

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 201)

Fall 2019

Instructor: Melissa Wilson

Office: PLC

Email: mwilson6@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:30PM

Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday: 4:00-5:20PM 240C MCK

Prerequisites: MATH 111 highly recommended

Course Objective: My objective for this class is to provide you with an economic approach to thinking. My preferred definition of “economics” is the study of incentives, and my teaching approach aims to align both your and my own incentives to ensure a successful term. By studying incentives, you can predict and analyze actions taken by both individuals and societies. This knowledge is readily applied to nearly all disciplines and aspects of life.

Textbook: The textbook for this course is *Principles of Microeconomics* (2nd edition) by Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock. There are numerous ways in which students may purchase the book. The first edition of the book is a suitable alternative. Two versions of the textbook, one 2nd edition and one 1st edition, are available in the library for reserve. ISBN numbers for the textbook are as follows:

Ebook: 978-0-393-62402-1 (\$70 from publisher)

Print: 978-0393614084 (\$125(ish) on Amazon, \$185 from publisher)

Homework: There will be about 10 homework assignments throughout the course. Homework will be completed on Canvas under the “Quizzes” tab. There will be no time limit for the “Quiz” and you will have only one attempt for each question. The homework questions will vary in difficulty and are a representation of potential quiz and exam questions. Once announced, I will provide a minimum of 48 hours for completion. Most homework will be due 11:59pm on Wednesdays, unless otherwise announced in class or on Canvas. With no exceptions, late submissions will receive a score of zero. To allow for unexpected events (for example, computer problems) your lowest homework assignment for the term will be dropped from your grade.

Additional Canvas Resources: There will be additional practice materials posted to Canvas. These will not be graded, but provide another resource to help you study and prepare for exams. All announcements made to Canvas should be considered updates or alterations to the syllabus.

Discussion Section Quizzes: A multiple-choice, graphing, or short answer format will be used for all quizzes and you will have thirty minutes to complete them. You should bring a #2 lead pencil and a good eraser. Calculators are not allowed on the quizzes. The quizzes will be administered in class on Friday **10/11** and **11/15**. In terms of grading, quizzes will count as a homework assignment.

Exams: A multiple-choice format will be used for all exams. You should bring the following to each: (1) #2 lead pencils, (2) a good eraser, (3) a scientific or four-function calculator only, and (4) your student ID card. Scantrons will be provided. Your ID number must be placed on the Scantron to receive credit for the exam. Calculators are not allowed on the exam. All cell phones must be turned off during examination periods. Use of a cell phone will result in a 0 on the exam. All exams will take place in the same classroom as lectures during the scheduled class time.

No makeup quizzes or exams will be given for any reason. If the midterm exam or quiz is missed, a petition fully explaining and documenting why the exam was missed must be submitted within three days of the exam in question. If the petition is approved, then the weight of the missed exam will be added to the original weight of the final exam. The alternative is for the earned zero to be recorded for the missed exam. An excused absence is one supported by official documentation bearing proof of university business, serious injury or illness, or a death in the family.

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on two quizzes, the midterm exam, homework, and the final exam. The final will be comprehensive. If needed, the course will be graded on a curve. In no instance will the implementation of the curve lower your grade. The course is designed such that the median grade is a C. Periodically throughout the course, I will provide grade updates. The grading breakdown is below:

35%	Homework and Quizzes	
30%	Midterm	10/31/2019
35%	Final Exam	12/10/2019

Grade Appeals: Any requests for re-grading on an exam must be submitted in writing within *one week* of when the graded exam is made available. If you do not pick up your exam when it is available, you still must make any re-grading request within a week of when the exam was originally made available. A re-grading request should include a rationale for why you feel your answer was correct.

Computers and Technology: Students are permitted to use computers for note taking during the course. However, if you choose to use a computer you must sit in the back row of the classroom or behind the other students in the room. In addition, I may call on you to answer questions that require internet access. Cellphones should not be heard during class (note: just because a cellphone is set to vibrate does not mean it cannot be heard).

