

Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2302 - Introduction to the Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2015
CRN# 70765
HCC – EDC A202
3 hour lecture course / 48 hours per semester/ 16 weeks

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Office location and hours

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and to discuss course topics. Feel free to call me at the cell phone number above for a conference call or to arrange a time to visit with me.

Course Description

Microeconomics examines theories of consumer behavior, production, and production costs; equilibrium analysis in product markets under different market structures, such as perfect competition, monopoly; monopolistic competition, oligopoly; cartels and conglomerate mergers; antitrust policy, economics of regulation; analysis of different types of factor markets and factor price determination. This is a core curriculum course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the role of scarcity, specializations, opportunity cost and cost/benefit analysis in economic decision-making.
2. Identify the benefits of free trade using the concept of comparative advantage.
3. Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in both market supply and demand curves on equilibrium price and output.
4. Calculate supply and demand elasticities and identify the determinants of price elasticity of demand and supply, and demonstrate the relationship between elasticity and total revenue.
5. Summarize the law of diminishing marginal utility; describe the process of utility maximization.
6. Describe the production functions and the Law of Diminishing Marginal Productivity; calculate and graph short-run and long-run costs of production.
7. Identify the four market structures by characteristics; calculate and graph the profit maximizing price and quantity in the output markets by use of marginal analysis.
8. Determine the profit maximizing price and quantity of resources in factor markets under perfect and imperfect competition by use of marginal analysis.
9. Describe governmental efforts to address market failure such as monopoly power, externalities, and public goods.

Instructional Methods

As an instructor, my responsibility is to provide you with knowledge concerning the field of microeconomics that allows you to connect the information that you learn in this course to the real world. In short the purpose of this course is not to turn you into an economist but rather to train you to become economically literate and a more responsible citizen. As a student wanting to learn about economics it is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments on the due dates, study for the exams, participate in the discussion forums, view the lecture videos and enjoy yourself while experiencing the real world of economics.

Student Assignments

Assignments have been developed that will enhance your learning. To better understand a topic, you will be given assignments on key information that you will need to know in order to be economically literate. These assignments are inside an online software program known as Aplia.

Exams

There will be three midterm exams covering anywhere between four and five chapters each on average. The question format will be multiple choice. All examinations are timed at 90 minutes.

Online Experiments – There are five of these during the course of the semester.

Experiment Title	Experiment Description	Learning Points
Interest Rates and Investment	Students play the role of borrower or lender in a market in which they negotiate loans to fund investment projects.	Demonstrates that it is the real interest rate, not the nominal interest rate, that determines the quantity of investment in an economy.
Unemployment Compensation	Students play the role of worker or employer in a simulated market for jobs.	Shows that increases in the amount of unemployment compensation result in an increase in unemployment as the opportunity cost of working becomes higher.
Goo—Fixed Prices	Students compete to harvest the most "goo" on the fictitious planet Hermes by hiring other students in a labor market with fixed wages.	Illustrates the equation of exchange, and in particular, how changes in the money supply affect (real) GDP when prices are fixed.
Goo—Flexible Prices	Students compete to harvest the most "goo" on the fictitious planet Hermes by hiring other students in a labor market with flexible wages.	Illustrates the equation of exchange and demonstrates the neutrality of money in the long run: that is, when prices are flexible, changes in the money supply affect inflation but not real GDP.
Labor Market	Students play the role of either a company that wants to hire workers or an agency with workers available for hire. Workers' productivity, and therefore their wage, depends on the amount of capital used by companies.	Shows how growth in the capital stock leads to higher wages, while an increase in the labor supply leads to lower wages.

Final Exam

This exam evaluates students on material for all the chapters and objectives covered in the course. It contains 40 to 50 questions which involve graphs or tables, performing calculations, applying a theory to a real-world problem, recognizing important economic facts and principles and still others which require the student to think critically about an economic problem.

Instructional Materials

TEXT: Economics by N. Gregory Mankiw, 7th Edition. Published by Cengage Learning.

Aplia – an online learning and homework solutions system. This comes with the Mankiw text.

Write Experience - assesses written communication skills easily and automatically. Through an exclusive partnership with a technology company, Cengage Learning's Write Experience fosters better student writers. This product utilizes artificial intelligence to not only score your writing instantly and accurately, but it also provides you with detailed revision goals and feedback on your writing to help you improve. This also comes with the Aplia text.

Instructor Requirements

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students or be available for a conference call by phone or visit in the Moodle chat room.

To be successful in this class, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams:

Grading Scale

90-100 =A

80- 89=B

70- 79=C

60- 69=D

Below 60= F

Grading Percentages

Midterm Exams & Write Experience – 30% (10% for each exam)

Homework including Aplia – 30%

Final Exam – 25%

Final Project – 15%

Makeup Policy

There will be only one time set for make-up exams. This will be during the last week of classes. An agreed upon time for everyone will be set. All students will make up their exams together.

HCC Policy Statements

Access Student Services Policies on their Web site:

<http://hccs.edu/student-rights>

Student Handbook

Visit this link:

<http://de.hccs.edu/de/de-student-handbook>

**Course Outline - Gibson
Fall 2015
Microeconomics 2302**

Week of	Assignments	Chapter Readings and Aplia
August 24	Overview of Economics with a focus on Economic Terminology and Graphing using Opportunity Costs, PPF, and Markets	Chapters 1 and 2
August 31	Demand, Supply and Market Equilibrium	Chapter 3
Sep 14	Demand, Supply and Market Equilibrium (Cont.)	Chapter 3
Sep 21	Market Failures: Public Goods and Externalities Government's Role and Government Failure	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Sep 28	Exam 1 Reaction Paper 1 (due 1st class after exam)	Chapters 1-5
Oct 5	Elasticity	Chapter 6
Oct 12	Utility Maximization and Behavioral Economics	Chapters 7, 8
Oct 19	Exam 2 Reaction Paper 2 (due 1 st class after exam)	Chapters 5-8 Chapters 5-8
Oct 26	Begin Product Markets Short Run in Pure Competition Pure Competition in the Long Run	Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Nov 2	Pure Monopoly	Chapter 12
Nov 9	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 13
Nov 16	Exam 3 The Demand for Resources; Wage Determination	Chapters 9-13 Chapters 14 and 15
Nov 23	Rent, Interest, and Profit	Chapter 16
Nov 30	Natural Resources and Energy Economics Excise Tax Discussion Public Finance: Expenditures and Taxes	Chapter 17 Chapter 18
Dec 2	Class Presentations	
Dec 9	FINAL EXAMS Fall 2015	Comprehensive

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE ABOVE OUTLINE AS NECESSARY TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

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