



ECON 100 Introduction to Economics Fall 2025
MWF 10-10:50 (Section 02)
MWF 11-11:50 (Section 04)
Classroom: KJ 102

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Office Hours: M 4-4:50pm, T 9-10:50 am, and by appointment

Course Description:

Economics is the study of how society manages and allocates its scarce resources; many of the problems facing the world today are economic problems.

Microeconomics focuses on the individual parts of the economy: how households and firms make decisions and how they interact in specific markets. In this course you will learn the basic tools of microeconomic analysis that will allow you to answer questions like: What concerns do economists have about price control? Why are some industries dominated by a single firm and why others have many firms? When are markets best left alone and when should the government intervene?

Macroeconomics examines problems and issues at the level of the entire economy. Major topics include the determinants of the nation's level of output, prices, employment, and interest rates. We will consider problems such as unemployment, inflation (or deflation), and the rate of economic growth. An important part of the course is analyzing the effects of government policies upon the economy: to what extent do they influence the state of the economy? Can the government design economic policies to address various economic problems?

We will use economic theory but also emphasize the application of economics in public policy and everyday life. A goal of the course is to expose you to the way economists think, and to show you the tools and methods we use. Learning these tools and methods will help you develop a rigorous way of thinking, which will allow you to become a better judge of policies and make better life decisions.

Economics 100 is the first half of a two-semester sequence in introductory economics; Economics 166 (Economic Theory and Evidence) follows Economics 100. There are no prerequisites for Economics 100, but you should be comfortable with high school level algebra and geometry.

Learning Objective

Students should gain a basic understanding of economics. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to

- ✓ Describe and explain how microeconomic models can be used to consider fundamental economic choices of households and firms.
- ✓ Describe and explain how macroeconomic models can be used to analyze the economy as a whole.
- ✓ Describe and explain how government policy influences microeconomic choices and macroeconomic outcomes.
- ✓ Interpret and use economic models, diagrams and tables and use them to analyze economic situations.

Required Textbook

Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock, *Principles of Economics*, 4th Edition

Blackboard: Please note there is Blackboard page set up for this class. You can log into the site using your ID and password (the ID and password you use to log into your email). I will post announcements and materials on this site. You are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly.

Office Hours: My scheduled office hours are the best time to meet me. Feel free to join alongside other students, as many of you will have similar questions. If you cannot make these hours or would like to meet individually, please email me to arrange an appointment.

TA Office Hours: Ben Zimmerman will hold TA office hours on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 8-9:30 pm in KJ 109.

Grading:

Problem Sets	12%
Participation	8%
In-class quizzes	20% (Fri, Sep 19 & Oct 31, in class)
Midterms	40% (Wed, Oct 8nd, 7pm & Nov 19th, 7pm, both in SCCT G027)
Final Exam	20% (Tue, Dec 16, 9am, location TBA—Multi-section course exam)

You are required to take quizzes, midterms, and the final exam at the scheduled times. If you believe that you have a legitimate scheduling conflict, you must notify me within the first two weeks of class. All graded work is covered by the Honor Code.

Problem Sets:

Problem sets will be assigned throughout the semester. They are generally posted on Wednesday afternoon and due the following Wed before class. Submit a single document (typed or neatly written), convert it to pdf, and upload it to Gradescope. When uploading, you must tag each answer to its corresponding page number as prompted by Gradescope. You are encouraged to work in study groups, but you must write and submit your own answers.

Participation:

I expect you to attend all classes, arrive on time, and keep up with readings. Participation may also include answering and ask questions, come to office hours, or engaging in in-class games. Participation in QSR facilitated study groups will also count toward your grade.

Students with Disabilities:

Hamilton College will make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation(s) and would like to make a formal request for this course, please discuss it with me as soon as possible. You will need to provide Allen Harrison, Assistant Dean for Accessibility Resources () with appropriate documentation of your disability.

Student Wellbeing:

Many of us may feel overwhelmed, anxious, or depressed for various reasons. If at any point you feel unable to complete coursework, please reach out to me. I also encourage you to use campus resources such as the Counseling Center (315-859-4340), the Associate Dean of Students for Student Support Services, Sarah Solomon (315-859-4600;), the Associate Dean of Students for Academics, Adam Van Wysberghe (315-859-4600; avanwyna@hamilton.edu).

Tentative Course Schedule*

	Topic	Reading	Homework Due
8/29	Introduction to course and instructor		
Week of 9/1	Five Foundations of Economics; The Gains from Trade	Chapter 1, 2 (including Appendix 2A)	PS 0
Week of 9/8	The Gains from Trade; Consumer Choice; Market	Chapter 2, 16, 3	PS 1
Week of 9/15	Market, Demand and Supply; Quiz 1 (Fri, Sep 19)	Chapter 3	PS 2

Week of 9/22	Welfare Economics, Elasticity	Chapter 4, 5	PS 3
Week of 9/29	Market and Government Policies	Chapter 6	PS 4
Week of 10/6	Business Costs and Production, Midterm 1 (Wed, Oct 8, 7pm, SCCT G027); No class Fri	Chapter 8	
Week of 10/13	Business Costs and Production, Perfect Competition. No class Fri, fall break	Chapter 8 and 9	
Week of 10/20	No class Mon (conference), Perfect Competition, Monopoly	Chapter 9, 10	PS 5
Week of 10/27	Measuring the Macroeconomy, Quiz 2 (Fri, Oct 31)	Chapter 19	PS 6
Week of 11/3	Unemployment	Chapter 19, 20	PS 7
Week of 11/10	No class Mon (Conference); Unemployment; Inflation	Chapter 20, 21	PS 8
Week of 11/17	Inflation; Midterm 2 (Wed, Nov 19, 7 pm, SCCT G027); No class Fri	Chapter 21	
Week of 11/24	Thanksgiving Recess--No classes		
Week of 12/1	Economic Growth, AD-AS model	Chapter 24, 26	PS 9
Week of 12/8	Fiscal and Monetary Policy	Chapter 28,29, 31	PS 11
Week of 12/15	Final Exam, 9am, Dec 16th, Location TBA		

*Subject to change. Updates will be announced in class and on Blackboard.