

ECON 201.001/003 SYLLABUS: SPRING 2015

Location: Sewall Hall 309 ([campus map](#))

Time: MWF, 10:00-10:50 (section 001)
MWF, 11:00-11:50 (section 003)

Text: Hubbard, R. Glenn, and Anthony O'Brien, *Microeconomics*, Fourth Edition

Website: <https://owlspace-ccm.rice.edu/portal/site/ECON-201-001-003-Sp15>

Office Hours: Baker Hall 232, MW, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm, or by appointment (jdiamond@rice.edu)

T. A.: Jaepil Han: Office hours, Tuesday, 2:30-4:00, Baker Hall 237 (jh24@rice.edu)

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

This course will introduce students to basic methods of economic analysis. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze and explain various economic events that are commonly published in the media. In addition, students will be able to analyze policy responses to various economic events, such as the imposition of a tax or an increase in the minimum wage, using the concepts of supply and demand. Students will be able to explain the importance of prices in resource allocation and the economic effects of a price change. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand more fully the standard economic models of individual and firm behavior, and will be able to apply concepts from these models to analyze economic events. Finally, students will be able to explain basic concepts in industrial organizational and international trade.

The course grade will be determined as follows. The three midterm exams will be weighted 20 percent each for your two highest scores and 15 percent for your lowest score, your final exam will be weighted 35 percent, and your problem set average will be 10 percent (your lowest problem set score will be dropped for calculating your problem set average). The final exam will be comprehensive. This procedure is the sole determinant of the final course grade. There is no means of earning “extra credit.”

The three midterm exams will be given on the dates indicated in the course schedule. Please set aside these dates now. Students who miss an exam without making prior arrangements with the instructor will be given a zero on the exam. In general, students must take each exam at the scheduled time. Any student who is unable to take an exam at the scheduled time must make arrangements to take it ahead of time. Exams will not be rescheduled solely because students have exams for other courses on or near the same dates as exams for this course. In case of genuine and verifiable emergencies, students must work out arrangements with the professor prior to the scheduled exam.

The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's office. University policies will be strictly followed and are available on the Registrar's web site.

Problem sets for the course will be available on the course website. The problem sets will be handed in for a grade, and thus you are required to work out the problem sets independently. Due to the size of the class not every problem will be graded. Graded problem sets will not be returned to students so you are encouraged to save a scanned copy of each problem set before handing it in.

Problem sets that are turned in late will receive a grade of zero. Problem sets provide helpful practice and extensions of material covered in the lectures, as well as examples of questions that might be asked on the examinations. Solutions will be posted on the course website. There will be 9 or 10 problem sets.

Announcements and other information will also be posted on the course website. You are encouraged to check it frequently. Class lectures will also be posted on the website. We will use Hubbard and O'Brien's Microeconomics textbook (fourth edition).

Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this class is encouraged to inform me and also must contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Appendices to ALL chapters are included.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPICS, READINGS, EVENTS</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>
Jan. 12	<u>Introduction, Trade-Offs, and Comparative Advantage</u>	1, 2
Jan. 19	<u>Demand and Supply</u>	3

Problem Set #1: Due Wednesday, January 21 (by end of class)

MONDAY, JAN 19, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (NO CLASSES)

Jan. 26	<u>Economic Efficiency, Price Setting, and Taxes</u>	4
Feb. 2	<u>Externalities and Public Goods</u>	5
Feb. 3	Baker Institute event on Income and Wealth Inequality 6:30-8:00 (see website)	
Feb. 9	<u>Elasticities</u>	6

Problem Set #3 Due Monday, February 9 (by end of class)

Review Session: Monday, February 9, 7–8:30 PM TBD.

FIRST EXAM: Wednesday, February 11, 7–9 PM in TBD

Covers material in Chapters 1–5, Lectures up to 2/6

Feb. 16	<u>Firms and Comparative Advantage</u>	8, 9
Feb. 23	<u>Consumer Choice</u>	10

Problem Set #5: Due Friday, February 27 (by end of class)

March 2 **SPRING BREAK**

March 9	<u>Technology Production and Costs</u>	11
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March 16	<u>Perfect Competition</u>	12
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Problem Set #6: Due Monday, March 16 (by end of class)

Review Session: Monday, March 16, 7–8:30 PM in TBD.

SECOND EXAM: Wednesday, March 18, 7–9 PM in TBD

Covers material in Chapters 6–11 (excluding chapter 7), Lectures up to 3/13

March 23	<u>Perfect Competition, Monopolistic Competition</u>	12, 13
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March 30	<u>Oligopoly, Imperfect Competition (Monopoly)</u>	14, 15
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Problem Set #7: Due Monday, March 30 (by end of class)

April 2, 3 MIDTERM RECESS

April 6	<u>Pricing Strategy, Factors of Production, Labor Supply</u>	16, 17
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April 13 Health Care, Public Choice 7, 18

Problem Set #8: Due Monday, April 13 (by end of class)

Review Session: Monday, April 13, 7–8:30 PM in TBD.

THIRD EXAM: Wednesday, April 15, 7–9:00 PM in TBD

Covers chapters 12–16 and lectures through 4/6

April 20 Public Choice, Economics of Information, Exchange 18, Notes

April 24 Last Day of Class

Problem Set #9: Due Wednesday, April 24 (by end of class)