

Econ 101.10J
T,Th 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Econ 101.2J
2:30-3:45 p.m.
Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2010

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

August 25	Wednesday	Classes Begin
August 31	Tuesday	Last day for drop/add
September 6	Monday	Labor Day Holiday
September 28	Thursday	Exam 1
October 11-12	Monday-Tuesday	Mid-Semester Break
October 15	Friday	Last day for dropping courses without academic Penalty
November 9	Tuesday	Exam 2
November 24-28	Wednesday-Friday	Thanksgiving Break
December 7	Tuesday	Classes End

Course Outline

Week 1; August 25-27

Chapter 1. Ten Principles of Economics

Week 2: August 30-September 3

Chapter 2. Thinking Like an Economist

Chapter 3. Interdependence and the Gains from Trade

Week 3; September 6-10

Chapter 4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand

Chapter 5. Elasticity and Its Application

Week 4; September 13-17

Chapter 6. Supply Demand and Government Policies

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

Week 5; September 20-24

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

Chapter 8. Application: the Cost of Taxation

Week 6; September 27-October 1

September 28th Exam 1 (Chapters 1-8)

Chapter 9. Application: International Trade

Week 7; October 4-8

Chapter 10. Externalities

Chapter 11. Public Goods and Common Resources

Week 8; October 11-15

Chapter 12. The Design of the Tax System

Chapter 13. Production Costs

Week 9; October 18-22

Spring Break

Week 10; October 25-29

Chapter 13. Production Costs (continued)

Week 11; November 1-5

Chapter 14. Firms in Competitive Markets

Week 12; November 8-12

November 9th Exam 2 (Chapters 9-14)

Chapter 15. Monopoly

Week 13; November 15-19

Chapter 16. Monopolistic Competition

Chapter 17. Oligopoly

Week 14; November 22-26

Chapter 17. Oligopoly (cont.)

Chapter 18. The Markets for the Factors of Production

Week 15; November 29-December 3

Chapter 19. Earnings and Discrimination

Chapter 20. Income Inequality and Poverty

Week 16; December 6-7

Review /Course Evaluation

December 8th – Reading Day

Final Exam –Comprehensive