

Fundamentals of Microeconomics

EconS 101 TU, TH 2:55 – 4:10pm

Location: DISTANCE LEARNING

Section 02 – Fall 2020 (Aug 24 – Dec 11)

Instructor: Joseph Navelski

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:10 – 5:10pm, or by appointment

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:00pm, or by appointment

Prerequisites: MATH 101, MATH 103 (or higher) or concurrent enrollment, MGTOP 215, STAT 205, STAT 212 or concurrent enrollment, or a minimum ALEKS score of 40%.

Text: *Microeconomics in Modules*, Krugman and Wells. 4th Edition, Worth Publishers, New York, 2019.

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 15, 7 to 10 pm (tentative).

Course Description

Students will be introduced to the basic economic models that explain consumer and firm behavior, market and policies outcomes, and the gains from trade. We will study the function of the market system in allocating scarce resources, determining prices, and output. We will also study market structures, from perfectly competitive markets to monopolistic markets, as well as strategic behavior under oligopolies and competitive markets using game theory. Finally, we will explore the role of government in the market economy and in creating or fixing market failure.

Course Requirements

I expect students to be actively involved in the learning process. This starts by keeping up with the assigned readings and showing up to class. Students often forget how important this is for grading. In this way, you become an active participant and we can engage in policy discussions.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any point if you have a questions about anything. I am here to help you and your feedback will help everyone in class. Remember to be respectful of your fellow students by silencing your zoom microphone and by not disrupting the class.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Learn the basic terminology of Microeconomics.
- Apply the concepts of choice and opportunity cost to basic situations involving scarcity, and be able to clearly identify feasible choices.
- Understand how markets operate and be able to identify welfare outcomes for consumers and producers.
- Understand how different market structures, firm technologies, and economic and social policies affect market equilibrium and welfare outcomes.
- Understand gains from international trade.
- Develop information literacy skills as they relate to various Microeconomic concepts and issues.

This course is designed to meet the following

LG1 – Critical and creative thinking

LG2 – Quantitative Reasoning

LG3 – Scientific Literacy

Require Web Access:

- **Blackboard:** Course information, lecture material, course links including homework and writing assignments (<https://learn.wsu.edu>)
- **Sapling:** Online homework. You may access Sapling via Blackboard in the *Homework* tab. An electronic copy of the text is also available through the Macmillan Learning

website when purchasing Sapling. The package is called the Sapling Plus package and runs for approximately \$99.00.

- **NetTutor:** Writing assignments must be submitted to NetTutor via Blackboard in the *Writing Assignment* tab.

Required iClicker

iClicker points constitute 10% of your grade and are used to track attendance and active participation for extra credit. *Make sure to get the correct brand: iClicker.* If you already have a clicker from another course, you do not have to buy a new one. Register your clicker by going to the Reef education site <https://app.reef-education.com>.

The Bookie shows a range of prices for an iClicker from \$35.65 to \$54.00. Alternatively, you may purchase the REEF Polling App via <https://app.reef-education.com> or <https://www.iclicker.com/pricing>. This will allow you to use an electronic device (tablet, i-phone, laptop, etc.) in lieu of an iClicker remote. The cost is \$14.99 per semester, \$23.99 per year. Which option works best for you is based on your preferences, but purchasing the REEF Polling App is recommended since we are now operating in a distance learning classroom. Additionally, Macmillan is currently offering a discount on the iClicker Reef Polling app at \$5.99, and that software can be found at <https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/storefront/201801213>.

iClicker Pop Quiz Questions

Starting the third week of the semester, there will be random pop quizzes with iClicker questions that are based on the reading assignments and lectures. Some of the questions will be used to record your attendance, you will enter your answers with your iClicker (or REEF Polling App).

There will be a total of 12 iClicker Pop Quizzes during the semester, and they will be randomly assigned to the lectures as we move through the course. Some lectures will not have an iClicker Pop Quiz, and some will. Each iClicker Pop Quiz will have anywhere between 5 to 10 questions and will cover any of the modules that were presented before the pop quiz. In order to receive any clicker points, students must register their iClicker. If you miss registration, please see me to register the iClicker. **You cannot make up iClicker points,** so make sure you keep your iClicker in a place where you will not forget it. If you are using the standard iClicker, it is advised to have a spare battery on hand, just in case.

