

Syllabus

Course Information: ECON 201 section 002 – Principles of Microeconomics
CRN 87721

Time: TR 8:30am - 9:45am

Room: BUE-D 230

Instructor: Alexandre Ribeiro Scarcioffolo
Office: 4437 Agriculture Science room
Office Hours: TR 10 am - 11:30 am and by appointment
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Course Description: This course is designed to introduce WVU students to the principles of microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of the behavior of individual economic units, such as households and business firms, and of their interactions in markets. Almost 100 years ago, the economist Alfred Marshall described microeconomics as the study of men and women in the “everyday business of life”.

Catalog Description: Introductory microeconomics analysis. Competitive behavior of firms, price determination, efficiency in production and equity in distribution.

Prerequisites: none.

Recommended Textbook: We are going to use a free textbook! Follow the link below to download a PDF or use the online viewer. If you prefer a hard copy, it can be purchased on Amazon.

Principles of Microeconomics from OpenStax, ISBN 1947172352
<https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-microeconomics-2e>

General Course Policies and Expectations:

- Attendance is not required. However, students should attend every class meeting. Class meetings are designed as a way of solidifying student learning. Additionally, points for in-class quizzes can only be earned by attending class.
- Reading the textbook and slides before coming to class is beneficial to understanding the material.
- Please visit me during office hours if questions remain after reading the relevant chapter and attending the related lecture. I am a resource for you.
- Engaging in private conversations, reading materials unrelated to class, or any other activity that creates negative externalities for others in the class should be avoided. This includes use of electronic devices in the classroom in a manner that is not consistent with the educational process.

- Students should check eCampus and their school email regularly as these will be the primary forms of mass communication with the class.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students can investigate economic relationships using graphical analysis.
2. Students can state the basic theories behind consumer behavior (demand) and producer behavior (supply) constrained by the scarcity of valuable resources.
3. Students can analyze how world events affect market equilibrium prices and quantities using supply and demand.
4. Students can describe the role of prices and profit and loss in coordinating economic activity.
5. Students can describe the nature of competition in markets.
6. Students can assess the efficiency of competitive market outcomes relative to alternative arrangements.
7. Students can outline the theory of the firm and its implications for prices and production under both perfect and imperfect competition, including monopoly.
8. Students can solve simple analyses of markets for production inputs, including labor and capital.
9. Students can examine the potential roles for government in the economy.
10. Students can explain externalities and where and when they are likely to occur.
11. Students can analyze outcomes associated with government interventions into markets.

Grading: Grading in this course will consist of a mixture of exams, homework, and in-class quizzes. These assessments will result in a total of 1000 points possible in the course.

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Max. Points
Exams	600
Homework	300
In-Class Quiz	100
Total	1000

Grading Scale

Score	Letter Grade
900–1000	A
800–899	B
700–799	C
600–699	D
000–599	F

Exams: There are four exams in the course. This is roughly once every three weeks. The exams are multiple choice and each will be worth 200 points each. Exams will be based on both the readings and lectures. Questions may come from assigned readings even if it has not been explicitly covered during lecture. Likewise, questions may be from lecture material not found explicitly in the readings. Please, put the dates in the table below on your calendar as these dates are firm.

Exam Schedule

Exam	Date	Points
Exam #1	Tuesday 09/17/2019	200
Exam #2	Tuesday 10/22/2019	200
Exam #3	Tuesday 11/19/2019	200
Exam #4 (Cumulative)	Thursday 12/12/2019	200

I will drop your lowest exam score when computing your final grade in the class.

