

**SYLLABUS**  
**PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS**

**ECON 2302 – CRN 77281**  
**(TTh 08:00-09:30)**

**SPRING 2014**

**Houston Community College System - Northwest: Katy Campus**

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Dept of Government & Economics website: <http://northwest.hccs.edu/programs/economics/>

**COMMUNICATION:**

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Your involvement and interest in the class is very important, so feel free to ask questions, verbally or via-e-mail, about the material covered in class or the homework etc. My office hours are as follows: Tuesday – 12:30 to 1:30 and Wednesday at 9:30 to 11:00 am-Suite 112. E-mail is the best way to contact me.

Here are the websites that will be used for various purposes for this class:

- **Eagle Online 2.0**– Syllabus and schedule will be posted there as well as homework assignments and PowerPoint presentations. Log into Eagle Online on a regular basis for updates to the schedule, assignments or other announcements. To access Eagle Online go to <https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php>
- **McGrawHill Connect** – This website is associated with your textbook and will contain homework assignments. I also features other complementary material. To register and access your section go to: [http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/s\\_haci\\_econ\\_2302-haci-crn77281-tth0800-sp14](http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/s_haci_econ_2302-haci-crn77281-tth0800-sp14)  
For more information check Eagle Online
- **The Learning Web** – Syllabus and Curriculum Vitae. To access my **website** go to <http://learning.hccs.edu> and enter my name in Find a faculty member.

If you experience difficulties with any of the websites, please let me know so attempts can be made to fix the problems. If you do not have a personal computer, you can use the computers in the library.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

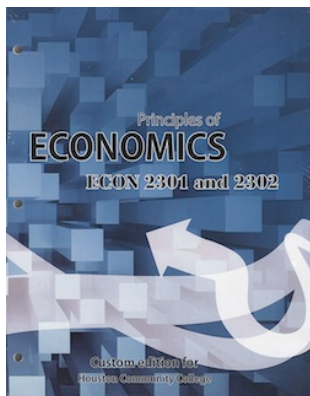
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ECON 2302 is designed to provide students with a framework for the analysis and evaluation of microeconomic issues, and prepare the students for advanced microeconomic studies. Microeconomics studies the behavior and decision-making process of firms and individuals in a market economy. ECON 2302 is fully transferable to other colleges and universities.

**TEXTBOOK:**

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***The Economy Today***, Bradley R. Schiller, 13<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2013



You are required to buy the textbook along with McGrawHill Connect, that provides helpful material: quizzes, problems with solutions, test samples etc.

- The book package including "Connect" is available at your college bookstore for \$171.45 new or \$128.60 used.
- You can purchase an E-book directly from the 'Connect' website along with your subscription to "Connect" for a lower cost (tentatively \$120)

To register to 'Connect', go to [http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/s\\_haci\\_econ\\_2302-haci-crn77281-tth0800-sp14](http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/s_haci_econ_2302-haci-crn77281-tth0800-sp14)

For more instructions go to Eagle Online

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#### ACADEMIC HONESTY, PLAGIARISM, COLLUSION:

*HCC policy:* "Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; collaborating with another student during a test without authority; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test; or bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered. 'Plagiarism' means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work for credit. 'Collusion' means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit."

In simplified terms, cheating is: (1) taking unchanged passages (or slightly edited) from another person's writing and portraying them as one's own; (2) submitting a paper that includes paraphrases of another person's writing without giving credit; (3) having someone else write your paper for you; (4) copying or using another person's work during in-class writing or testing; (5) the unauthorized use of electronic devices during in-class writing or testing; and (6) violating testing rules. Keep in mind also that whether you are cheating or not, not following testing or writing rules properly, such as communicating with your neighbor or using a cell phone during a test will be construed as cheating. This is not an exhaustive list of the forms of cheating on written work. If you are in doubt, consult your instructor.

System students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. System officials may assess penalties and/or initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. Consequences for academic dishonesty may include a grade of "0" or "F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, recommendation for probation or dismissal from the System, and other consequences deemed appropriate by the administration. Students who wish to appeal a final course grade may do so in accordance with procedures set forth in the Student Handbook.

#### STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

Adult behavior is expected. Disruptive behavior/activities which interfere with teaching and/or learning will not be tolerated, and may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund.

Students arriving late and leaving early disrupt the class, therefore if students arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave the class early without informing me at the beginning of class, they will be counted absent when it comes to earning attendance points.

I expect you to respect your professor and fellow students and behave appropriately.

#### TEACHER EVALUATION:

##### **EGLS<sub>3</sub> (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System)**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be

made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Go to [www.hccs.edu/egls3](http://www.hccs.edu/egls3) for more information.

#### DISABILITIES:

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Service Office ([Click here for the link](#)) at their respective college at the beginning of each semester. **Spring Branch Campus, RC 14** - Lisa Parkinson M.Ed. - Phone: (713) 718-5422 Fax: (713) 718-5430 TTY: (713) 718-5697  
**Katy Campus, 150** - Dr. LaRonda Ashford - Phone: (713) 718-5408 Fax: (713) 718-5222

#### ATTENDANCE:

**Attendance is crucial;** if you don't attend class, your chances of passing the class are close to zero; therefore good attendance will be rewarded as follows:

0-4 absences:	50 points	attendance of 87% and more
5-7 absences:	35 points	attendance of 80% to 70%
7 or more absences:	0 points	attendance of less than 70%

Note: If students arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave the class early without informing me at the beginning of class, they will be counted absent when it comes to earning attendance points.

#### Drop Policy:

- Students who take a course for the third time or more must now pay significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC it is an additional \$50 per credit hour. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.
- The state of Texas has passed a new law limiting new students (as of Fall 2007) to no more than six withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree."
- Students are now able to withdraw one or more of their classes **online** and are no longer required to talk to an advisor to withdraw – it is still advisable you do so. To withdraw online, students have to do the following:
  - Provide a reason for dropping the class
  - Learn about the consequences for dropping a class
  - Acknowledge the implications of withdrawing from a class
- It is your responsibility to withdraw in the proper time and fashion. Failure to do so will result in a F. If a student is repeatedly absent, he/she **may be dropped** as a result.
- If students fail as a result of excessive absences and lack of meaningful participation in the class, they may earn an **Fx** for the class. An Fx may negatively affect students' financial aid status.

In the event that you find yourself struggling during the course of the semester, I will do my best to work with you and help you.

#### LECTURES:

PowerPoint presentations are a good visual teaching tool, and are available to students on Eagle Online. The pace of the lecture is quite fast so refer to the slides on the web to complete your notes if you missed something in class.

All material presented in class, handouts and videos are subject to testing and should be treated as such.

#### GRADING:

Scale:	90 - 100 = A	80 - 89.9 = B
	70 - 79.9 = C	60 - 69.9 = D
	0 - 59.9 = F	

#### How your grade is calculated:

	Points	Weight
- 3 Tests- "Connect" 100 * 3 =	300	35%
- Final Exam	150	18%
- Homework-"Connect"	150	18%
- Assignments - "Eagle Online"	100	12%
- Attendance	50	6%
- Quizzes	50	6%
- In Class Assignments	50	6%
Total	850	100%

**Tests:** The 3 tests will include multiple choice short answers and essay questions.

- You will be able to take the tests online through "Connect".
- Each test will have 2 parts: A multiple choice part that will be timed (45 minutes) and a written part.
- Each test will be available for a limited number of days (see schedule).
- You will have the opportunities but not the obligation to make a second attempt for the multiple choice part of the test within the allowed time period but the second attempts will contain different questions. Your grade will be the average of the 2 attempts.
- Cheating issues:
  - You are still expected to do your own work. If one of your written answers is strikingly similar to another student's, then I will assume that either you worked together or one of your copied and both students will get no points for that question and the entire test.
  - If your answer is strait out of the web, you will earn a zero
- **Disclaimer:** Glitches and other issues may occur while using "Connect" and all efforts will be made to solve problems and smooth out the process. Please check your grades to make sure all the work has been received.
- **Make-ups** are discouraged but allowed since unexpected events do occur. A 10 point penalty will be imposed if a student requires more than one make up during the semester. If you miss a test, contact me immediately so that a make-up test can be arranged. Avoid missing a test if at all possible.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will include material covered after the 3<sup>rd</sup> test and also material from previous chapters. A detailed list of the concepts to know for the final will be available. The final exam will be in class. 150 points