Your score will be equal to your percentage grade divided by 85%. This means that if you get an 85% in clicker questions for the semester, you will receive a 100% for the iClicker Pop Quiz section of your grade. This grading scheme is designed to help you in this class, and to give you a clearer understanding on how this scheme works I have provided an example grading table below.

iClicker Pop Quiz Grading Scheme

| In Class Pop Quiz Clicker Grade (in %) | Actual Pop Quiz Clicker Grade (in %) |
|---|---|
| 100% | 118% |
| 95% | 112% |
| 90% | 106% |
| 85% | 100% |
| 80% | 94% |
| 70% | 82% |
| 60% | 71% |
| 50% | 59% |
| 40% | 47% |
| 30% | 35% |
| 20% | 24% |
| 10% | 12% |

Please do not wait until the last week to check your clicker grade.

iClickers will also be used to take attendance and to record active participation in the course. In each iClicker Pop Quiz, there will be a question or two that you can not get wrong. Note that iClicker takes attendance automatically, but this does not count as you “attending” class. **A student needs to actively participate in the iClicker Pop Quiz in order to receive credit for attending that class.** This means that if you have a “0%” in your iClicker Grade Book, then you were either absent from class, chose not to answer any of the iClicker Pop Quiz questions, got all the questions wrong and did not answer the “gimmie” questions, or your iClicker was working improperly and not recording your answers. If you have any troubles registering your iClicker please contact me, but ultimately it is your responsibility to make sure that your iClicker is working properly and that the software is recording your answers correctly. In the second week of the course, we will run a “test” iClicker Pop Quiz so that you can make sure your iClicker or Polling Reef App is working properly. This “test” iClicker Pop Quiz will not count towards your grade in the class.

Homework

There will be 10 graded assignments throughout the semester (see schedule in Blackboard). You are responsible for completing all graded assignments by the scheduled cutoff date posted on the Sapling course outline and Calendar. Most homework questions will be graded as you complete and submit the assignment in Sapling. The system allows for up to three attempts per question, and for each incorrect attempt, a 10% grade deduction will be applied to that question. At the cut-off due date, the system will automatically submit the assignment even if you have not completed the assignment. **I will drop the two lowest graded homework assignments** Your final homework percentage grade will be the average of your 8 highest scores. **No homework will be accepted after the deadline has passed.** All homework is due on Friday, and no homework will be due during exam weeks.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact Sapling tech support. They are best able to help you if you encounter any problems. To contact Sapling Technical Support online, go to [Support](#), or by phone to 1-800-936-6899. As a reference, the course ID in Sapling is 150036.

There is a grace period before you have to pay, which means that, if you are waiting on Financial Aid, you can register to Sapling and receive access to the e-book and homework. Once you receive your Financial Aid, you may pay for access for the rest of the semester.

Writing Assignments

All students are required to register on the NetTutor webpage in order to complete the assignments (follow link in Blackboard). The questions are in the corresponding link in Blackboard, along with the due dates and a rubric that tells you the grading criteria for each assignment. They must be completed and submitted on NetTutor by the due date (please do not wait until the last minute).

The Economic Component of the writing assignments are graded as *Meets Expectations* for 75%, or *Needs Improvement* for 25%, or not turned in for no points. If a student wishes to revise a *Needs Improvement* attempt to try for a *Meets Expectations*, the 25% can be raised to a 75%, but only one revision attempt is allowed.

You will receive feedback from NetTutor telling you if your essay *Meets expectations* or *Needs improvement*. If your essay *Meets Expectations* on both Grammar and Economic Analysis, you will get full credit (100%) for that assignment.

If your essay needs improvement *ON ANY ONE OF THE CRITERIA* (typically Economic Analysis), you'll need to revise it and re-submit the revised version no later than one week after receiving the feedback. Before you re-submit your essay, you may meet with me to discuss your original. I also encourage you to take advantage of the EconLab to help with the Economic Analysis. Again, **revisions must be submitted one week after receiving feedback from NetTutor.**

I will drop the lowest grade of the four. Typically, this is the first assignment, but it can be any of the four. If you received 100% on the first three writing assignments, then you are not required to submit the final writing assignment.

Exams

There will be three regular exams and a final. The regular exams will take place online and a window of time to take the exam will be offered (window length is TBD). The format of the exams will be multiple choice questions. While taking the exam, you will have the entire class time (i.e. 75 minutes) to complete the exam. Please do not e-mail me towards the end of the exam closing time saying that you are having technical difficulties. The point of the exam window is to make sure that you have a reliable network connection that will enable you to complete the exam in the allotted amount of time. Ensuring that you have a reliable network connection is the responsibility of the student. With that said, if there are technical

difficulties, it will be course wide, and I will address the issue at the time it happens. The final exam will be cumulative, but with an emphasis on the material covered since the fourth test. **I will drop the lowest grade of the four exams.**

I will not allow students to take a test late, but you can arrange to take a test ahead of time if you have an official university-sanctioned event that conflicts with the time (see Academic Regulation 72 part c.1.). If you need to reschedule as a result of a non-official event (you've scheduled surgery for that day, or you need to attend a wedding, etc.) you can arrange to take the test ahead of time as well – **but only ONCE for the semester.**

Final Exam:

Tuesday, December 14, 7:00–10:00 pm (tentative).

