

# Syllabus

**Instructor:**

Name: Amir Neto  
Office: Hodges Hall 436  
Office Hours: MTW 4:30pm - 5:30pm  
or by appointment  
Email: amneto@mix.wvu.edu

**Course Information:**

ECON 201 section 004, CRN 50208  
Time & Room: MTW 6pm - 8:15pm; B&E 242  
Website: [www.ecampus.wvu.edu](http://www.ecampus.wvu.edu) (eCampus)  
Course satisfies GEC Objective 4 and 8

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce WVU students to the principles of microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of the behavior of individual economic units, such as households and business firms, and of their interactions in markets. Almost 100 years ago, the economist Alfred Marshall described microeconomics as the study of men and women in the “everyday business of life”.

**Catalog Description:** Introductory microeconomics analysis. Competitive behavior of firms, price determination, efficiency in production and equity in distribution.

**Prerequisites:** none.

**Recommended Textbook:** your textbook for this class is available for free online! If you prefer, you can also get a print version at a very low cost. Your book is available in web view and PDF for free. You can also choose to purchase on iBooks or get a print version via the campus bookstore or from OpenStax on Amazon.com. You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended – the responsive design works seamlessly on any device.

Principles of Microeconomics from OpenStax, ISBN 1938168240  
[www.openstax.org/details/principles-microeconomics](http://www.openstax.org/details/principles-microeconomics)

*Other suggested books:* Microeconomics: Private and Public Choice by James D. Gwartney, Richard Stroup, Russell Sobel and David A. Macpherson.

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** The course will introduce students to the university-level study of microeconomic principles and the application of those principles to the world around them. Having completed this course:

1. Students can investigate economic relationships using graphical analysis.
2. Students can state the basic theories behind consumer behavior (demand) and producer behavior (supply) constrained by the scarcity of valuable resources.
3. Students can analyze how world events affect market equilibrium prices and quantities using supply and demand.
4. Students can describe the role of prices and profit and loss in coordinating economic activity.
5. Students can describe the nature of competition in markets.

6. Students can assess the efficiency of competitive market outcomes relative to alternative arrangements.
7. Students can outline the theory of the firm and its implications for prices and production under both perfect and imperfect competition, including monopoly.
8. Students can solve simple analyses of markets for production inputs, including labor and capital.
9. Students can examine the potential roles for government in the economy.
10. Students can explain externalities and where and when they are likely to occur.
11. Students can analyze outcomes associated with government interventions into markets.

**Grading:** Four exams will be given in the course. This is roughly once every one and half week. The exams are multiple choice and each will be worth 100 points. The dates for each exam are shown below. Your final grade will be based on your average score for your three highest exam scores. I will drop your lowest exam score when computing your final average in the class.

Exam	Date	Points
Exam #1	Monday 07/05/2017	100
Exam #2	Tuesday 07/18/2017	100
Exam #3	Wednesday 07/26/2017	100
Exam #4	Wednesday 08/02/2017	100

The grading scale used for the course is: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, below 60 F.

*Extra Credit:* I reserve the right to award, at my discretion, extra credit for class attendance, extra credit quizzes, and any other various and sundry academic events and activities throughout the course of the semester. These extra credit opportunities will be announced as appropriate.

**Exam:** The exams will consist of a multiple choice questions. Exams will be based on both the readings and lectures. Questions may come from assigned readings even if it has not been explicitly covered during lecture. Likewise, questions may be from lecture material not found explicitly in the readings.

*Exam Policy:*

- There are **NO MAKEUP** exams with the following exception:
  1. you are a member of a WVU club/team with a scheduled road trip *AND*
  2. you have an **excuse in writing** from that club/team.
- You **WILL NOT** need a scantron for this class.
- You cannot use any electronic device during the exams. If a student is observed with cell phone out during an exam, he or she will automatically receive a zero on that exam.
- The use of calculator, when needed, will be informed in advance.
- Exams will take place in our regular class room at the regular class time and will be closed book. Students must take exams with their section of the class.
- Once you enter the classroom and receive an exam, you may not leave the classroom.

**General Course Policies and Expectations:**

- I do not take attendance. Students should, however, attend every class meeting.
- Extra credit points may be given for participation in in-class activities and attendance is a prerequisite for earning discussion points.
- Participation in class, where appropriate, is both expected and welcome. In particular, asking questions in class if you are confused is beneficial to both the instructor and other students.
- Please visit the instructor during office hours if questions remain after going through the notes and attending the related lecture.
- Eating or drinking in class is against building rules, can be rude to your instructor and classmates, and therefore is discouraged.
- Engaging in private conversations, reading materials unrelated to the class, leaving the classroom unnecessarily, or any other activity that creates negative externalities for others in the class should be avoided.
- Many students find that utilizing electronic devices to take notes is productive. However, these devices are also potentially distracting to the student using them and potentially disruptive to classmates. *Ground Rules for electronic devices*
  - All use of smart phones for texting, updating your Facebook status, Tweeting, or any other non-academic activity is prohibited in class.
  - If you wish to use a laptop or tablet for note-taking, you must sit in the front two rows of the classroom or the first row with an available seat.
  - Any use of the Internet for IMing, updating your Facebook status, Tweeting, or any other non-academic activity on a laptop or tablet during class is prohibited.
  - If I detect the use of a prohibited device, or the use of an approved device in a prohibited way, I will ask you to leave the classroom and expect that you immediately comply with this request.
- Students should check their school email regularly as email will be my primary form of mass communication with the class.

**Outline of Topics:**

Dates	Topic	Chapter
06/26	Economic Way of Thinking	1 and 2
06/27	Economic Approach	1 and 2
06/28	Demand and Supply	3
07/03	Demand and Supply	3
07/04	No Class	—
07/05	Review Session and Exam #1	—
07/10	Consumer Choice and Elasticity	5 and 6.1-6.2
07/11	Externality	12 and 13
07/12	Externality	12 and 13
07/17	The Government	18
07/18	Review Session and Exam #2	—
07/19	Cost and Industry Structure	7
07/24	Perfect Competition	8
07/25	Monopoly	9
07/26	Review Session and Exam #3	—
07/31	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	10
08/01	Globalization and Protectionism	20
08/02	Review Session and Exam #4	—

**Inclusivity Statement:** The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.wvu.edu>.

**Academic Dishonesty:** The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code located at <http://studentlife.wvu.edu/studentconductcode.html>.

Any student who commits any act of academic dishonesty will automatically receive a grade of "F" in this course. If an Academic Dishonesty form is submitted to OSJA, I will recommend that the "F" be "unforgivable".

**Additional Help with Class Material:** I will hold regular office hours each week. Students can come to these regularly scheduled office hours to ask questions about material covered in Class. However, some students need additional help understanding class material. Those students should go to the Business Learning Resource Center (BLRC) located on the third floor of the Business and Economics Building in B&E 349. The BLRC is open daily and has economics tutoring every weekday during the semester. BLRC hours and other information can be found on-line at <http://www.be.wvu.edu/blrc/hours.htm>.

*I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus as I see fit. All changes will be announced in class*