

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

**ECON 2302 – CRN 83748**  
**(TTH 11:00-12:30)**

**Spring 2012**

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

Instructor: **Sophie Haci**  
E-Mail: Preferred: [sophie.haci@hccs.edu](mailto:sophie.haci@hccs.edu)  
Alternative: [sophiehaci@gmail.com](mailto:sophiehaci@gmail.com)

Dept of Government & Economics website: <http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/academic-programs/government-economics-criminal-justice>

**COMMUNICATION:**

---

I appreciate your involvement and interest in the class, so feel free to ask questions, verbally or via-e-mail, about the material covered in class or the homework etc. I do not have office hours, but I am available after class or by appointment. E-mail is the best way to contact me.

I use different websites for various purposes:

- **Eagle Online** – Syllabus and schedule will be posted there as well as homework and Powerpoint presentations. I am planning to use Eagle Online to communicate changes to the schedule, assignments or other announcements. To access Eagle Online go to “online courses’ on the HCCS Northwest home page.
- **Cengage Aplia** – This website is associated with your textbook and will contain some homework assignments. I also features sample MCQ and problems with support in solving the problems and solutions, and other complementary material. More information on how to purchase, register and access is posted on Eagle Online. The code to access the material for this class is GXHY-LV2J-R78K.
- **The Learning Web** – Syllabus and Curriculum Vitae. To access my **website** go through the HCCS Northwest website at <http://nwc.hccs.edu/> and then click on Learning Web and then on Find someone on the Learning Web, where you can search for my name.

If you experience difficulties accessing files on the website, please let me know so I can fix the problems. If you do not have a personal computer, you can use the computers in the library.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

---

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:

---



Economics, 10th Edition

Roger A. Arnold - California State University, San Marcos

ISBN-10: 1111822883 ISBN-13: 9781111822880

You are required to buy the textbook and the online subscription to Aplia which provides helpful material: quizzes, problems with solutions, test samples etc.

You can buy the textbook along with the code for Aplia either from the college bookstore at a cost of \$180 or buy the subscription to [www.Aplia.com](http://www.Aplia.com) directly from the Aplia website which comes with the e-textbook (same as the hardbound copy) at a cost of \$90. There is also an option to get the hardbound textbook at a discount.

For more instructions go to Eagle Online

Once you buy your subscription to Aplia, you will need to register for my class on Aplia using the following code: GXHY-LV2J-R78K.

## 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.

#### 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 at the respective college at the beginning of each semester.

For questions, contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college (Northwest ADA Counselor - Mahnaz Kolaini - 713.718.5422). To visit the ADA Web site, log on to [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu) and click Future students, scroll down the page and click on Disability Information.

#### 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:

0-6 absences:	50 points	attendance of 80% and more
7-8 absences:	35 points	attendance of 80% to 75%
9 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 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:

---

I consider PowerPoint presentations to be a good visual teaching tool, and use them extensively. I do my best to give appropriate time for students to take notes, and I post the PowerPoint presentations on the web so students can complete their notes if needed.

I will also use materials from other textbooks and videos. All material presented in class is 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	

**Weighting:**

	Points	Weight
- 3 Tests <span style="float: right;">100 * 3 =</span>	300	40%
- Final	150	15%
- Homework	300	30%
Cengage Aplia	100	
Reading Assignments	50	
Research Project	50	
Other Assignments	50	
Participation to online forums	50	
- Attendance	50	5%
- In Class Assignments	50	5%
- Quizzes	50	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>100%</b>

Tests: There will be 3 tests plus a comprehensive final. Each test includes multiple choice (50%), short answers and essay questions (50%).

- During tests, cell phones cannot be used, you may not leave the classroom, and you may not wear hats or baseball caps.
- Make-ups are discouraged but allowed since unexpected events do occur. If you miss a test, contact me immediately so I can make arrangements. You will need to make an appointment with the testing center on your campus and inform me of the date so that I can get a make up test ready for you on time. The phone number for the testing center is: 713-718-5996.

Homework: The homework assignments are worth 30 % of your grade and need to be turned in by the due date. However, if you are unable to turn in your assignment on time, you will be able to turn it in the next class period, but a 10% penalty will be applied. After that, assignments will not be accepted any more.

Assignments can also be e-mailed (sophie.haci@hccs.edu) and will receive full credit, provided that they have been sent before or on the day that the assignment was due.

Homework will include:

- *Cengage Aplia assignments* – 100 points – www.aplia.com
- *Reading assignments* – 50 points – Students will analyze selected passages and answer questions
- *Research Project* – 50 points – This group project is designed for students to analyze economic principles in the context of a current event or topic.
- *Other Assignments* - 50 points – (2 assignments). May include various types of work.
- *Online Forum and Discussion* – 50 points – Students are required to participate in online Forums. More details will be available on Eagle Online.

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. Some assignments may also be turned in electronically via Eagle Online or E-mail.

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 – Every Thursday, at the beginning of class, a short quiz (usually 2-3 questions) will take place. The quiz will be based on the material covered during that week, which means the material covered on the Tuesday and the material to be covered that Thursday. Quizzes will start on the second week of school. The questions will mostly test your knowledge of basic economic terms and concepts. The purpose of the quizzes is to give you an incentive to keep up with the readings, to arrive on time, and to learn basic definitions and concepts. Quizzes cannot be made up. There will be a total of 14 quizzes each worth 5 points but you will be able to drop 4 of them.

Attendance: 50 points - Attendance is very important, hardly any students who do not attend are able to pass the class.

#### TEST STRUCTURE:

---

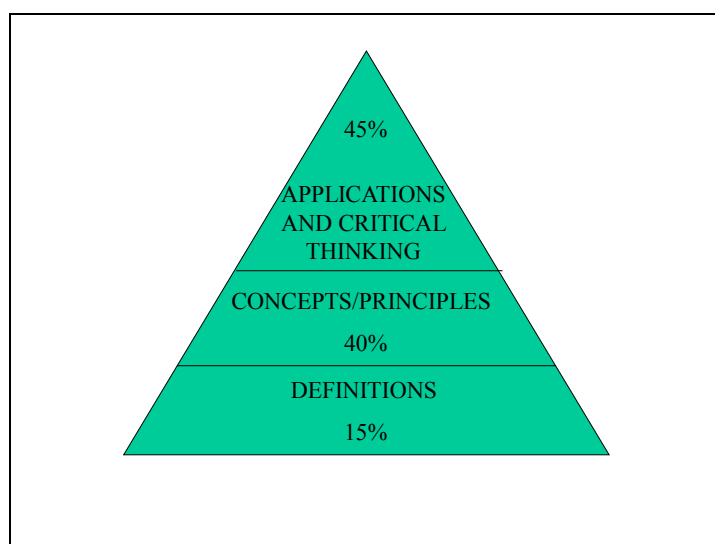
You will be tested on 3 levels:

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 reasoned judgments... using criteria 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

---

Laptops can be wonderful learning tools, but using them in the classroom to take notes turns out to be counterproductive in many cases. Laptops provide many tempting screens, most of them unrelated to what goes on in the class. Use them to study, but not to take notes in 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.

#### EXTRA CREDIT

---

Extra credit assignments may be provided as needed.

#### 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.

[www.Aplia.com](http://www.Aplia.com): The website will have some MCQ for you to practice.

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 commonalties with diverse cultures.