**Homework "Connect":** 150 points

"Connect" homework is available on the *McGrawHill Connect* website for most chapters. The homework is due the day of the test that covers that specific chapter, those due dates are on the schedule and on the "Connect" website. Several attempts are allowed for each homework.

**Assignments – Eagle Online:** The number of assignments and points available are greater than the maximum required of 100 points. Some assignments are mandatory and some are optional so you will have some flexibility and choose some of the assignments that you wish to work on but are required to complete at least one of the reading assignments. The available assignments are as follow:

- *Reading assignments* –Students analyze selected passages and answer questions
- *Other Assignments* –These are short assignments involving some research and application of concepts learned in class.

Assignments can either be turned in during class, or through Eagle Online. Please keep track of the due dates. If you choose not to turn in your homework electronically, please turn in all assignments on clean, loose leaf of paper, no pages ripped out of notebooks. I reserve the right not to grade or to deduct points if the work is really sloppy or unreadable.

**In Class Assignments** are short problems that students work on during class. They are designed to apply the material taught that day and familiarize the students with the concepts. Make sure that you attend class so you don't miss those assignments; you are allowed to make up only 2 per semester.

**Quizzes: 50 points** – Most Thursdays, at the beginning of class, a short quiz (usually 4 questions) will take place. You will be able to use your smart phone, tablet or laptop to take the quiz. Quizzes will be based on the material covered during the previous lecture and sometimes on the material to be covered that day. For more information on when each quiz is scheduled and the material it covers refer to the class schedule (available on Eagle Online). Quizzes will start on the second week of school. The questions will mostly test your knowledge of *basic economic terms and concepts*. There will be a total of 8 or 9 quizzes worth 10 points each; the best 5 grades will be selected. Quizzes are cannot be made up which is why you can drop a few of them.

**Attendance:** A maximum of 50 points is awarded.

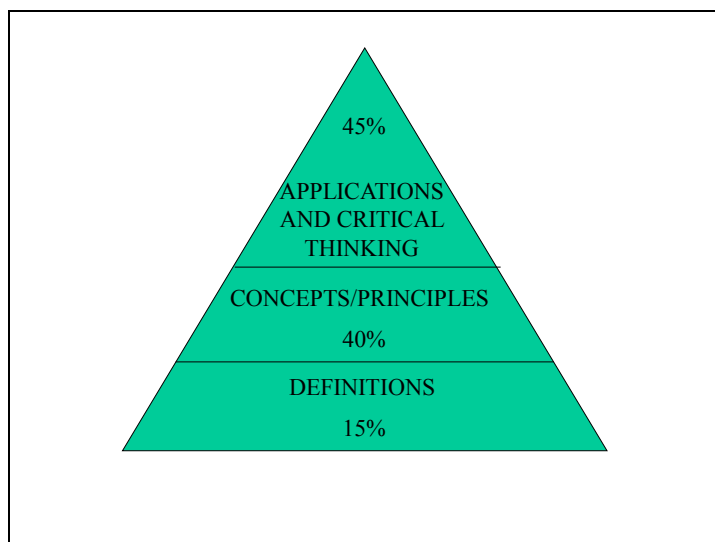
#### TEST STRUCTURE:

You will be tested on 3 levels:

