

Principles of Microeconomics



Knowledge that will change your world

You are responsible for the material contained in the syllabus. Changes to this syllabus may be necessary and will be announced in class and updated on the online syllabus. It is your responsibility to be aware of any changes.

Course Information

Course Title: Principles of Microeconomics
Course Number: EC 210-AU
Class Meets: MW 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM in CSB 101

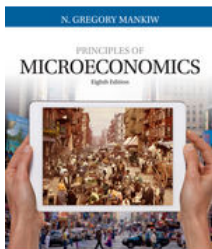
Instructor Information

Professor: Joshua J. Robinson, Ph.D.
Office: CSB 284
Phone: 975-1987
Email: jjr@uab.edu
Office Hours: MW 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM or by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course in microeconomics. In this class you will learn how rational individuals and firms make decisions, how those decisions are influenced by incentives, and how those decisions ultimately determine the way markets function (and in some cases, why they fail to function properly). In order to do this, you will learn the concepts of opportunity cost, cost benefit analysis, and making decisions at the margin. We will apply these concepts to understand the implications of market structure and public policy on consumers and producers. The overall goal of this course is equip you with the tools to become a more effective problem solver and to teach you to “think like an economist.”

Textbook



Principles of Microeconomics, by Gregory Mankiw, 8th edition. MINDTAP

Grading

Your grade will be composed of three exams, homework, article analysis response papers, as well as class participation. The percentage breakdown is as follows:

Exam 1	23%
Exam 2	23%
Exam 3 (Final Exam)	23%
Homework	16%
Article Analyses	10%
Class Participation	5%

- Exams are not cumulative (including the final); however, the material builds on itself. Failure to understand material from the first test will hurt you on the second test and the final. Please do not hesitate to ask for help, even concerning older material.
- Your homework score is based on your timely submission of chapter homework assignments using the Aplia app in your MindTap textbook.
- Throughout the semester I will assign approximately 3 “article analysis” assignments. You will choose an article from the popular press (newspaper, magazine, online news source, etc.), briefly summarize the article, and provide commentary on how this article is related to economic analysis. These should be about 2 pages in length.
- Your class participation score is based on your adherence to the UAB School of Business Code of Professional Conduct (which can be found below) and attendance.
- Class participation and discussion is extremely important in an economics class. I encourage you to interrupt the lecture at any time to ask a question (I may have to wait until after class to answer it if we are time constrained). Also, I encourage you to bring questions to class from outside sources (news, magazines, newspapers, etc.).
- **Missed exam policy:** You must notify me at least 24 hours before any class you miss to be excused for a missed exam. Failure to do so will result in you failing the exam. It is your responsibility to contact me and schedule a make-up exam within 7 days of the original exam date. Failure to do so will result in you failing the exam. You must be present to take the final exam. **There will be no exceptions to this policy.**
- I will round your final average up to the next whole point. I will not make any other adjustments to grades at the end of the semester. No exceptions.

Students with disabilities

I will honor all necessary accommodations validated through the UAB Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). They can be found on the web at: <http://main.uab.edu/Sites/students/services/disability-support/>

Schedule of Topics

Date	Topic	Chapter(s)
8/26	Introduction, Course Objectives	Chapter 1
8/28	Methodology, Economic Reasoning	Chapter 2
9/2	LABOR DAY, NO CLASS	
9/4	Gains from Trade	Chapter 3
9/9	Gains from Trade, Markets	Chapter 3, Chapter 4
9/11	Market Forces of Supply and Demand	Chapter 4
9/16	Market Forces of Supply and Demand	Chapter 4
9/18	Elasticity	Chapter 5
9/23	Elasticity	Chapter 5
9/25	EXAM 1	
9/30	Markets and Government Policy	Chapter 6
10/2	Markets and Government Policy	Chapter 6
10/7	Efficiency and Welfare	Chapter 7
10/9	Costs of Taxation	Chapter 8
10/14	Externalities	Chapter 10
10/16	Externalities	Chapter 10
10/18	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW	
10/21	Public Goods	Chapter 11
10/23	Common Resources	Chapter 11
10/28	EXAM 2	
10/30	Costs of Production	Chapter 13
11/4	Costs of Production, Markets	Chapter 13, Chapter 14
11/6	Competitive Markets	Chapter 14
11/11	Monopoly	Chapter 15
11/13	Monopoly	Chapter 15
11/19	Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 16
11/21	Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 16
11/26	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/28		
12/3	Oligopoly	Chapter 17
12/5	Oligopoly	Chapter 17

