

University of New Hampshire

Department of Economics

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 402)
Mon, Wed: 3:40 PM – 5 PM (PCBE, G75)
Fall 2020 Syllabus

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Instructor: Protika Bhattacharjee

Office: 260U (PCBE)

Zoom Office Hours: Monday (11 AM- 12 PM), Thursday (11 AM - 12 PM)

Zoom Moderator: Amanda Kelly (amk1080@wildcats.unh.edu)

Instructor's Email: pb1059@wildcats.unh.edu

2. COURSE INFORMATION:

a. Course Description: Economics is a study of tradeoff decisions that affect our everyday lives. This discipline recognizes that we face limited opportunity and limited time, and at some point, we make tradeoff choices that have a huge impact on our day to day lives. Microeconomics is a study of how households and firms make these types of decisions. This course will introduce you to the kind of thinking that makes internal tradeoff decisions explicit. We will learn some important tools that are required for analyzing basic microeconomic models. Starting from basic concepts of the tradeoff, opportunity cost, and scarcity we will study about market forces of supply and demand cause prices to be what they are.

It is expected that by the end of the semester you will have a better understanding of the economic way of thinking when you have to make the difficult decisions in everyday lives. Finally, this course will help you to understand contemporary policy issues (through analyzing several case studies) that will lead to the development of critical thinking.

b. Learning Objective:

- Apply microeconomic principles to develop accurate assessment of markets and firms.
- Grasp the important concepts elasticity, consumer surplus, producer surplus, taxation, market structure, and public goods.
- Develop critical thinking based on real-life case study analysis.

3. REQUIRED READING:

The required textbook for this class is **Principles of Microeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw, 9th edition, ISBN-13: 978-0-357-13348-4, ISBN: 0-357-13348-X**. You should buy the book which comes with the online supplement, MindTap. I will create all the homework assignments in MindTap. Please check this link for more information: <https://www.cengage.com/c/principles-of-microeconomics-9e-mankiw/9780357133484PF/>.

You will have to purchase the access code. You can also buy the access code from the UNH bookstore. You can find “purchase course material” on the left side of your canvas page. You can click on that link as well to purchase the access code. There are several versions of the book available (eBook, rent, loose-leaf, or bound book).

You can purchase any version you like but make sure that you have access to MindTap. MindTap includes your eBook, homework assignments, and study tools. You can either purchase from the bookstore or directly from Cengage through your course. MindTap for Mankiw’s Principles of Microeconomics, 9/e will cost \$130.00. You also have the option of Cengage Unlimited, a subscription-based option where you would purchase a one semester subscription where they will have access to all course material from Cengage during that time. **** Best Bet:** The cost for one semester is \$119.99. No matter how many courses you are taking that uses Cengage, it’s included. Plus, with Cengage Unlimited, you can rent a hard copy of the text if you would like for \$7.99 and free shipping. **Contact Yvette Martinelli** (yvette.martinelli@cengage.com) if you have questions about access code.

You **must** register for MindTap using the link in Canvas. **Watch this video:** <https://play.vidyard.com/gssLzSQoPmR3cz1vhq5LDw>

4. ROTATIONAL ATTENDANCE:

You are required to adhere to the attendance policies specific to this course as outlined in the syllabus. Attendance will in rotational form for the entire Fall semester. 50% of the total class will be present each day of class. I will make a list of students who will attend the class in-person every Monday and Wednesday. The other 50% of the students will join via zoom. The plan is that students who have registered for Section Econ 402.01 will attend in-person every Monday and students registered for Econ 402.02 will be present in-person every Wednesday. **You must attend in-person on your assigned day and do not switch days with other students. You are required to sit only in marked seats.** You should sit in the same seat for each class period to minimize potential contacts. Please know the names of each of the people sitting closest to you— your nearest neighbors. A picture will be taken of where you are sitting for each class. (the in-person class will end Friday, Nov 20)

*****Do not attend class if you have any symptoms of illness or if your daily Wildcat Pass does not show that you are cleared to participate in classes. Inform me in advance, if possible, if you will be absent from a scheduled in-person class.**

5. CLASSROOM COURTESY AND MANAGEMENT:

As faculty, TAs, and course instructors, we need your help to promote our [#unhtogether](#) COVID response culture. We all have a responsibility during this COVID-19 pandemic to protect our own health and the health of friends and fellow community members. Violations of the COVID protocols by even a single individual can cause significant disruptions or discontinuation of in-person academic activities. Any student creating such disruptions undermines the opportunity for others to learn and engage with the UNH community, and as such, is in serious violation of the UNH [Student Rights, Rules & Responsibilities](#).

