

Econ 101.2J
T,Th 2:30-3:45 p.m.
Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2009

Instructor: Frank Maddox
318 Seney Hall
Phone-784-8357
Office Hours 3:15-4:00(M/W); 1:30-2:15 (T/Th)
Updated: September 2, 2009

Course Description: Econ 101 provides an examination of the role of markets and prices in the allocation and distribution of goods and services all within the context of scarcity. The course begins by analyzing the forces of demand and supply and the determination of equilibrium prices. Next the concept of elasticity is used to enhance the market model's ability to address real-world applications such as oil markets. Next, the impact of government intervention upon markets is explored via legal prices and tax policy. Using the concepts of consumer and producer surplus, the student establishes a metric for evaluating the efficiency outcomes available via markets and the impact of market failure or government intervention upon the normative economic ideal of the efficient market. The course then focuses on producer decisions, costs of production, and the concept of profit maximization. These topics are combined for an analysis of the four major types of product market structures: pure competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly. The course then examines both conceptual and institutional issues regarding the operation of labor and other input markets. International trade issues, including tariffs, quotas, and arguments for free trade are discussed. Public policy and market failures as well as the microeconomics of taxation are explored.

Course Objective: The goal of Econ 101 is to provide an introduction to the economic way of thinking and to the economist's view of the world. The course attempts to develop a student's ability to think analytically about the economic forces at work in society. Students learn both a specific set of analytical tools and how to apply them to current policy issues. Students will learn to critique the role of the prevailing orthodoxy embodied in neoclassical theory and explore the policy ramifications of employing alternate orthodoxies.

Method of Instruction: The course is taught with a combination of lecture, discussions, homework problems, writing prompts, and examinations. Class interaction and the analysis of specific economic problems are stressed

Academic Integrity: There is zero tolerance of any breach of academic integrity in this course. Students are asked to re-read and ask any questions about the Oxford Student Honor Code. The Honor Code will be strictly enforced.

Required Texts: Mankiw, Gregory N. Principles of Microeconomics (5th edition) SouthWestern/ Cengage Learning, 2009. Aplia will provide students with on-line practice and graded homework assignments.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required and will be recorded each class period. One point will be deducted from the student's final numerical course grade for each absence in excess of three absences.

Examinations, Homeworks, and Quizzes: There will be three in-term exams and an optional comprehensive final exam. If you take the final it will substitute for your lowest exam grade. Several homeworks and announced quizzes will be assigned during the semester. Homeworks will include problem sets and writing responses to assigned readings.

Grading Policy: Each exams accounts for 27% of the course grade—Aplia will account for 9%---homeworks and announced quizzes account for the remaining 10% of the grade. Several of your assignments will be ungraded; ungraded but completed work will be assigned a numerical grade of 94—the lowest numerical value of an A grade. Your numerical average will be converted into a final letter grade:

- A = 94 up to 100
- A- = 90 up to 94
- B+ = 87 up to 90
- B = 84 up to 87
- B- = 80 up to 84
- C+ = 77 up to 80
- C = 74 up to 77
- C- = 70 up to 74
- D+ = 67 up to 70
- D = 60 up to 67
- F = 0 up to 60

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required and will be recorded. One point will be deducted from the student's final numerical grade for each absence in excess of three absences.

Make-up Examination Policy: There are no make-up exams, because it is not possible to construct a make-up which is of equal rigor. If you miss an exam the final exam will substitute for that part of your grade.

Important Dates

Fall 2009

August 26	Wednesday	Classes begin
September 1	Tuesday	Last day for changing courses
September 7	Monday	Labor Day Holiday
September 29	Tuesday	Exam 1

October 12 - 13	Monday-Tuesday	Mid-semester Break
October 14	Wednesday	Midterm deficiency reports due online
October 16	Wednesday	Last day for dropping courses without academic penalty
November 3	Tuesday	Exam 2
November 3, 5	Tuesday, Thursday	Preregistration for spring semester
November 25-29	Wednesday-Friday	Thanksgiving recess
November 31	Tuesday	Exam 3
December 8	Tuesday	Classes End
Dec. 10-11, 14-16	Thu.-Fri., Mon.-Wed.	Final exams

Course Outline

Week 1; August 26-28

Chapter 1. Ten Principles of Economics

Week 2: August 31- September 4

Chapter 2. Thinking Like an Economist

Chapter 4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand

Week 3; September 8-11 (no class Sept. 7)

Chapter 5. Elasticity and Its Application

Week 4; September 14-18

Chapter 6. Supply Demand and Government Policies

Week 5; September 21-25

Chapter 7. Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets

Chapter 8. Application: the Cost of Taxation

Week 6; September 28th – October 2

September 29 - Exam 1 (Chapters 1,2,4-8)

Chapter 9. Application: International Trade

Week 7; October 5- 9

Chapter 10. Externalities

Chapter 11. Public Goods and Common Resources

Week 8; October 12-16 (no class 12-13)

Chapter 12. The Design of the Tax System

Week 9; October 19-23

Chapter 13. Production Costs

Week 10; October 26-30

Chapter 13. Production Costs (continued)

Week 11; November 2-6

November 3 Exam 2 (Chapters 6-13)

Chapter 14. Firms in Competitive Markets

Week 12; November 9-13

Chapter 15. Monopoly

Chapter 16. Monopolistic Competition

Week 13; November 16-20

Chapter 17. Oligopoly

Chapter 18. The Markets for the Factors of Production

Week 14; November 23-24 (no class 25-27)

Chapter 19. Earnings and Discrimination

Chapter 20. Income Inequality and Poverty

Week 15; November 30-December 4

November 31—Exam 3 Chapters 14-20

Catch-up and Current Events

Week 16; December 7-8

Review Exam 3/Course Evaluation

December 9th – Reading Day

Final Exam –Comprehensive