

Course Syllabus – Econ 2302 – 8-Week RWUR Fall 2010

Discipline/Program

Economics

Course Title

Principles of Microeconomics – Fall 2010 (8-Week Term)

Course Rubric and Number

Econ 2302
CRN# - 63922

Course Location/Times

The course is conducted through the Internet via Blackboard.

Course Contact Hours

This course offers three hours of college credit which are transferable to any public college in the state of Texas.

Course Length

This is an 8-week course.

Type of Instruction

This course is taught through the Internet via Blackboard using video and interactive online software.

Instructor and Contact Information:

Richard Gosselin
Email: richard.gosselin@hccs.edu
Phone: 281-213-2511 (Home)
713-718-7638 (Office)
832-257-2592 (Cell) – emergency only

Office: location/hours

Room 224 of the Education Building at Central College on the corner of Francis and Caroline Streets. Meeting by appointment only.

Course Description

Microeconomics examines the fundamentals of the American economy as it relates to business and individual welfare. Emphasis is on basic concepts and theories as they affect domestic and international markets. Microeconomics includes cost and production decisions and discusses the role of competition, monopolies and oligopolies.

Course Prerequisites

Consult the college handbook.

Course Goals

After completing this course students should be able to do the following:

- Understand relevant principles of economics, including scarcity, opportunity cost, the elements of capitalism, market, price determination productivity, and optimizing.
- Understand relevant microeconomic principles, including competition, elasticity, market structures and the effects of price regulation.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

1. Explain the basic economizing problem of scarce resources and unlimited wants.
2. Construct the basic supply and demand curves in a purely competitive market model.
3. Explain the interaction of the public and private sectors within a mixed economy.
4. Interpret elasticity of supply and demand after calculating each.
5. Explain consumer utility maximization.
6. Analyze the short-run costs of production after calculating each.
7. Figure out short-run profit or loss in a purely competitive market.
8. Figure out short-run profit or loss in a monopolistic market.
9. Figure out short-run profit or loss in a monopolistically competitive market.
10. Figure out short-run profit or loss in an oligopolistic market.
11. Figure out the least-cost and profit-maximizing combination of using more than one resource.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain the basic economizing problem of scarce resources and unlimited wants.
2. Construct the basic supply and demand curves in a purely competitive market model.
3. Explain the interaction of the public and private sectors within a mixed economy.
4. Interpret elasticity of supply and demand after calculating each.
5. Explain consumer utility maximization.
6. Analyze the short-run costs of production after calculating each.
7. Figure out short-run profit or loss in a purely competitive market.
8. Figure out short-run profit or loss in a monopolistic market.
9. Figure out short-run profit or loss in a monopolistically competitive market.
10. Figure out short-run profit or loss in an oligopolistic market.
11. Figure out the least-cost and profit-maximizing combination of using more than one resource.

Course Calendar

The list of assignments are made available inside Blackboard. Below is the order in which the textbook readings will follow. Chapter numbering refers to the online version of the text. Chapters not listed are not covered in this course.

Chapters and Course Work

- Chapter 1 - Ten Principles of Economics
- Chapter 2 - Thinking Like an Economist
- Chapter 3 - Interdependence and the Gains from Trade
- Chapter 4 - The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
- Chapter 5 - Elasticity and Its Application
- Chapter 6 - Supply, Demand, and Government Policies
- Chapter 7 - Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets
- Chapter 8 - Application: The Costs of Taxation
- Chapter 9 - Application: International Trade
- Chapter 10 – Externalities
- Chapter 11 - Public Goods and Common Resources
- Chapter 12 - The Design of the Tax System
- Chapter 13 - The Costs of Production
- Chapter 14 - Firms in Competitive Markets
- Chapter 15 – Monopoly
- Chapter 16 - Monopolistic Competition
- Chapter 17 – Oligopoly
- Chapter 18 - The Markets for the Factors of Production
- Chapter 19 - Earnings and Discrimination
- Chapter 20 - Income Inequality and Poverty (Not covered in this course)
- Chapter 21 - The Theory of Consumer Choice
- Chapter 22 - Frontiers in Microeconomics