The final examination is comprehensive and is given in a block format. This means that there are no exceptions for the time. I will only consider alternate times for extenuating circumstances. These circumstances do not include travel arrangements. I will also not consider alternate times if you contact me three weeks before the final.

Special Instructions regarding the Final Exam Academic Rule 80: A student will not be granted special examinations for the purpose of leaving the institution before the close of the semester.

NO EARLY EXAMS. There are no exceptions to this policy. Students should determine final exam times and dates before making travel or vacation plans at the close of each semester.

Academic Rule 77: During final examination week, if the scheduled arrangement results in students having three or more examinations scheduled for any one day, any one of their instructors is authorized to excuse the students from the regularly scheduled examination and give a final examination to the students during the special exams time blocks. In cases of difficulty in arriving at a solution, students shall refer the matter to the chairpersons of their departments or to their academic advisors.

Additional sources: [Registrar Final Exam](#) and [Registrar University Examinations](#).

Extra Credit

There is only one way to get extra credit points in this class, and that way is to **attend and participate** in more than 10 lectures in which iClicker Pop Quizzes are administered. Again, just entering the class via Zoom does not constitute as attending the class, you need to participate in the iClicker Pop Quiz in order to get credit for attending the class. In each iClicker Pop Quiz, there will be a question or two that you can not get wrong. This means that if you have a “0%” for an iClicker Pop Quiz in your iClicker Grade Book, then you were either absent from class, chose not to answer any of the iClicker Pop Quiz questions, got all the questions wrong and did not answer the “gimmie” questions, or your iClicker was working improperly and not recording your answers. Attending all 12 lectures will impact

your overall iClicker Pop Quiz percentage score and it will give you two extra percentage points to your final grade on top of your iClicker Pop Quiz percentage score. The extra credit is to encourage and reward students that are actively engaged with the class.

Grading

| Component | % |
|--|------------|
| Homework (Dropping 2 lowest) | 40 |
| iClicker Pop Quiz Questions | 10 |
| Writing Assignments (Dropping lowest) | 10 |
| 3 Exams & Final Exam (Dropping lowest) | 40 |
| Total | 100 |
| Attendance Extra Credit | 2 |
| Total Possible | 102 |

Your letter grade will be determined according to the following percent distribution

| Range (in %) | Letter Grade |
|----------------|--------------|
| Over 93 | A |
| 90 to 93 | A- |
| 86.6 to 89 | B+ |
| 83.4 to 86.5 | B |
| 80 to 83.3 | B- |
| 76.6 to 79 | C+ |
| 73.4 to 76.5 | C |
| 70 to 73.3 | C- |
| 65 to 69.9 | D+ |
| 60 to 64.9 | D |
| Less than 59.9 | F |

Course Topics

| Module | Topic |
|--------|---|
| 1 | First Principles |
| 2 | Models and the Production Possibility Frontier |
| 3 | Comparative Advantage and Trade |
| 15 | Gains from Trade |
| 17 | Making Decisions |
| 5 | Demand |
| 6 | Supply and Equilibrium |
| 7 | Changes in Equilibrium |
| 8 | Consumer and Producer Surplus |
| 9 | Efficiency and Markets |
| 10 | Price Controls (Ceilings and Floors) |
| 11 | Defining and Measuring Elasticity |
| 12 | Interpreting the Price Elasticity of Demand |
| 13 | Other Elasticities |
| 14 | The Benefits and Costs of Taxation |
| 16 | Supply, Demand, and International Trade |
| 19 | Maximizing Utility |
| 34 | Externalities |
| 36 | Public Goods and Common Resources |
| 20 | The Production Function |
| 21 | Firm Costs |
| 22 | Long-run Costs and Economies of Scale |
| 23 | Introduction to Market Structure |
| 24 | Perfect Competition |
| 25 | Graphing Perfect Competition |
| 26 | Long-run Outcomes in Perfect Competition |
| 27 | Monopoly |
| 28 | Monopoly, Government Policy, and Social Welfare |
| 29 | Price Discrimination |
| 30 | Oligopoly |
| 31 | Game Theory |
| 32 | Monopolistic Competition |
| 33 | Product Differentiation and Advertising |

A more detailed schedule will be posted in Blackboard. If there is any material you want me to go more in-depth, please email me or my TA's.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class and participate in class activities. Students are also expected to complete online work in a timely manner. Because homework and writing assignments are available for long periods until their respective cutoff dates, work cannot be submitted or accepted after the cutoff date for each assignment, unless otherwise agreed upon with the instructor. Similarly, missed exams cannot be made up.

