

ECON 101—Principles of Microeconomics

Course Information

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Office Hours: MWF–8:00a–9:00a, TR–8:30a–9:30a, and by appointment

Course Description

Principles of Microeconomics is an introduction to decision-making for individuals, firms, and government. The goal is to analyze how each of these economic agents interact with one another to determine the allocation of scarce resources—typically through markets.

This course is designed to study these interactions and decisions in a world characterized by scarcity. Such scarcity provides us with many challenges that force us to consider the effects of decisions made. The models from this course can facilitate a greater understanding of *how* these choices are made and provide tools to analyze and predict the outcome of interactions.

Course Materials

There are plenty of materials that could be useful for this course. This section outlines some specific suggestions and highlights the required elements. It is expected that you will already have access to our LMS: Canvas.

LaunchPad (Required)

LaunchPad will be used for our weekly graded homework. Purchasing LaunchPad also comes with access to an online version of our textbook (see below), which you will be expected to read independently and use for study. A link to your specific LaunchPad course can be found on Canvas or here:

- For the 9:30am class:
<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/krugmanwellsmicro4/6156046>
- For the 10:45am class:
<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/krugmanwellsmicro4/6157333>

Access for LaunchPad can be purchased at the bookstore or independently through the publisher when following the link for your specific course. You will also follow your corresponding course link to set up temporary access, should you choose.

LaunchPad has multiple practice opportunities including LearningCurve and Practice Homework, for each chapter. LearningCurve is an adaptive learning program that will be a good comprehension test when paired with reading the text. The Practice Homework will pull 20-25 questions from the test bank at random for you to use with practice. These homework do not count for a grade and can be taken an infinite number of times. Because questions are pulled from a pool, each Practice Homework attempt will be unique for each student on each attempt.

Textbook (Optional)

Our textbook this semester will be: *Microeconomics* (4th Edition) by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (ISBN-13: 978-1464143878). You do not need a physical copy of the book, however, if you prefer reading on paper as opposed to digitally, this may be a good option for you. The bookstore will be selling a physical version of the book bundled with access to LaunchPad, if this is what you want. Should you choose to buy independently through another source, the ISBN above will guide you to the correct choice.

Coursework

This course will be graded out of 650 points. All coursework can be divided into three categories: Homework, Papers, and Exams.

Homework

I will assign graded homework over the course of the semester, one for each chapter covered. We will cover approximately seventeen chapters and each chapter's homework will be scaled to be worth the same amount (10 points), regardless of the number of questions. At the end of the semester, the points you earn on these homework will be scaled to 150 points.¹ Homework will always be due Sunday at 11:59 pm the Sunday after we finish a chapter. You will have two attempts on each week's homework and 30 minutes per attempt, though the questions will change slightly for each attempt. The highest score of these two attempts will represent your final grade for that homework.

No homework makeups will be allowed as they are online, so be sure to plan your week accordingly and work ahead, if need be.

Papers

My goal in this course is for you to see how the theories we discuss are applicable to your own life and decision-making. To assist in this endeavor, you will be assigned ten papers this semester with each paper contributing 10 possible points toward your final grade. The papers are meant to be short, well-written, applied pieces over any subject matter you choose. Papers will be uploaded to their associated folder on Canvas (<https://canvas.emory.edu>) and submissions must be uploaded prior to the deadline using the following formatting.

- Minimum length: Two paragraphs.
- Maximum length: One page.
- Spacing: Single-spaced.
- Font Size: 12 point.
- Font: Any standard font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc.)
- Target Audience: Someone who has never taken an Economics course.

¹For example, assuming we cover all seventeen chapters there will be 170 points possible for all homework. If you earn 140 points, then your percentage of 140/170 will be scaled to be out of 150. You will earn 123.53 points towards your final grade.

For each paper, your goal will be the same. **First**, you must describe a situation. This could be a true story from your own life, a true story of a friend or someone you know, or something you saw/heard from the news.² **Second**, describe a concept from the previous week of material and how it applies to the situation you have described. In other words, tell me how your situation represents something we've recently learned about. Because your target audience is someone without an economics background, be sure to define the economic concept in layman's terms.

Exams

You will have four exams this semester, each of which will be worth 100 points. Exams are held approximately once every four weeks. The first three exams will only cover new material while the last exam (Final Exam) will be cumulative in nature.

