

Econ 101.2J
T,Th 2:30-3:45 p.m.
Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2011

Instructor: Frank Maddox

318 Seney Hall

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Office Hours: M-Th: 1:00-2:00 p.m..

Course Description: Econ 101 provides an examination of the role of markets and prices in the allocation and distribution of goods and services all within the context of scarcity. The course begins by analyzing the forces of demand and supply and the determination of equilibrium prices. Next the concept of elasticity is used to enhance the market model's ability to address real-world applications such as oil markets. Next, the impact of government intervention upon markets is explored via legal prices and tax policy. Using the concepts of consumer and producer surplus, the student establishes a metric for evaluating the efficiency outcomes available via markets and the impact of market failure or government intervention upon the normative economic ideal of the efficient market. The course then focuses on producer decisions, costs of production, and the concept of profit maximization. These topics are combined for an analysis of the four major types of product market structures: pure competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly. The course then examines both conceptual and institutional issues regarding the operation of labor and other input markets. International trade issues, including tariffs, quotas, and arguments for free trade are discussed. Public policy and market failures as well as the microeconomics of taxation are explored.

Course Objective: The goal of Econ 101 is to provide an introduction to the economic way of thinking and to the economist's view of the world. The course attempts to develop a student's ability to think analytically about the economic forces at work in

society. Students learn both a specific set of analytical tools and how to apply them to current policy issues. Students will learn to critique the role of the prevailing orthodoxy embodied in neoclassical theory and explore the policy ramifications of employing alternate orthodoxies.

Method of Instruction: The course is taught with a combination of lecture, discussions, homework problems, writing prompts, and examinations. Class interaction and the analysis of specific economic problems are stressed. We will use iclickers this semester. Purchase an iclicker from the bookstore and bring to each class.

Academic Integrity: There is zero tolerance of any breach of academic integrity in this course. Students are asked to re-read and ask any questions about the Oxford Student Honor Code. The Honor Code will be strictly enforced.

Required Texts/equipment: Mankiw, Gregory N. Principles of Microeconomics (5th edition) SouthWestern/ Cengage Learning, 2009. Aplia will provide students with on-line practice and graded homework assignments. Students are required to purchase an iclicker.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required and will be recorded each class period. One point will be deducted from the student's final numerical course grade for each absence in excess of three absences.

Examinations, Homeworks, and Quizzes: There will be two in-term exams and a comprehensive final exam. Several homeworks and announced quizzes will be assigned during the semester. Homeworks will include problem sets, Aplia assignments and writing responses to assigned readings. We will use "iclicker" personal response devices—the iclicker will be used to record attendance, monitor class participation, and enhance engagement during the class.

Grading Policy: Each exams accounts for 25% of the course grade—Aplia homeworks, other homework types and, announced quizzes will account for the remaining 25% of the grade. Several of your assignments will be ungraded; ungraded but completed work will be assigned a numerical grade of 94—the lowest numerical value of an A grade. Your numerical average will be converted into a final letter grade:

A = 94 up to 100

A- = 90 up to 94

B+ = 87 up to 90

B = 84 up to 87

B- = 80 up to 84

C+ = 77 up to 80

C = 74 up to 77

C- = 70 up to 74

D+ = 67 up to 70

D = 60 up to 67

F = 0 up to 60

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required and will be recorded. One point will be deducted from the student's final numerical grade for each absence in excess of three absences.

Make-up Examination Policy: Make-up exams are permitted only with the permission of the instructor for cases which are deemed appropriate. In all cases it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor via email, phone message, or in person PRIOR to the scheduled exam regarding a situation which precludes taking the exam.

Important Dates

January 12 Wednesday Classes Begin

January 17 Monday Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

January 19 Wednesday Last day for changing courses

March 4 Friday Last day for dropping courses without academic penalty

March 7-11 Monday-Friday Spring recess

April 26 Tuesday Classes End

April 27 Wednesday Reading Day

April 28-29 Exams

Course Outline

Week 1; January 12-15

Chapter 1. Ten Principles of Economics

Week 2: January 17-21

Chapter 2. Thinking Like an Economist

Chapter 3. Interdependence and the Gains from Trade

Week 3; January 24-28

Chapter 4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand

Chapter 5. Elasticity and Its Application

Week 4; January 31-February 4

Chapter 6. Supply Demand and Government Policies

Chapter 7. Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets

Week 5; February 7-11

Chapter 7. Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets (cont.)

Chapter 8. Application: the Cost of Taxation

Week 6; February 14-18

February 15th Exam 1 (Chapters 1-8)

Chapter 9. Application: International Trade

Week 7; February 21-25

Chapter 10. Externalities

Chapter 11. Public Goods and Common Resources

Week 8; February 28th – March 4

Chapter 12. The Design of the Tax System

Chapter 13. Production Costs

Week 9; March 7-11

Spring Break

Week 10; March 14-18

Chapter 13. Production Costs (continued)

Week 11; March 21-25

Chapter 14. Firms in Competitive Markets

March 24th Exam 2 (Chapters 9-14)

Week 12; March 28-April 1

Chapter 15. Monopoly

Chapter 16. Monopolistic Competition

Week 13; April 4-8

Chapter 17. Oligopoly

Week 14; April 11-15

Chapter 18. The Markets for the Factors of Production

John Nash Movie

Week 15; April 18-22

Chapter 19. Earnings and Discrimination

Chapter 20. Income Inequality and Poverty

Week 16; April 25-26

Review /Course Evaluation

April 27 – Reading Day

Final Exam –Comprehensive