Growth – Gordon TED Talk
75. Slowed Canonical Progress in Large Fields of Science – Chu, PNAS 2021
76. American Productivity Still Leads the World – Economist Oct 2024
77. A Toolkit of Policies to Promote Innovation – Bloom, JEP 2019
78. Why Is Productivity Slowing Down? – Goldin, JEL 2024
79. Impact of Social Media on Economic Growth - Evidence from Social Media (suggests negative impact on growth) - Dell'Anno, Applied Econ. Letters 2016
80. Where Is Standard of Living the Highest? Local Prices and the Geography of Consumption – Diamond & Moretti, NBER 2023
81. Peter Thiel interview, [https://youtu.be/i\\_yJTCDU4uE](https://youtu.be/i_yJTCDU4uE) (1:20)
82. A Study of 16 Countries Shows That the Most Productive Firms (and Their Employees) Are Pulling Away from Everyone Else – Giuseppe, HBR July 2017

83. Semiconductors and Modern Industrial Policy – Bown, JEP 2024
84. Market Power and Innovation in the Intangible Economy – de Ridder, AER 2024, pp 199-206, 247
85. The Geek Way, excerpts – McAfee 2023
86. Are the Big Tech Companies Evil? Excerpt from Big Business – Cowen 2019
87. Superforecasting (summary) – Schoemaker, HBR 2016
88. Big tech struggles to turn AI hype into profits – Dotan, WSJ Oct 2023
89. What’s Wrong with Peer Review – Subbaraman, WSJ Nov 2023
90. Innovation Can’t Be Forced but It Can Be Quashed – Ridley, WSJ May 2020
91. Gaining Steam: Incumbent Lock-in and Entrant Leapfrogging – Hornbeck, BFI Res. Brief My 2024
92. Four Facts About Human Capital – Deming JEP 2022
93. The Digital Welfare of Nations: New Measures of Welfare Gains and Inequality – Brynjolfsson, NBER 2023
94. How Should We Measure the Digital Economy – Brynjolfsson, HBR Nov 2019
95. ChatGPT Enters the Classroom – Extance, Nature, Nov 2023
96. The Business Case for Quantum Computing – Bova, MIT Sloan Mgt Rev March 2023
97. MBA Students vs. ChatGPT, Who Is More Creative – Terwiesch, WSJ, Sept 2023
98. Some Simple Economics of Crowdfunding – Agrawal, Innov. Policy 2014
99. The Invisible \$1.52 Trillion Problem – Mims, WSJ, Mar 2024
100. The False Choice between Digital Regulation and Innovation – Bradford, Promarket Dec 2024
101. Privacy in the Modern Age, excerpt, The Walled Garden – Friedman and Grossman 2022
102. Economic Research on Privacy Regulation: Lessons from The GDPR and Beyond – Garrett Johnson 2023
103. Privacy excerpts from Techlash – Wheeler 2023
104. Privacy Pretexts – Van Loo, Cornell L. Rev. 2023
105. The Economics of Privacy (sample) – Acquisti, JEL 2016
106. The Efficient Regulation of Consumer Information – Beales, J. Law & Econ. 1981, pp 501-513
107. The Economics of the Right to Be Forgotten (intro and conclusion) – Kim, J. Law & Econ. 2017
108. Disclosure Duties, excerpt from Behavioral Law and Economics – Zamir 2018, pp 171-177
109. More than You Wanted to Know (excerpt) – Ben-Shahar 2014
110. How the 1% Scrubs Its Image Online – Levy, WSJ December 2019
111. The Secretive Company that Might End Privacy as We Know It – Hill, NYT February 2020
112. Facial Recognition Software: Costs and Benefits – Deeks, Lawfare/Brookings 2018
113. The End of Asymmetric Information – Tabarrok 2015
114. Data Security Laws: Three Types, excerpt from Breached – Solove 2022
115. Identity Theft, excerpt from Breached – Solove 2022



116. Three Competing Digital Regulatory Models, in Digital Empires – Bradford 2023, pp 6-11
117. The False Choice Between Regulation and Innovation – Bradford, ProMarket Dec 2024
118. European Rights-Driven Regulatory Model – Bradford 2023, pp 110-118
119. The American Market-Driven Regulatory Model – Bradford 2023, pp 38-47
120. Fairness and Contestability in the Digital Markets Act – Cremer, Yale J. Reg. 2023
121. Would Europe’s Digital Markets Act Work in America? – Massarotto, Promarket Dec 2024.
122. Online Choice Architecture - How digital design can harm competition and consumers (sample) – UK CMA 2022
123. The Competitive Effects of Search Engine Defaults – Hovenkamp Jun 2024
124. Antitrust Law and Its Critics – Melamed, Antitrust L. J. 2020
125. Antitrust and Privacy: It’s Complicated – Cooper and Yun, J. Law, Tech & Pol’y 2022.
126. The Limits of Antitrust in the 21st Century – Lambert, U. Kansas L.R. 2020
127. Roadmap for a Digital Advertising Monopolization Case Against Google – Morton 2020
128. To Regulate or Not, excerpt from The Great Reversal – Philippon 2019, Ch. 14
129. Net Neutrality: A Fast Lane to Understanding the Trade-offs – Greenstein, JEP 2016
130. 100 Years of Rising Corporate Concentration – Kwan, BFI 2023
131. Defaults, Online Choice Architecture – CMA 2022, pp 46-49
132. Welfare Standards Underlying Antitrust Enforcement: What You Measure Is What You Get – Wilson 2019
133. Amazon's Antitrust Paradox – Khan, Yale L.J. 2016
134. Amazon Scooped up Data from Its Own Sellers to Launch Competing Products – Mattioli, April 2020
135. What Do We Know About Algorithmic Collusion – Ai Deng July 2023
136. Reputation and Feedback Systems in Online Markets Markets – Tadelis, Ann. Rev. of Econ. 2016
137. Social Capital, An Economic Approach to Social Capital – Glaeser, The Economic Journal 2002, F437-440.
138. Informational Autocrats – Guriev and Treisman, JEP 2019
139. China’s social credit system, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_Credit\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Credit_System) and How the West Got China’s Social Credit System Wrong – Matsakis, Wired July 2019.
140. Is Anything Still True on the Internet, No One Knows Anymore – Mims, WSJ Nov 2023
141. The Fateful First Consumer Review – Park, Marketing Science Institute 2018
142. ‘Brushers’ Come into Focus as Officials Test Packages of Mysterious Seeds – Hagerty, WSJ June 2020
143. Introduction to the Economics of Cybersecurity: Principles and Policy Options – Moore 2010
144. The Basic Economics of Internet Infrastructure, Greenstein, JEP 2020
145. The Economics of Cryptocurrencies – Bitcoin and Beyond – Chiu and Koepl, 2018
146. The Role of Social Media in Russia’s War on Ukraine - Ciuriak 2022
147. U.S. Spy Agencies Know Your Secrets. They Bought Them -Tau, WSJ Mar 2024.

