

Econ 101
Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2006

Instructor: Frank Maddox
318 Seney Hall
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Office Hours: M-Th 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

Course Description: Econ 101 provides an examination of the role of markets and prices in the allocation and distribution of goods and services. The course begins by analyzing the forces of demand and supply and the determination of equilibrium prices. Consumer responsiveness to changes in income and prices is explored. 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.

Method of Instruction: The course is taught with a combination of lecture, discussions, problem sets, papers, projects, and examinations. Class interaction and the analysis of specific economic problems are stressed

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 Text: Stiglitz, Joseph E. & Carl E. Walsh Principles of Microeconomics (3rd edition) Norton Press, 2002.

Examinations: There will be two in-term exams and a final exam. The dates assigned for the exams will not change. However the material covered on each exam may deviate from the course schedule according to progress in lectures.

Grading Policy: Each in-term exam accounts for 25% of the course grade The final accounts for 25% of the course grade. Homework, quizzes, papers, & projects are worth 25% of the grade. Exams and homework will be graded numerically. Your numerical average will be converted into a 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 each class period. One point will be deducted from the student's final numerical course grade for each absence in excess of three absences.

Make-up examination Policy: Make-ups will be permitted only with written support (approved by the instructor) of serious situations that preclude the student's ability to take the exam during the scheduled time.

Important Dates

January 18th – Classes begin
 January 24 Drop/add period ends
 February 16 - Exam I
 March 13-17- Spring Break
 March 30 - Exam II
 Final Exam – see exam schedule

Course Outline

Week 1, January 18-20
 Chapter 1. Economics and the New Economy

Week 2; January 23-27
 Chapter 2 Thinking Like an Economist
 Chapter 3 Trade

Week 3: January 30- Feb 3
 Chapter 4. Demand, Supply, and Price
 Chapter 5. Using Supply and Demand

Week 4; February 6-10
 Chapter 6. The Consumption Decision

Week 5; February 13-17

Chapter 7. The Firm's Costs

Feb 16 – Exam 1 (Chapters 1-7 (partial))

Week 6; February 20-24

Chapter 8. The Competitive Firm

Week 7; February 27- March 3

Chapter 9. Labor and Capital Markets

Week 8; March 6-10

Chapter 10. The Efficiency of Competitive Markets

Week 9; March 13-17 Spring Break- no classes

Week 10; March 20-24

Chapter 11. Introduction to Imperfect Markets

Week 11; March 27-31

Chapter 12. Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition, and Oligopoly

Exam 2 March 30 (Chapters 7 (partial)-12)

Week 12; April 3-7

Dennis (guest)- Tuesday

Chapter 21. Environmental Economics

Chapter 19. Strategic Behavior

Week 13; April 10-14

Chapter 13. Government Policies Toward Competition

Chapter 14. Imperfect Information in the Product Market

Week 14; April 17-21

Chapter 15. Imperfections in the Labor Market

Chapter 16. The Public Sector

Chapter 18. Trade Policy

Week 15; April 24-28

Chapter 20. Technological Change

Interbeing Project Presentations

Week 16; May 1-2

Interbeing Project Presentations

Review & Course Evaluation