You are required to wear masks during the entire lecture time (unless a medical exception is made through an accommodation process). It is your responsibility to obtain a mask before coming to class. For information on the proper use of masks, acceptable mask types, and other PPE and social distancing guidelines visit <https://www.unh.edu/coronavirus>. Failure to comply with PPE and social distancing classroom protocols is a violation of the [Student Rights, Rules](#)

[& Responsibilities](#). If you refuse to comply, you will be asked to leave class immediately and you may also be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students and your associate dean.

Your instructor or TA may be wearing a face shield without a mask during instruction and only while maintaining at least a 6-foot distance from any student.

Prior to class, please wait outside the building, weather permitting, or in the hall or common area, observing social distancing and leaving plenty of room for the prior class to exit the room and building. Obey entrance and egress signage and any additional faculty directions on entering or leaving the classroom.

Each classroom is equipped with hand sanitizer and surface wipes. Use sanitizer as you deem appropriate. Wipe down your personal space prior to class and throw the used wipes away on the way out of the class or take them with you. You are required to sit only in marked seats.

Contract tracing is mandated by the State of New Hampshire. The following practices will facilitate effective contract tracing implementation should the need arise:

- a. Students should sit in the same seat for each class period to minimize potential contacts.
- b. Know the names of your nearest neighbor.
- c. A picture will be taken of where you are sitting for each class.

UNH developed “Wildcat Pass”, a web and mobile app to help each of us to keep track of the requirements for being in compliance with necessary testing, isolation and quarantine rules that will help to keep our community healthy. Log into your Wildcat Pass each day. Be prepared to show your mobile device or a computer printout of your daily Wildcat Pass if asked by a university representative.

****Use of cell phones or other electronic devices other than course-related activities is strictly prohibited by Faculty Senate. Any disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in removal from this class.**

6. ZOOM ATTENDANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

Students who will attend class via zoom are requested to keep themselves muted (unless you have a question) but your video should be on. This class has a zoom moderator who will help me to address any questions you have during the lecture. The zoom moderator will also monitor whether your camera is on and you are paying attention to the lecture. **If you have any questions use the “raise hand” option in the zoom or leave a chat message.** The zoom

moderator will refer those questions to me. I will keep 10 minutes after my lecture to answer questions that you will leave in the zoom chat box. If you have any clarification questions during the lecture use the “raise hand” option (will be addressed immediately). All the lectures will be recorded.

Your classroom is equipped with technology that will provide remote access to class instruction. Because of the need to accommodate potential isolation and quarantine due to the COVID pandemic, lectures or other class meetings for this course may be recorded by the university using UNH media platforms. Such recordings may be available for educational use by students enrolled in the class (including both for instruction and as a review tool), the course instructor(s), and other university officials who support course instruction. Your voice or image may be captured on the recordings, and by enrolling in this course you are consenting to such recording for these purposes. The University and Zoom have FERPA-compliant agreements in place to protect the security and privacy of UNH Zoom accounts. **You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.**

**** Do not share any recordings or class materials (this includes slides, class notes, and exams).**

7. EXAM SCHEDULING AND REMOTE PROCTORING:

This class will use Cengage/Canvas and Zoom to administer and proctor exams. Within the first weeks (*at least 2 weeks prior to any actual required use of the software*) of the semester, we will run a sample test using the required software. You will be asked to agree to the use of [*applicable technologies such as lockdown browser, webcam, recording of video, audio, etc.*] during the sample test. This software will be used for the remainder of the semester for the tests. If you have any problems with the use of technology, contact me to discuss reasonable alternatives. It is my goal to create a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you anticipate any issues related to the testing requirements of this course or need accommodations, please either discuss them directly with me or in conjunction with the Student Accessibility Services Office within the first week of classes to explore alternative options.

All final exams for the Fall 2020 semester will be administered remotely. Scheduling of those exams will follow the normal practice.

8. USE OF CANVAS/ MYCOURSES:

I will communicate about homework assignments, exams, important announcements, and other class matters via Canvas. Please make a habit of checking it regularly. If you don't have access to the course on Canvas or facing any trouble let me now. Since all assignment submissions are online this Semester, please check Canvas every day.

9. ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and any other scholarly activities. I highly recommend going over UNH Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibility.

Handbook. Please familiarize yourself with UNH standards available at <https://www.unh.edu/student-life/student-rights-rules-responsibilities>.

Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct may constitute "Academic Misconduct". Any kind of plagiarism is unacceptable. If you are using someone else's ideas, evidence, etc. you must cite that work. Students are responsible to submit their own work. Any kind of communication or collaboration during exams or in-class quizzes is not acceptable. The Use of cell phones and other electronic devices during the exams is strictly prohibited. Make sure to put cell phones and other electronic devices in your bag before the exam starts. If you have to use the restroom, make sure you don't have your cell phones with you. Any kind of misconduct during the exam will be reported to the Dean's office.

10. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations, please get in touch with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 201 Smith Hall or sas.office@unh.edu. SAS will create accommodation letters. Please notify me as soon as possible if you need special accommodation during the exams. **Please remember that exams will be online.**

11. CAMPUS RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

Your academic success and overall mental health are very important. If, during the semester, you find you are experiencing emotional or mental health issues, please contact UNH [Psychological & Counseling Services \(PACS\)](#), 3rd floor, Smith Hall, (603) 862-2090/711 TTY, which provides counseling appointments and other mental health services. If urgent, students may call PACS Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and schedule an Urgent Same-Day Appointment.

12. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING SCALE:

Your grades in this course will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	30%
Homework Assignments	20%
Case Study	10%

- a. **Exams (70%):** There will be two mid-term exams and one final exam. **The Final is comprehensive.** Exam dates are listed on the last page under the course outline. No make-up exams will be given unless there is a documented emergency. Please contact me prior to the exam date. **All the exams will be online, and you will be monitored during each exam. You are supposed to keep your computer camera on during each exam.** You are required to stay in your seats during the exam. Bathroom breaks should be pre-test. Further details will be provided in class.
- b. **Homework Assignments (20%):** There will be a homework assignment at the end of each chapter covered in class. Homework assignments will be online and will have a specific due date. You need to have access to MindTap for completing your homework assignments. **Late homework submission is not acceptable without prior permission from me.** I will drop the lowest homework grade.
- c. **Case Study (10%):** In addition to your homework assignments, there will be case studies from most of the chapters. You will submit case study solutions in Canvas. I will provide

the details in class. The due dates for the case studies and homework assignments will be different. You may not have to submit a case study every week.

➤ **Grading Scale:**

A	94 - 100	C	74 - less than 77
A-	90 - less than 94	C-	70 - less than 74
B+	87 - less than 90	D+	67 - less than 70
B	84 - less than 87	D	64 - less than 67
B-	80 - less than 84	D-	60 - less than 64
C+	77 - less than 80	F	0 - less than 60

13. KEY TO SUCCESS:

- a. Take good, well-organized, and detailed notes.
- b. **Read your textbook.** Try to read all the chapters (mentioned in the list below).
- c. Practice as many problems as you can. Spend a good amount of time working through the homework assignments.
- d. Try to work with your fellow classmates (but always present your own work). Discussing with other people widens your knowledge.
- e. Try to study each week. Try to read the introduction of each chapter prior to the lecture. This helps you to follow the material throughout the lecture.
- f. Come in for help whenever you have difficulties. Do not pile up your queries and difficulties till the last moment.

14. COURSE OUTLINE:

Please note that the following course schedule will be followed as closely as possible. At some point of time it may happen that we are ahead or behind of the planned schedule. The hope is to cover all the chapters mentioned below.

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Introduction and Tutorial on MindTap	
	Ten Principles of Economics	Ch 1
Week 2	Supply and Demand Analysis	Ch. 4
Week 3	Elasticity	Ch 5
Week 4	Price Ceiling and Floors; Taxes on Buyers and Sellers	Ch. 6 Ch. 6
Week 5	Consumer & Producer Surplus	Ch. 7
Midterm Exam 1 on October 7, 2020 (during class time)		
Week 6	Theory of Costs and Production	Ch. 13
Week 7	Market Structure: Perfect Competition	Ch: 14
Week 8	Market Structure: Monopoly	Ch-15
Week 9	Monopolistic Competition	Ch- 16
Week 10	The Economics of Cooperation (Oligopoly)	Ch- 17 plus class notes
Week 11	Public Goods and Common Resources	Ch-11
Midterm Exam 2 on November 18, 2020 (during class time)		
Week 12	Externalities	Ch- 10
Week 13	Independence and Gain from Trade	Ch- 3
Week 14	Introduction to International Trade	Ch- 9
Last class is on December 9, 2020 & Final Exam date is December 22 (Tuesday) 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		