December 2024

148. Drone Swarms Are About to Change the Balance of Military Power – Ackerman, WSJ  
Mar 2024
149. The Black Market that Delivers Elon Musk’s Starlink to U.S. Foes – Grove, WSJ Apr 2024

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters.

#### [Standard of Conduct for Academic Integrity](#)

In addition, students are expected to adhere to this honor pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so: "I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the [MU Disability Center](#), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

### **Acceptable Use**

The University of Missouri's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for information technology applies to Mizzou websites. The AUP addresses federal and state laws, university regulations, intellectual-property rights, software-licensing requirements and prohibitions against plagiarism and obscenity. This policy applies to all users including faculty, staff, students, and guest users of University of Missouri computer networks, equipment, or connecting resources. [UM System Acceptable Use Policy](#)

### **Copyright**

This section helps you understand copyright in course materials, student work and pages published on Mizzou websites. [UM System Copyright Information](#)

### **Executive Order No. 38**

When you record something that happens in a course (a lecture, class discussions, meetings, etc.) it has an impact on the rights of the people captured in that recording. For example, your instructor and the University may have rights to the intellectual property contained in that recording. At the same time, another student who may have been recorded has the right to privacy. In order to protect these rights, MU employs a policy (called "Executive Order No. 38") to govern both situations you may encounter while taking a course--when your instructor allows recordings and when he or she does not allow them.

#### [Executive Order No. 38](#)

### **FERPA**

The University of Missouri maintains educational records of students in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Related topics include privacy policies at MU, display of student directory information, and details about how MU manages FERPA-protected information.

#### [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)

### **Intellectual Pluralism**

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director, the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, or the MU Equity Office.

[Statement on Intellectual Pluralism](#)

### **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, genetics information, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

[MU Statement of Nondiscrimination](#)

If you experience discrimination or sexual violence, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office of Institutional Equity. Learn more about your rights and options at the [Office of Institutional Equity](#) or by calling 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

If you are a survivor, or someone concerned about a survivor, and need immediate information on what to do, see [RSVP resources page](#). Both the Office of Institutional Equity and the RSVP Center can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced any of these forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment, Mizzou policies require that, as your instructor, I share this information with the MU Office of Institutional Equity. They will contact you to offer information about resources, as well as your rights and options as a member of our campus community.

### **Mental Health**

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00-5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at <https://wellbeing.missouri.edu/> to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no additional cost to you.

### **Last date of attendance and impact on financial aid**

Federal regulations for financial aid require the student financial aid office to document the attendance of students who have received federal financial aid if they do not successfully complete any courses during the term. As a result, the last day of attendance (or activity) for any student receiving an F, U, or FN in this course will be recorded in the grade roster and reported to the financial aid office. Based on the last day of attendance, students may be required to repay a portion of their financial aid award for the semester.

A student's last day of attendance (or activity) is the last day on which a student participates in an academically-related activity at the University. These include:

- Attendance in class, lab, or an instructor's office hours
- The completion of an assignment or examination
- An appointment with a professor or e-mail correspondence regarding course material
- (Online courses only) For online courses, the last day a student submits an assignment or exam. Only logging into an online class without participating is *not* acceptable for last day of attendance

Please note that discussing a course withdrawal or notifying the instructor of an absence in class does not constitute participation for financial aid purposes. Moreover, any office hour visits or email correspondence must be related to the course material.

### **Netiquette**

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambiance.

### **Religious Holidays & Accommodations**

Many religious faiths are represented in the student body. The University of Missouri does not restrict student free exercise of religion, unless 1) the restriction is in the form of a rule of general applicability, and does not discriminate against religion or among religions; and 2) it can be demonstrated that the application of the restriction is essential to furthering a compelling university interest, and is not unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstance. The policy of the University attempts to strike a reasonable balance between accommodating the religious practice of students and meeting academic needs and standard.

Consult IDE's [Guide to Religions](#) for the form that can be used to notify an instructor of an absence associated with religious practice. Students are expected to notify their instructor(s) by completing and submitting this form in a manner that is consistent with the procedure outlined in the university's policy on student religious accommodation. Providing false information regarding sincerely held religious practice is a violation of the university's Standard of Conduct and will not be tolerated.