Syllabus

Economics 200J: Principles of Microeconomics
Winter 2014

Instructor: Muxin Zhai

Class Time & Location: Mon & Wed 12:30-2:20pm Condon Hall 115

Office: Savery Hall 319A

Office Hours: Mon & Tue 11:20am-12:20pm or by appointment

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Course Description:

Economics is a set of tools and concepts that can be applied to understand a great number of phenomena in economic and social sphere. We use the tools of the science of economics to study why things are and how they change when a relevant factor or force changes. In this class, we focus on the production, consumption and distribution of goods and services. Through a variety of practices and in-class activities, you will learn how economic agents behave or interact and how economies work.

Course website:

Any course materials will be posted on catalyst (http://catalyst.washington.edu/). Please check it periodically for updates in syllabus, class slides, reading materials, homework, and quiz/exam answer keys.

Textbook:

Our main textbook is Principle of Microeconomics (7th edition) by Eugene Silberberg and Gregory Ellis (published by Person Custom Publishing, 2013). If you like to purchase an earlier edition of the textbook, that is totally fine. I would also recommend Gregory Mankiw’s Principles of Microeconomics as supplementary reading materials.

The CLUE (Center for Undergraduate Learning and Enrichment) Program:

Econ 200 is part of the CLUE Program on campus. The CLUE evening study sessions provide extra educational support for students. The CLUE dates and times for Econ 200 are announced on CLUE website: http://depts.washington.edu/aspuw/clue/home/. If you are international student who needs additional help in writing, there are a number of workshops and drop-in tutoring in the writing center at CLUE which would offer you great support.
Course grade:

Your course grades will consist of 4 parts: quizzes (20%), problem sets (10%), midterm (30%) and final exams (40%)

Quizzes: There will be 4 or 5 in-class quizzes throughout the quarter. Each quiz worth 20 points and the maximum time allowed is 30 minutes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the others will be counted for 20% of your course grade. The quizzes will be announced at least one week in advance.

Problem sets: there will be weekly problem sets starting from the first instruction week. You are welcome to work in groups (2-3 members) but you have to submit your own answers. The problem sets will be due on Monday or Wednesday of the following week at the beginning of class.

Midterm exam: Your midterm exam will be held on the Wednesday of the 5th or 6th week depending on our progress. You may bring a non-graphic calculator but no cell phone or graphic calculator is allowed.

Final exam: Your final exam will be held on Wednesday, March 12 from 12:30 to 2:20pm. The final exam will be non-cumulative (only the materials after the midterm exam will be tested), but you are still required to understand the basic concepts we presented during the first half of the quarter. There will be no class/exam in the final exam week.

Note: Economics is a social and behavioral science, so we will have a number of in-class activities and experiments. You’ll learn the materials more deeply when participating in these fun activities. In-class participation does not count into your final grade, but participation will be highly recommended.

Make-up quizzes or exams:

I will take the best 3 or 4 quiz grades and count them towards your course grade. Therefore any one quiz you miss, that would be the one you drop. If you miss another quiz in addition to the one you already missed, and present a doctor’s note in reference to that quiz, I will take the average of your other quizzes to be the grade of your second missed quiz. I will only write a make-up quiz if you miss more than 2 quizzes and if you present documentation from the clinic that verifies you were unable to attend the class and have to miss the quiz a third time. You are required to provide both the phone number and address of the doctor/clinic in order to verify the authenticity of the documentation you provide.

For the midterm exam, I will write a make-up again with documentation from a clinic or a doctor. There is no make up for the final exam. If you miss the final exam, you will earn an incomplete grade for this course.

If you are on a university sports team and off to compete in a tournament, and have a note from your coach stating that you will have to miss more than 1 quiz, I will make the appropriate provision for you to take a make-up quiz or midterm exam as needed.