In the event of a medical excuse or other serious problems, exceptions to this no-makeup policy will be considered following University policies. See Office of the Registrar, Our Academic Regulations, No. 72 Absences: <http://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-regulations/> (you will need to scroll down.)

EconLab — SES Economics Tutoring Center

Please visit the help desk if you are having any difficulty with homework, quizzes, writing assignments, or exams. It is located in the Academic Enrichment Center, part of Multicultural Student Services, room 410 of the CUB. They are available Monday and Wednesday from 1 to 7 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 7 pm (closed on Friday - for more information go to <http://ses.wsu.edu/econlab/>). They open the second week of instruction and close during Finals week. Tutors are there to assist you in learning the material covered in this class.

Academic Integrity

As an institution of higher education, Washington State University is committed to principles of truth and academic honesty. All members of the University community share the responsibility for maintaining and supporting these principles. When a student enrolls in Washington State University, the student assumes an obligation to pursue academic endeavors in a manner consistent with the standards of academic integrity adopted by the University. To maintain the academic integrity of the community, the University cannot tolerate acts of academic dishonesty including any forms of cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication. Washington State University reserves the right and the power to discipline or to exclude students who engage in academic dishonesty. Students found responsible for academic integrity violations may receive an F on the particular assignment or exam, as well as an F for the course. Serious and/or repeated offenses may result in referral to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability and expulsion from WSU. Cheating is defined in the Standards for Student Conduct WAC 504-26-010 (3). Definitions of cheating can be found <http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=504-26-010>.

You can learn more about Academic Integrity on campus using the URL listed in the Academic Regulations section or <https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/policies-and-reporting/academic-integrity-policy/>. Please use these resources to ensure that you don't inadvertently violate WSU's standard of conduct.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either

visit or call the Access Center ([Washington Building 217](#); 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. For more information contact a Disability Specialist at 509-335-3417, or on-line via <http://accesscenter.wsu.edu>, Access.Center@wsu.edu.

Safety and Emergency Notification

Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is highly recommended that you review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community.

Classroom Safety

Classroom and campus safety are of paramount importance at Washington State University, and are the shared responsibility of the entire campus population. WSU urges students to follow the “Alert, Assess, Act” protocol for all types of emergencies and the “[Run, Hide, Fight](#)” response for an active shooter incident. Remain ALERT (through direct observation or emergency notification), ASSESS your specific situation, and ACT in the most appropriate way to assure your own safety (and the safety of others if you are able).

If you haven’t yet, please sign up for emergency alerts on your account at [MyWSU](#). For more information on this subject, campus safety, and related topics, please view the [FBI’s Run, Hide, Fight](#) video and visit the [WSU safety portal](#).

Health and Safety

Participation in this course will include several requirements to enhance the health and safety of yourself, other students, staff, and faculty. All of these activities have been structured to give you an excellent learning experience while providing as safe a classroom environment as possible. These features include: If ill – Stay home. If you feel sick or have been requested to self-isolate, please DO NOT come to class. The Centers for Disease Control website (CDC Coronavirus Info and Background) references signs of COVID and provides a great deal of useful information. Some signs include fever or chills, fatigue, nausea, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, headache, and sudden loss of smell and taste. Please contact your health care provider for additional information or if you have any of these symptoms.

Wearing a mask. In keeping with state mandates, Washington State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19) website, Washington State University is requiring individuals to wear face masks while on campus – this is intended to slow the spread of the virus. The state of Washington has mandated that that every person in the state wear a face covering in indoor public spaces as well as outside when unable to physically distance at least six feet from others. Using a face covering is an act of compassion; you are protecting other people by wearing a mask.

Social distancing. Please maintain social distancing. Available seats have been identified and classroom floors have been marked to allow you to stay 6 feet apart from each other.

Please only use the appropriate seats. [This class is using assigned seating to assist in the reduction of virus spread so please sit in your assigned space. If you would like to sit in a different part of the classroom, e.g., you prefer left or right, please let me know after class or via email and I will assign you a different seat.] Disinfection. Disinfectants will be provided in the classroom and you will be instructed on their use. Please follow instructions in order to reduce the opportunity for you and your classmates to be exposed to the virus.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change to facilitate instructional and/or student needs.