Instructional Methods

Instructor makes use of third party videos produced by the CPB/Annenberg project known as Economics USA. They are available online at no charge. Each video that is assigned for viewing is followed up by a video assignment in which the student is asked a small set of written questions in order to determine the level of comprehension by the student. Also available are video clips from the Digital Resource Repository which are hosted by the Dallas County Community College District. In addition, the following four tools are used as “instructional methods” via an online service known as Aplia:

1. **Problem Sets.** Each interactive problem set contains electronically scored problems written to address specific topics in the course. Sets contain problems that vary in difficulty and incorporate a number of different interactive tools, including graphs, calculators, and tables.
2. **Experiments.** With experiments, students use course concepts to interpret the results of their behavior as economic agents in an online marketplace. All students participate simultaneously online. Preceding each experiment is an introductory graded assignment that gives an overview of the upcoming experience; afterwards, an analytical follow-up assignment helps students understand the results and tests their understanding of the concepts behind the experiment.
3. **News Analyses.** Drawn from business and general news sources, news analyses summarize relevant current events and ask students to connect them to course concepts through associated problems and discussion questions.
4. **Tutorials.** Each student completes an introductory tutorial on working with Aplia’s online assignments. There are also pretests, depending on the course, prerequisite materials in subjects such as grammar, math and graphing early in the course. Students who need some extra review may access animated tutorials on basic topics. Each tutorial is paired with associated problems to test students’ understanding. After finishing the pretest and tutorials, students may take a posttest to improve their score and demonstrate their mastery of the prerequisite material.

Student Assignments and Grading

Midterm Exams (3)	50%
Videos Assignments (Approximately ten)	10%
Homework (Aplia)	20%
Final Examination (Comprehensive)	20%

ADA Statement

"Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office." For questions, contact Donna Price at 713-718-5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college. To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future Students, scroll down the page and click on the words "Disability Services".

- * District ADA Coordinator – Donna Price – (713) 718-5165
- * Central Lead ADA Coordinator – (713) 718-6164
- * Central ADA Counselor – (713) 718 – 6166
- * Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Supervisor – Andrea Guerrero – (713) 718-6333
- * Northeast ADA Counselor – Kim Ingram – 713-718-8420
- * Northwest ADA Counselor – Mahnaz Kolaini – 713-718-5422
- * Southeast ADA Counselor – Jette Lott – 713-718-7218
- * Southwest ADA Counselor – Dr. Becky Hauri – 713-718-7910
- * Coleman ADA Counselor – Dr. Raj Gupta – 713-718-7631

Academic Honesty

The Social and Behavioral Sciences Department and specifically this instructor, follows the HCCS policies on scholastic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited, to cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

See the HCCS student handbook for a more detailed explanation.

Student Attendance

Since this is an online class "attendance" is defined differently. Essentially any student who in the judgment of the instructor is not logging in regularly to Blackboard and completing the weekly assignments and examinations will be deemed as lacking sufficient attendance and may be withdrawn by the instructor.

“3-peaters” Policy

Students who repeat a course three or more times may face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor/department chair as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring and other assistance that might be available.

Withdrawal Deadline

The withdrawal deadline for this course is March 11, by 4:00 p.m. However, if you wish for me to place the withdrawal request for you I need 72 hours notice prior to this date and time to allow for time to process your withdrawal. If you wish to withdraw after the 72-hour notice then the responsibility to withdraw is yours alone and must either be done in person at any of the HCC locations or by filling out a request from a counselor online. The URL is pasted below for your convenience:

<http://de-counseling.hccs.edu/StudentSignIn/>

Instructional Materials

Macroeconomics, N. Gregory Mankiw, 5th edition, Cengage Learning, 2007

For the online course please do not purchase a physical textbook. Instead you should subscribe to Aplia where your weekly assignments are completed. Aplia is also the host for your electronic copy of the textbook as well. Currently the subscription is \$80.00. This is less than half of the price of a new textbook and at least 25% cheaper than a used text. If you are on financial aid or a scholarship you may purchase the access code for Aplia from the bookstore. Otherwise simply log into Blackboard, click on the Aplia link and follow the instructions for online registration and payment.

