

ECONOMICS 2001: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS (HONORS)
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Spring 2020 Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Doug Weimer
Class Hours: Section 1: 10:30 am – 11:50 am; Tuesday & Thursday
Class Location: Room 112, Tureaud Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm in the BEC Commons or contact me for an appointment at a mutually convenient time. I recently retired from LSU Continuing Education and don't have an office on campus, but can meet you at the Student Union, Library or BEC.
Office (Mobile) Phone: 225/892-7758
Email: sccdoug@lsu.edu

Course Description:

Economics 2001 is the honors version of ECON 2000, a General Education course. Credit will not be given for both this course and ECON 2000 or ECON 2030. Study of how households and firms make decisions and how they interact in specific markets; theories of production, price determination, trade, externalities and public goods.

This course is a General Education Course in the area of Social Science. The goal of such courses is to ensure LSU graduates demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural, and linguistic forces. The object of this course is not to make you a theorist or practicing economist, but:

“Your study of economics should make your private decisions more effective, and your views on social issues more subtle and balanced. It may not make you more popular, however. Economics has been called “the dismal science” because economists are always telling people what is wrong with superficially attractive solutions to social problems.” (Professor Jack Hirshleifer).

Required Text and Online Resources:

Text: *The Micro Economy Today*, 15th edition, by Bradley R. Schiller with Karen Gebhardt, McGraw-Hill Education, which includes the McGraw-Hill Connect package (eBook, LearnSmart and Smartbook adaptive online study tool). The local bookstores have this package in stock – ISBN 978-1260678550.

McGraw-Hill Connect:

You cannot expect to do well in this course without reading and studying the assigned material in the text. While your class notes and attending the lectures will help you better understand the material, they are not a substitute for reading and studying the text.

The homework assignments will be completed through the **McGraw-Hill Connect** website. I will also assign other useful materials through this website to further emphasize certain concepts taught in this course. Your Connect account also contains valuable voluntary resources that may be useful to advance your understanding of the material.

When purchasing your book, you may choose from the following options:

- a) Buy a combined custom package from the LSU Bookstore—this includes a new book and a Connect account (ISBN 978-1260678550).
- b) You can simply go to the course Connect website (see below) and purchase access to Connect and have access to the e-book. You can later purchase the loose-leaf edition or a used copy of the book if you feel you need it.

The Connect account has a free trial period of 14 days, so even if you are not sure about continuing in the course, you should register with Connect during the first full week of class. I will assign a homework assignment in the first week of class. To purchase Connect, register your package, or login to our class sections, go to:

<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/d-weimer-spring-2020-section-1-tth-weimer>

Course Website:

Moodle is accessed through your **myLSU** account under Student Services. I will use Moodle to post announcements, grades, and provide other relevant course materials. You should check Moodle daily for announcements.

Grading Policy:

Your grade in this class will be determined by your performance on homework assignments, three mid-term exams, and a cumulative final exam.

Homework Assignments: There will be short homework assignments with most chapters that will be worth 10% of your grade. Two of the homework assignments with the lowest scores will be dropped. You may collaborate with a study group or use your notes and textbook as resources while working through the homework assignments. The homework assignments are web-based assignments that you will complete in McGraw-Hill Connect.

Note: There are LearnSmart assignments in Connect that are available for all the chapters we will cover. The assignments are optional and do not count toward your class grade.

Mid-Term Examinations: There will be three mid-term exams given during the semester. The three exams will count for 60% of your course grade. You may use a basic calculator during the examinations, but no other resources (notes, study guides, etc.) can be used during the mid-term or final examinations. If you miss an exam, you will receive a grade of zero, unless the instructor is notified before the exam and the excuse is a valid one. You have one week from the missed exam date to produce written documentation. If the documentation is not provided, the excuse will be revoked and you will earn a grade of zero for the exam. The Student Absence from Class policy (PS-22) defines a valid excuse and can be found at:

https://www.lsu.edu/policies/ps/ps_22.pdf

There will be no assignments given for extra credit in the course.

Final Examination: A comprehensive final exam is mandatory and will be worth 30% of the course grade. Everyone must take the final exam at the time it is scheduled. Make sure you do not schedule something else for that day. Make-ups for the Final Exam are permitted only if you have a conflict with a final exam in another course, or you have 3 final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period.

Plus-Minus Final Semester Grades: The University uses a “plus-minus” grading system. In this class, final semester grades will follow a 10-point grading scale (i.e. A range 90-100, B range 80-89, etc.) but, the cutoffs for each grade range will be determined by the overall class grade distribution. For example, depending on the distribution, the cutoff for a “B-” may be slightly lower (or higher) than 80%.

| Grading Summary: | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Homework assignments (drop the 2 lowest scores) | 10% |
| 3 mid-term exams | 60% |
| Comprehensive final exam (mandatory) | 30% |

Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct (i.e. cheating, plagiarism) as defined by the LSU Code of Student Conduct will be taken very seriously and acted upon decisively. For the activities that are considered to be academically dishonest and the possible sanctions imposed on a student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty, refer to the *Code of Student Conduct* at:

<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>

Special Needs:

Students who need accommodations because of special needs addressed in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case of emergency building evacuation should inform me of such need at the beginning of the semester. Please see me privately before or after class.

Class policies:

The lectures begin at 10:30 am, so please try to be on time. If you have to leave early, let me know before class begins, otherwise do not leave early. You are expected to attend class and keep up with the reading assignments. If you miss class, you are responsible for finding out what was covered or announced in class. Also, please make sure to turn off your cell phones before entering the classroom. During exams, all electronic devices must be kept stored and unavailable.

Course Outline

The lectures follow the content of the text, but will focus on the most difficult topics in each chapter. You are expected to attend class and keep up with the reading assignments. Your class notes, while important, cannot substitute for the text. Each exam will cover the following chapters in the text:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Exam 1: | Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| Exam 2: | Chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10 |
| Exam 3: | Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 |
| Final Exam: | All the Chapters above PLUS any material covered following Exam 3 |

This is an approximated outline of the course, but it might change depending on how much material we are able to cover in class.

Important Dates / Course Calendar:

January 14: First class meeting

January 20: Martin Luther King Holiday

January 22: Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of "W", 4:30 pm

January 23: Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes, 4:30 pm

February 24 – 26 (12:30pm): Mardi Gras Holiday

March 23 – 29: Spring Break

April 6: Final date for resigning from the University or dropping courses, 4:30 pm

April 6: Final date to request rescheduling a final examination when three examinations are scheduled in 24 hours

April 10: Good Friday Holiday

April 29: Concentrated study period begins

April 30: Last class meeting

May 4 - 9: Final Examinations