

ECON 200F

Tentative Syllabus

Course Title: Introduction to Microeconomics¹

Time and Place: Monday and Wednesday, 6:30-8:20pm, DEM 112

Instructor: Rory Mullen

Email: rmmullen@uw.edu

Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/946399>

Office Location: SAV 319C

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 17:20-6:20pm

Course Description:

In this introductory course, our goal is to learn basic concepts that can be applied broadly to most areas of economics, and then to build on these concepts through applications and examples. Our focus will be on individual behavior and the behavior of firms in an environment characterized by limited resources. We want to understand how prices are determined, and be able to compare economic outcomes in an objective way.

I will typically introduce new material every Monday and during the first half of Wednesday's class. The remainder of Wednesday's class will be reserved for practice problems, questions, class discussion, and quizzes.

The mathematical prerequisites for this course are minimal (most problems can be solved using arithmetic), and calculus is explicitly not required. However, this means that we often resort to value tables when deriving curves in order to examine relationships between variables. In these cases, I may briefly introduce concepts in calculus to simplify our discussion, but these concepts will not be on exams.

Min Grade: A minimum grade of D- is required to receive credit for this course. See the conversion table, attached, for corresponding percentage scores.

Credit Hours: 5

Textbook: *Principles of Microeconomics*, 7th Edition

Author: N. Gregory Mankiw; ISBN-13: 978-1285165905

¹Please note that this syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, among other things students should understand and be able to explain:

1. consumer demand
2. production
3. exchange
4. the price system
5. resource allocation
6. government intervention

Course Policies:

General. No class will be held on university holidays. Quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes. Exams (final and mid-term) and must be written on “blue books” or “green books”, available for purchase at Suzzallo Library. You may use simple four-function calculators with no graphing, programming or memory capabilities. Please be aware that **no makeup quizzes or exams can be given, and I cannot accept late homework.**

Assignments. Students are expected to submit their own work, and not the work of others. I will consider **offering** or **accepting** finished solutions from others as plagiarism, and am forced to penalize involved students according university policy. However, discussion amongst students is very much encouraged and can greatly increase your learning experience. Please submit your work on time, so that all students have an equal amount of time to work on assignments and a level playing field is maintained.

Attendance and Absences. Your attendance is encouraged, but not required. If you miss class, you are still responsible for the material covered. I will not provide notes for students who have missed class, so if you are absent, please get class notes from a fellow student.

Grading. Your final grade will be determined by your performance on homework, quizzes, a midterm exam and a final exam, according to the following schedule:

- Homework (10%): Homework is posted every Wednesday to the course website and must be submitted by 11:59pm the following Tuesday. Please submit your homework digitally through the course website. You will find scanners in Suzzallo Library that can be used free of charge. **Homework grades are based on participation only.** In other words, if you attempt each problem, you will receive full credit. I will circulate solutions after each deadline, and you will be responsible for checking your work.
- Quizzes (10%): I will administer two quizzes during the quarter, each will occur during a Wednesday class, though the exact date may not be announced ahead of time. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
- Midterm (30%): Tentatively, Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 6:30-8:20 pm, DEM 112
- Final (50%): Tentatively, Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 6:30-8:20 pm, DEM 112

Academic Honesty

Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Students must not glance at their neighbors exams. Students must not change their answers after they have turned their exam in.

Check the student handbook for further information about cheating, plagiarism etc. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the university. The Department of Economics will follow university policy in case of academic dishonesty. These rules complement/supplement the university rules, which can be found online.

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Departments rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal for the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

Tentative Course Outline:

The following outline should give you a good idea of the material we plan to cover this term. The schedule and readings aren't set in stone, however, and changes may be announced in class. Please be aware that class announcements or announcements via the course website will take precedence over the list below.

Week	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten Principles of Economics; Thinking Like an Economist• Reading assignment: Mankiw, ch 1-2; more tbd
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interdependence and Gains from Trade• Reading assignment: Mankiw ch 3
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market forces of Supply and Demand• Reading assignment: Mankiw ch 4
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elasticity and its Application• Reading assignment: Mankiw ch 5
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply, Demand and Government Policy• Reading assignment: Review for midterm; Mankiw, ch 6
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consumers, Producers and Market Efficiency• Reading assignment: Mankiw, ch 7
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application: Taxation• Reading assignment: Mankiw, ch 8
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externalities• Reading Assignment: Mankiw, ch 10
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of Production• Reading assignment: Mankiw, ch 13
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firms in Competitive Markets• Reading assignment: Review for final; Mankiw, ch 14
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monopoly (depending on available time)• Reading assignment: Mankiw, ch 15

Grade Distribution:

Assignments	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	50%

Letter Grade Distribution:

100.0%	4	A
97.5%	3.9	A
95.0%	3.8	A-
92.5%	3.7	A-
90.0%	3.6	A-
87.5%	3.5	A-
85.0%	3.4	B+
82.5%	3.3	B+
80.0%	3.2	B+
77.5%	3.1	B
75.0%	3.0	B
72.5%	2.9	B
70.0%	2.8	B-
67.5%	2.7	B-
65.0%	2.6	B-
62.5%	2.5	B-
60.0%	2.4	C+
57.5%	2.3	C+
55.0%	2.2	C+
52.5%	2.1	C
50.0%	2.0	C
47.5%	1.9	C
45.0%	1.8	C-
42.5%	1.7	C-
40.0%	1.6	C-
37.5%	1.5	C-
35.0%	1.4	D+
32.5%	1.3	D+
30.0%	1.2	D+
27.5%	1.1	D
25.0%	1	D
22.5%	0.9	D
20.0%	0.8	D-
17.5%	0.7	D-