

ECONOMICS 200B

Principles of Microeconomics

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Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thu 3:30-4:30pm OR by appointment.

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Course Info: Econ 200 Tue,Thu 1:30-3:20pm, MOR 221

Course Description

Introduction to Microeconomics introduces students the basic theory of the consumer and of the firm. We first analyze the role that constraints and scarcity play on the optimal decision-making process and how the interaction between the two affects the market outcome. We then extend the framework by introducing the role of government/taxation to solve problems of market failure or markets that fail to achieve some desired outcome. Additionally we will focus our attention on different firm types and their associated behaviors.

Learning Goal

- (1) Students will learn the basic language of microeconomics. Students will be able to provide definitions for fundamental economic concepts, such as scarcity, choice, opportunity costs, comparative advantage, supply, demand, equilibrium, costs and profit.
- (2) Students will learn the forces of demand and supply and how equilibrium is achieved in the marketplace. Students will apply these principles to real world situations.
- (3) Students will learn the notions of elasticities. They will be able to calculate elasticities and apply them to decision making on the part of firms.
- (4) Students will learn how to analyze consumer behavior. Using an indifference curve approach, students will also be able to derive demand curves.
- (5) Students will learn the causes of market failure. Students will be expected to learn the consequences of market failure as well as the alternative approaches and consequences of policies intended to achieve efficiency and equity.
- (6) Students will understand how markets operate and be able to identify how to arrive at pricing, output, and profit /loss calculations. Students will be able to delineate supply decisions in both the long and short run as well as how supply will be determined for the firm and the market. These will be examined under conditions of perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly. Students will also understand the welfare implications for consumers and firms.

Textbook

Principles of Microeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw. ISBN-13: 978-1-285-16590-5.

Grading:

Final Exam	45%	12/18/2015
Midterm Exam	40%	11/10/2015
In-class practices	15%	

In-class practices:

There will be several in-class practices. The purpose of them is to let student understand the class material better while the instructor can provide them immediate help. All the problems and solutions will be posted on the course webpage after class.

Exams:

There will be 1 midterm exam and 1 final exam for the class. All the exams are non-comprehensive. Each of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. A basic calculator will be needed for the exams. The final exam for the course will be held on **12/18/2015**. If you miss an exam because of documented illness, sport, accident, or family emergency, the weight of the missed exam will be added to the weights of the other exams. Phone number and address of the institution are required in order to verify the authenticity of the documentations you provide. If you miss any two of the exams with valid excuses, you will be given a grade of incomplete. There are absolutely no other exceptions, no make-ups, no rescheduling. Unexcused missed exams will receive scores of 0.

The final grades in the class will be curved if necessary*, but the following percentage cutoffs will apply as the minimum grade you can expect.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Equivalent Grade-Point
94-100	A	3.9-4.0
90-93	A-	3.5-3.8
87-89	B+	3.2-3.4
84-86	B	2.9-3.1
80-83	B-	2.5-2.8
77-79	C+	2.2-2.4
74-76	C	1.9-2.1
70-73	C-	1.5-1.8
67-69	D+	1.2-1.4
64-66	D	0.9-1.1
60-63	D-	0.7-0.8
Below 60	E/F	0

*In particular, 75% will be at least a 2.0. The grading policy of the Department of Economics sets the upper boundary for the Median grade in principles of economics courses at 3.1. We will maintain a median grade for this course around 2.8-3.1.

Topics

Intro to Economics (Individual Economizing/PPF)	Ch 1-3
Supply/Demand +Market Equilibrium	Ch 4
Elasticity	Ch 5
Price Controls/Government Policies	Ch 6
Theory of the Consumer and Producers	Ch 7
Market Efficiency	Ch 7
Inefficient Markets: Taxation/Transaction costs/ Externalities	Ch 6, 8, 10

Midterm

Nov. 10th, 2015

Cost of Production	Ch 13
Competitive Markets	Ch 14
Monopoly	Ch 15
Monopolistic Competition	Ch 16
Oligopoly	Ch 17
Game Theory	-
The Markets for Factors of Production	Ch 18

Final Exam

Dec. 18th, 2015

The class schedule is tentative and is subject to change according to our schedule.

Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an un-earned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one's own work. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from 0 or F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to

expulsion from the university. For more information on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog ('Policies and Regulations').

Statement on Services for Students with Disabilities

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations: The University is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities. The Disability Services Office provides university academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. Individuals with physical, perceptual, or learning disabilities as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Disability Services Office for information regarding accommodations. Please notify your instructor so that reasonable effort can be made to accommodate you. If you expect Accommodation through the Act, you must make a formal request through Disability Services Office. <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>