1. Definitions
2. Concepts and Principles
3. Applications and Critical Thinking

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>definition</b> is a statement expressing the essential nature of something, or the meaning of a word or word group.</li> </ul>	Example of a definition question: "What is inflation?"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>concept</b> is a general idea derived or inferred from specific instances or occurrences, or something formed in the mind, a thought or notion.</li> <li>• A <b>principle</b> is a basic truth, law, or assumption.</li> </ul>	Example of a concept/principle question: "What are the causes of inflation?"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applications</b> refer to the use of studied concepts and principles in hypothetical or real life situations.</li> <li>• <b>Critical thinking</b> is the intentional application of rational, higher order thinking skills, such as <u>analysis, synthesis, problem recognition and problem solving, inference, and evaluation</u> (Angelo, 1995), or "Critical thinking... means making <u>reasoned judgments</u>... using <u>criteria</u> to judge the quality of something." <a href="#">Beyer (1995)</a></li> </ul>	Example of a critical thinking question: "If the government aims to reduce inflation, what strategies do you recommend?"

Definition questions will account for **approximately** 15% of the test grade, concepts questions for 40% and application and critical thinking about 45%.



The shape of a **pyramid** is used to demonstrate that **in order to successfully answer critical thinking questions, you must know, first the meaning of economic terms and second how principles of economics work.**

Critical thinking skills will help you be successful in college, but also in your personal and professional life.

#### CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM

You will be able to use your smart phone, tablet or laptop to take quizzes; but please put them away when done to avoid further distractions. Laptops can be wonderful learning tools, but provide many tempting screens, most of them unrelated to what goes on in the class.

*According to MARTIN LINDSTROM, we love our iphones (and other smart phones)!*

“Earlier this year, I carried out an fMRI experiment to find out whether iPhones were really, truly addictive, no less so than alcohol, cocaine, shopping or video games. .../... The subjects’ brains responded to the sound of their phones as they would respond to the presence or proximity of a girlfriend, boyfriend or family member. In short, the subjects didn’t demonstrate the classic brain-based signs of addiction. Instead, they *loved* their iPhones. “

**‘You Love Your iPhone. Literally.’, By MARTIN LINDSTROM, New York Times, September 30, 2011**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/01/opinion/you-love-your-iphone-literally.html>

**Despite the hardship involved, you will have to put away the phones during class; no texting, no browsing.**

#### STUDY TOOLS

Class Presentations: The PowerPoint presentations used in class will be available on Eagle Online to help you review. The class presentations on the web are not designed to replace lectures and do not exempt you from attending classes, they are simply an additional study tool.

McGrawHill Connect: This publisher’s website provides very valuable study tools such as the ‘LearnSmart’ which allows you to test your knowledge and understanding of concepts, identify the areas where you need to improve and further practice; acting like a virtual tutor. Take advantages of this, it will pay off. Completing each “LearnSmart” chapter will allow you to earn a maximum of 15 extra credit points.

#### EXTRA CREDIT

Completing each “LearnSmart” chapter on McGrawHill Connect will allow you to earn a maximum of 15 extra credit points. Other extra credit assignments may be provided as needed.

Economics is a fascinating subject and I hope you enjoy it this semester. Good luck.

HCCS goals and objectives and a class schedule follow.

### **CORE CURRICULUM:**

Social Sciences comprise at least 15 semester hours of each student's core curriculum. Essential to the learning process in the social sciences disciplines are at least six basic intellectual competencies. These include:

- READING at the college level, meaning having the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials-books, articles, and documents.
- WRITING at the college level, meaning having the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose, adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience. This includes, not only grammar, spelling, and punctuation, but the writing process itself.
- SPEAKING effectively, meaning oral communication in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience.
- LISTENING at the college level, meaning the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication.
- CRITICAL THINKING, embracing methods for applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to the subject matter in order to evaluate arguments, solve problems, and construct alternative strategies.
- COMPUTER LITERACY, meaning having the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems and acquiring information. Students should also be able to evaluate the limits, problems, and possibilities associated with the use of present and future technologies.

The following are HCCS's stated **exemplary educational objectives** for its social sciences core.

- To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
- To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
- To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
- To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
- To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the subject of study.
- To comprehend the origins and evolution of the U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and human rights.
- To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
- To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.
- To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
- To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
- To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
- To identify and understand differences and commonalities with diverse cultures.