Academic Integrity: All exams will be closed note and closed book. You may have a pen or pencil and a ruler or straightedge at your desk while taking an exam. Any other forms of assistance or sources of information are prohibited. I will provide a seating chart on exam days. Any violations of academic integrity involving an exam will result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, an incident report will be filed with the University's Hearing Board. *The submission of all exams will require the presentation of a valid UO ID card without exception.*

Class Attendance: Class attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. It is unlikely you will receive a satisfactory grade in the class without attending lecture. If class is missed, it is up to you to learn the material discussed that day. Exam, quizzes, and homework may contain questions on materials discussed in class, which are not in the textbook. I will make an effort to post lecture material on Canvas, but do not guarantee all material will be posted.

Extra Credit: There is a single opportunity for extra credit in the course. Anytime from the start of the term until Friday of Week 10 (the last Friday before your final), you may submit a summary of a current event article via email to your **lab instructor**. Absolutely no late submissions are accepted. Please save your document as a pdf prior to emailing.

The article summary should include:

- 1) a link to your current event article,
- 2) a minimum of 100 word summary of the article/current event,
- 3) a minimum of 400 word analysis of how the article/current event relates to a concept you learned in class. Be sure to explicitly state the relevant topics covered in class.

Once submitted, I will determine if the submission meets the requirement for extra credit. If it does not, you will be allowed to modify and resubmit up until December 6. If you successfully complete the extra credit, it will improve your grade on the margin. Specifically, if your final grade is within 0.2 percentage points of a grade cutoff, I will raise your letter grade up to the next cutoff. For example, if the cutoff between a C+ and a B- is 76.5% and your final grade is a 76.35%, you would receive a B- if you did the extra credit. If you did not do the extra credit, you would receive a C+. If your final grade is not within 0.2 percentage points of a grade cutoff, completing the extra assignment will not impact your letter grade.

Lab Instructors:

Connor Wiegand 9am

E-mail: cwiegand@uoregon.edu

Office: 819 PLC

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:00-1:00PM

Shihab Siddiqui 10am and 11am

E-mail: smshihab@uoregon.edu

Office: 828 PLC

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 4:00-5:00PM

Important Dates:

Date	Event
10/01/19	First day of class
10/11/19	Quiz 1
10/31/19	Midterm
11/15/19	Quiz 2
12/10/19	Final: 2:45PM

Guide to readings: Below is a tentative class outline. All readings and topics are subject to change. Page numbers and chapters refer to Principles of Microeconomics (2nd edition) by Mateer and Coppock.

The following schedule is subject to change based on the pace of the class and how well students perform on homework and quizzes/exams.

<u>Tentative Outline of the Lectures:</u>	<u>Assigned Readings in Parkin</u>
Week 1: Introduction	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Appendix
Week 1: Demand in the Goods Market	Chapter 16 Chapter 16 Appendix : 526-534 Chapter 3: 70-85 Chapter 5: 150-155
Week 2: Supply in the Goods Market	Chapter 2: 33-39 Chapter 3: 85-97 Chapter 5: 155-157
Week 3 & 4: Demand and Supply	<u>Chapter 3 Appendix</u> <u>Chapter 5: 158-161</u> <u>Chapter 8: 244-251</u> <u>Chapter 9: 274-283</u>
Week 5: Elasticity	<u>Chapter 4</u>
Week 6: Taxes	<u>Chapter 5: 162-177</u>
Week 6: Other Government Intervention	<u>Chapter 6</u>
Week 7: Externalities and Public Goods	<u>Chapter 7</u>
Week 8: International Trade (TBD)	Chapter 2: 39-51 Chapter 19
Week 8: Supply and Demand <i>Round 2</i>	<u>Chapter 8</u> <u>Chapter 9: 284-301</u> <u>Chapter 16 Appendix: 534-538</u>
Week 9: Monopoly	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Week 10: Game Theory	Chapter 13: 400-408
Week 10: Risky Behavior or Health Care (TBD)	Chapter 17 or Chapter 18