The following is the exam schedule:

Exam #1 - Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Date - TBA
Exam #2 - Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Date - TBA
Exam #3 - Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 Date - TBA
Final Exam Chapters 16, 17, 18, and 21 Date - TBA

Content of Exams and Assignments

Conceptual	Question tests student's understanding of a definition or concept
Complex analysis	Student must apply more than one concept to discover the correct answer.
Definition	A straightforward question testing the student's ability to recognize a definition.
Equation	A question in which the student must identify and work out one or more equations to properly solve the test item.
Factual	A problem which tests the student's ability to recall some fact or data.
Graphical	A problem in which the student must demonstrate some working facility with graphs.
Tabular	A test item requiring the student to handle data in tabular form or to put data meaningfully in such form.

Aplia Assignments

These are turned in weekly online through Aplia.com. At the end of the semester I will drop the three lowest assignments before averaging. Consult Blackboard for Aplia Course Key.

Make ups

All students are expected to take examinations as scheduled. There are no make-up exams administered for any reason. If you miss an exam, the final will be weighted more to make up the difference. If you miss two exams you will be withdrawn from the course. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Withdrawals

It is the sole responsibility of the student to make a withdrawal from the course prior to the official withdrawal date. A new state law passed last summer no longer allows instructors to assign a “W” after the official drop date. If you fail to withdraw by this date instructors are only allowed to assign a letter grade. Please understand that an incomplete is not a right but rather can only be assigned when an overwhelming majority of the work is complete and it is at the discretion of the instructor. If your grades are in need of improvement it is best to seek help from me first or find a tutor on your own. Don’t wait until the last minute to seek help.

HCC Grading Scale

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 or below

Grades may be rounded up to the nearest letter grade at the discretion of the instructor. For example a 79.5 may be assigned a “B” as the final letter grade earned in the course where otherwise a “C” would have been recorded. Please understand that no extra credit is offered during or after the course. There already are many opportunities during the semester to raise your grade by completing the assignments and exercises proscribed.

My Promises to You:

- Make the course as interesting as possible
- Ask test questions that deal with material covered in the class and are easy to understand.
- Return graded assignments quickly
- Treat you with respect and patience
- Give individual help to those who ask for it.
- Give you clear and complete answers to your questions to the best of my ability

Required Software

Click on the logo below to learn more about “dimdim” which is an online meeting place used in this class. It is free to use and you don’t even need to sign up for it in order to use it. No software is actually downloaded or installed on your computer unless you choose to host an online meeting.



The software below is a special browser used in this class to administer examinations. Its use is required. Installing it on your computer requires that you are either the owner of the computer or have administrative privileges on the computer that you are using. This is important because if you attempt to take examination through Blackboard and your computer does not have this lockdown browser you will not be able to take any of the examinations. Installation of this special browser will not alter the functionality of your current browsers and is only used for examinations. If you are performing any other functions inside Blackboard you may use a traditional browser like Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox or Safari. Use of Respondus Lockdown Browser is free of charge. Click on the link below and choose your operating system before installing the software on your computer.



Respondus LockDown Browser™

[<"v:imagedata src="image002.jpg" o:href="image002.jpg"/>](#)

Click on the icon below to read testimonials from former students who used Aplia. You cannot purchase the software now so don't attempt to register or pay for Aplia now. This can only be done on the first day of class. Aplia is online software that is dedicated to improving students' learning by increasing their effort and engagement with the course. Founded by an instructor for other instructors, Aplia offers students premium, automatically graded assignments with detailed explanations that ensure they put forth effort on a regular basis.