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 9th from 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

School of Business Code of Professional Conduct

The Code on the last page was created by the UAB School of Business, not the instructor, for all courses and is required for all classes in the School of Business.

Code of Professional Classroom Conduct - UAB School of Business

The behavior expected in class is that exhibited by professionals in a business meeting.

This is the official policy for classes in the UAB School of Business

You are a student in a business class at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The mission of the School of Business is to prepare graduates to be successfully employed as business professionals. To accomplish that mission, the faculty is committed to teaching you:

1. core knowledge of business functions and processes used by business professionals and
2. knowledge of behavioral expectations that the business world will have for you.

To be successful in your career, whatever your chosen path, you should learn how to plan, organize and control some business or business-like operations. Additionally, you will have to know how to conduct yourself in professional settings. What you say, how you say it, how you dress, and how you present yourself will all significantly affect your ability to secure employment as a professional and to succeed in your career. It is the faculty's goal and responsibility to help you understand both the concepts of business and the behavior that will help you to excel in your career. With these goals in mind, a **Code of Professional Classroom Conduct** that is consistent with workplace expectations has been adopted for School of Business classes.

1. ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION

- a. Attend all class meetings.
 - i. Class meetings are considered normal work assignments. Failing to attend class is equivalent to missing a day's work.
 - ii. If you must miss class, inform your instructor in advance (or as soon as is practical) of the reason for your failure to meet your obligation. If you are ill, do not attend class, but inform the instructor. Absences will be excused when a legitimate and documented reason is presented in a timely manner.
- b. Be on time and don't expect to leave early. Showing up late to work and "slipping away early" are unacceptable workplace and business classroom behaviors. If you become ill or have a legitimate reason to leave class early, inform your instructor of the circumstances at an appropriate time.
- c. Be prepared and participate meaningfully in all class meetings.
- d. Be interested and be interesting to others in your class. Engage your instructor and peers in meaningful discussion of the class topics. In business meetings, participants must be engaged and make contributions. Placing your head on your desk and/or sleeping is not allowed.
- e. Come to class prepared to contribute meaningfully in discussions. Class assignments are akin to business work assignments. Failing to do assigned work is not acceptable.
- f. Ask questions to seek understanding and answer questions to the best of your ability.

2. DRESS CODE

- a. Neat and clean casual attire is expected. Dress for the occasion – a business class.
- b. Casual caps or hats (such as baseball caps) are not to be worn inside of buildings or in business meetings.
- c. Shirts with vulgar or unprofessional language or visual images are inappropriate. Clothing that is suited for parties, sporting events and other social occasions may not be suited for business meetings.

3. CLASSROOM PARTICULARS

- a. Cheating is not allowed. Persons found guilty will be subject to UAB prescribed policies for academic misconduct, which can entail serious penalties.
- b. Gum or tobacco use is not allowed in the classroom.
- c. Activities not related to the present class are not allowed (e.g., sleeping, reading, etc.).
- d. Turn all cell phones off. If you anticipate an emergency call, set the phone to vibrate.
- e. The use of cell phones for talking and/or text messaging in class is not allowed.
- f. Laptop computers and other electronic devices may be used but only to take notes or actively participate in the classroom activities. Surfing the Internet, playing games, reviewing materials unrelated to your class is unprofessional and not allowed.
- g. Passing notes and whispering in class are inappropriate behaviors for a professional setting.
- h. Do not walk around during class. Avoid leaving the class for any reason. If you must depart, do so quietly and respectfully.

If you believe you will have any difficulty fulfilling any of these expectations, please discuss your concerns with your instructor at the beginning of the semester. Special accommodations will be made if justified.