Exams will be combination of multiple choice and short answer. For multiple choice questions, your best resource will be the weekly graded homework (which will generally be multiple choice), and practice homework that will consist of a pool of multiple choice questions for each chapter of material we cover in class. Short answer questions are designed to be applied to test your understanding in a more thorough manner by presenting you with situations that require you to apply concepts.

Exams will be taken in class; please check the course schedule and calendar on Canvas for these dates.

Grading

With three types of coursework, the point breakdown for the course is as follows:

Item	Point Breakdown	Total Points Possible
Homework	Unknown number @ 10 points each	(Scaled to) 150 points
Papers	10 papers @ 10 points each	100 points
Exams	4 exams @ 100 points each	400 points
Total		650 points

Final grades for the course will be determined exclusively based on the number of points you earn across all coursework for the semester. *No rounding will occur after the semester, no matter how close you come to a threshold for a higher grade.* In order to earn each letter grade, you must earn *at least* the points listed in the following table:

Letter Grade	Necessary Points	Letter Grade	Necessary Points
A	604	C+	500
A–	585	C	455
B+	565	D	390
B	539	F	0
B–	520		

²If you have another idea for a situation source, please check with me before writing your paper.

Expectations

In order to maximize the amount of learning for everyone, there are some rules I expect everyone to follow throughout the semester. These expectations should be treated like a contract and your continued registration in the course constitutes an acceptance of these terms. Failing to follow these will result in a penalty at the discretion of the instructor.

Conduct

Students are expected to be respectful to one another and the instructor at all times. This includes (but is not limited to) class responses, submitted assignments, interactions with students on Canvas, and class discussions. Likewise, I will always treat you with respect during class and other interactions. At times in this course, opinions will be elicited and often times one student's opinion will differ from those of another. These differences will be discussed in a respectful fashion and each student is entitled to his or her opinion.

I treat this course as a "two-way" street. My goal is to provide the best education possible for you while covering the topics that need to be discussed prior to semester's end. If at any point you have suggestions or comments, I welcome them. If I am going too fast in class, or too slow, say so. If something is unclear, ask for clarification or help. I will not be able to adjust things without knowing about them.

Electronic devices are all around us and learning to responsibly use those devices is important. In class, refrain from using cell phones. If you need to make a call or respond to a message, step out of class as these actions are distracting to those around you. If you want, you may use a laptop/tablet to take notes, though keep the use of these to electronic devices to class-related learning.

Academic Honesty

The Honor Code is strictly enforced in this class. Academic dishonesty may include giving or receiving help on exams, plagiarizing material, copying another student's work, and more. Please familiarize yourself with the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code will result in a penalty at the discretion of the instructor, but will typically result in the automatic award of an 'F' for the course.

Attendance and Communication

Any changes to the course will be made via Canvas announcements. Check these often, especially if you must miss class. You are expected to attend class, and will be directed to fellow classmates should you miss some time.

If something happens to prevent you from fully participating in class, communicate this with me immediately. In such moments, we can figure out a plan of action to ensure that the course remains manageable to you.

All assignments (with the exception of exams) and course material can be found on Canvas. Check Canvas often to make sure that you are keeping up.

Accommodations

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations,

students must contact OAS and complete the registration process. Faculty may not provide disability accommodations until an accommodation letter has been processed; accommodations are not retroactive. Students registered with OAS who receive a letter outlining specific academic accommodations are strongly encouraged to coordinate a meeting time with their professor to discuss a protocol to implement the accommodations as needed throughout the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the semester as possible. Contact OAS for more information at (770) 784-4690 or oas_oxford@emory.edu. Additional information is available at the OAS website at <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html>.

Religious Holiday Arrangements

Instructors are encouraged, not required, to accommodate students' academic needs related to religious holidays. Please make every effort to negotiate your religious holiday needs within the first two weeks of the semester; waiting longer may compromise your instructors ability to extend satisfactory arrangements. If you need guidance negotiating your needs related to a religious holiday, the College Chaplain, Rev. Lyn Pace, ppace@emory.edu, Candler Hall 202, is willing and available to help. Please be aware that Rev. Pace is not tasked with excusing students from classes or writing excuses for students to take to their professors. Emorys official list of religious holidays may be found at http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith_traditions/holidays.html.

Course Structure and Schedule

On Canvas and as a separate document, I will outline the schedule for this course. This schedule is tentative and I reserve the right to amend the schedule at any time. When changes are made, I will update Canvas and the separate Course Schedule, as well as describe the changes via Canvas announcement.