Exam Policy:

- There will generally not be make-up exams. Accommodations for university excused absences will be provided if I am notified prior to the exam and provided with the required documentation.
- You cannot use any electronic device during the exams. If a student is observed with cell phone out during an exam, he or she will automatically receive a zero on that exam.
- The use of calculator, when needed, will be informed in advance.
- Exams will take place in our regular class room at the regular class time and will be closed book. Students must take exams with their section of the class.
- Once you enter the classroom and receive an exam, you may not leave the classroom.
- Students **WILL NOT** have exams handed out after the first student hands in his/her exam.
- Prior to turning in the exam, you will be required to show identification, such as your WVU ID or a valid driver's license.
- Students are required, for all exams, to bring with them a **#30423 Scantron sheet**. This is your responsibility and I will not have Scantron sheets available. Students must also bring with them (at least one) No. 2 pencil.

Homework: There will be 12 homework, one for each topic covered in class. The homework will be posted on e-Campus, and you will answer it online within one week. The collaboration of students to complete the homework is encouraged, however, each student must turn in his/her own homework. I **will not** accept group homework under any circumstances. Also, I **will not** extend the due date for any homework.

Homework Schedule

Homework	Post Date	Due Date	Points
HW#01	08/27	09/03	25
HW#02	08/29	09/05	25
HW#03	09/05	09/12	25
HW#04	09/10	09/17	25
HW#05	09/19	09/26	25
HW#06	09/26	10/03	25
HW#07	10/15	10/22	25
HW#08	10/29	11/5	25
HW#09	11/5	11/12	25
HW#10	11/12	11/19	25
HW#11	12/03	12/10	25
HW#12	12/05	12/12	25

In-class Quizzes: There will be several in-class quizzes, randomly assigned across the semester. The in-class quizzes will take place during the class and will consist of a few questions. I **will not** accept in-class quizzes if you were not present in class.

Extra Credit: In addition to the exams, individuals interested in earning additional credit may do so by reading and writing a review of an article from a reliable newspaper. The review should have at least 750 words linking the news article with any topic covered in class. Newspaper article review will be worth up to 50 points (half a letter grade). Extra credit reviews can be turned in via eCampus any time by Friday, November 22. **No late extra credit reviews will be accepted.**

I reserve the right to award, at my discretion, extra credit for class attendance, extra credit quizzes, and any other various and sundry academic events and activities throughout the course of the semester. These extra credit opportunities will be announced as appropriate.

Outline of Topics

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	8/22	Syllabus	
2	8/27	Touchstones & insights	1 and 2
	8/29	Economics approach	1 and 2
3	9/3	Demand and Supply	3
	9/5	Demand and Supply - Applications	3 and 4
4	9/10	Demand and Supply - Applications	4
	9/12	Review Section	
5	9/17	Exam #1	
	9/19	Elasticity	5
6	9/24	Elasticity	5
	9/26	Consumer Choice	6
7	10/1	Consumer Choice	6
	10/3	Cost & Industry	7
8	10/8	Cost & Industry	7
	10/10	Fall Break	
9	10/15	Cost & Industry	7
	10/17	Review Section	
10	10/22	Exam #2	
	10/24	Perfect Competition	8
11	10/29	Perfect Competition	8
	10/31	Monopoly	9
12	11/5	Monopoly	9
	11/7	Monopolistic Competition	10
13	11/12	Oligopoly	10
	11/14	Review Section	
14	11/19	Exam #3	
	11/21	Externality	12 and 13
15	11/26	Fall Recess	
	11/28	Fall Recess	
16	12/3	Externality	12 and 13
	12/5	The Government	18
17	12/10	Review Section	
	12/12	Exam #4 (Cumulative)	

This outline is tentative. I reserve the right to change material covered in each exam depending on the progress of the class. *Exam dates will not change.*

Inclusivity Statement: The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>). More information is available at the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>) as well. [adopted 2-11-2013].

Academic Dishonesty: The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant

fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code located at <http://studentlife.wvu.edu/studentconductcode.html>.

Any student who commits any act of academic dishonesty will automatically receive a grade of “F” in this course. If an Academic Dishonesty form is submitted to OSJA, I will recommend that the “F” be “unforgivable”.

I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus as I see fit. All changes will be announced in class