

George Carter & Religion

Another Controversial Decision from the EFIB Chair Rears its Head

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that it has not been that long since EFIB chairman, George Carter, significantly interfered with, via a teaching assignment, the (potential) religious practices of an EFIB faculty member who is known for strongly-held religious beliefs. Carter relented and corrected the teaching schedule only after being put in a bad light by a series of hallway conversations and e-mails (between various EFIB/CoB faculty) that harped on the Constitutional questions surrounding Carter's administrative action.



Carter, right, is known by some current and former CoB faculty as "The Smiling Assassin."

Now, after a relatively brief period, Carter has once again set up a teaching schedule in a way that potentially infringes upon the ability to participate in religious activities, only this time Carter's decision will impact a number of USM students who have no avenue for avoiding the costs imposed upon them. This particular episode appears to be the result of Carter's attempt to provide new assistant professor of economics, Deniz Gevrek, with a night class-only teaching schedule for the spring of 2009. As the insert below shows, Gevrek has a two-class load in the spring of 2009, and each of these classes [ECO 201 and ECO 345] is taught at night.

Acad Org	Class Nbr	Subj	Catalog Nbr	Sect	Sess	Units	Description	Class Topic	Time	Days	Facility	Instructor	Room Cap	Enrl	Status
5933	ECO	201	H004	1	3.0	Prin Of Macroeco	11:00AM-12:15PM	T R	JGH 218	GREEN, TREL	70	14	Open		
5935	ECO	201	H005	1	3.0	Prin Of Macroeco	03:50PM-05:05PM	T R	JGH 116	LAMBERT, JUMN	70	3	Open		
15663	ECO	201	H006	1	3.0	Prin Of Macroeco	06:30PM-09:15PM	T	JGH 218	GEVREK, DENI	70	1	Open		
5937	ECO	202	H001	1	3.0	Prin Of Microeco	02:00PM-03:15PM	M W	JGH 115	MARVASTI, AKRA	120	26	Open		
5941	ECO	202	H002	1	3.0	Prin Of Microeco	03:30PM-04:45PM	M W	JGH 115	MARVASTI, AKRA	120	19	Open		
5939	ECO	202	H003	1	3.0	Prin Of Microeco	02:25PM-03:40PM	T R	JGH 115	GUNTHER, WILL	70	23	Open		
4315	ECO	202	H004	1	3.0	Prin Of Microeco	06:30PM-09:15PM	T	JGH 115	GUNTHER, WILL	70	6	Open		
14193	ECO	305	H001	1	3.0	Economic Issues	11:00AM-12:15PM	T R	JGH 114	MCCHURCH, DANI	60	7	Open		
5945	ECO	336	H001	1	3.0	Survey Int Econ	09:00AM-09:50AM	M W F	JGH 201	DAKHLIA, SAMI	56	17	Open		
5947	ECO	336	H002	1	3.0	Survey Int Econ	10:00AM-10:50AM	M W F	JGH 201	DAKHLIA, SAMI	56	43	Open		
14091	ECO	336	H005	1	3.0	Survey Int Econ	11:00AM-12:15PM	T R	JGH 201	NIROOMAND, FERH	56	23	Open		
15665	ECO	336	H004	1	3.0	Survey Int Econ	06:30PM-09:15PM	M	JGH 201	DAKHLIA, SAMI	56	7	Open		
4327	ECO	345	H001	1	3.0	Income Theory	06:30PM-09:15PM	W	JGH 217	GEVREK, DENI	44	12	Open		
5949	ECO	436	H001	1	3.0	Int Econ	09:30PM-10:45PM	T R	JGH 219	NIROOMAND, FERH	44	11	Open		
4329	ECO	440	H001	1	3.0	Eco Development	03:30PM-04:45PM	M W	JGH 218	KILNEDINGST, MARK	30	5	Open		
5951	ECO	492	H001	1	1.0	Sp Prob in Eco	12:00AM-12:00AM			CARTER, GEOR	0	0	Closed		
19835	ECO	606	H001	1	3.0	Eco Analy Bus I	06:30PM-09:15PM	M	JGH 303	MARVASTI, AKRA	58	2	Open		
19836	ECO	692	H001	1	1.0	Sp Prob In Eco				CARTER, GEOR	0	0	Closed		

The second class on Gevrek's schedule is Income Theory (ECO 345), which is a required course for economics and international business majors. And, according to USMNEWS.net sources, this course is offered only once each academic year (spring).¹ For the spring of 2009, Carter successfully provided Gevrek with a night class-only

¹ Sources' information is supported by the results of our own examination of the USM's class schedules.

schedule, including a section – the CoB's only section for the entire year – of ECO 345 on Wednesdays from 6:30pm through 9:15pm.²

USM is a public institution located in the heart of America's "Bible Belt." Religious practices are so important to area residents that local schools have a "no homework on Wednesday nights" policy, and local sports leagues (baseball, etc.) do not schedule games on Wednesday afternoons or evenings. With a required course that is offered only once per calendar year, Carter's decision to place this class on Wednesday evenings – a decision that sources say is unprecedented – effectively bars religious practice that evening for many of the CoB's upperclass ECO/IB majors.³

Carter is no stranger to what many Mississippians would consider to be [controversial](#) or problematic stances concerning religion. If this latest story is any indication, the man some CoBers refer to as "the Smiling Assassin" continues to be a lightning rod within the ranks of the CoB's administration.

² Gevrek's other course, Prin of Macroecono (ECO 201), is set for Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm through 9:15pm (see schedule above).

³ As the schedule insert above indicates, there are already 12 students enrolled in the course.