

EMORY UNIVERSITY

ECON 101: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

Syllabus, Summer 2009

Instructor : Sermin Gungor (sgungor@learnlink.emory.edu)

Class Meets : Candler Library 101, 10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

Office : Rich Building 311B

Office Phone : 404-727-2840

Office Hours : Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM or by appointment.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course in principles of microeconomics that affect goals, incentives, and outcomes of economic behavior at the level of the individual decision maker. This course covers the basic concepts and tools needed to undertake the analysis of the problems of the individuals. At the end of this course you will have a greater understanding of how and why consumers, firms, and markets in the economy function the way they do.

Course Material:

Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, "*Microeconomics*" textbook with Aplia activation card, 2nd edition, Worth Publisher.

What is Aplia?

Aplia is an online product that contains both a digital version of the textbook and online homework. Aplia lets you to learn by doing-you can apply what you hear and see in the classroom and what you read in the text. There are live experiments in Aplia where you can apply the new knowledge you acquire in class in a controlled environment. These experiments also help you to connect the text book material to the real life applications. Regular work in Aplia will better prepare you for lectures and exams. You will be using Aplia for your practice and homework. You can also benefit from Aplia using other tools that will help you to understand the course material.

Homework:

You will be assigned weekly homework from Aplia. For Aplia homework there will be a due date next to each assignment. After the due date, the system will not allow you to submit your assignments. You will be able to see the due date when you login to Aplia. Your total homework grade counts for 20% of your total grade.

Factiva:

Making the real world connections of the material we cover in class is important. This will help you better understand and grasp the intuition of the economic theory. Factiva is a great source for this purpose. It provides access to more than 14,000 sources (newspapers, magazines, journals, etc.) from 152 countries. Every Friday, I will dedicate the last 15 minutes of the class to a discussion about a recent article related with the material we covered in class. You can also go to factiva site through Emory Libraries and search for an article that interests you and suggest it as a potential discussion article for the week.

Project:

I would like all of you to be able to think out of the text book concepts and have a solid understanding of economic issues. Therefore you will be required to write a project paper of 5-10 pages on any topic you find interesting and that is related to microeconomics. You may get some ideas from other economics courses, examples presented in microeconomics textbooks, or in lectures. I encourage you to start thinking about your topic as soon as possible. It is always a good idea to discuss your ideas with your classmates; however I will also be available if you would like to have a discussion with me. I will grade the papers based on the writing style and the content. Your project paper will account for 5% of your final grade.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is **required and expected**. Class lectures will be coordinated with the text to present the topics to the class. Since lectures will emphasize the most important topics covered in the text, class attendance are necessary and expected. Possible unannounced quizzes may also be given. If you are absent, you are responsible for all material presented in class and all announcements made in class. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to obtain class notes and /or information about announcements. I will not use office hours to lecture to students who miss class.

Exams and Grading:

The course grade will be assigned according to your performance on two midterm exams (20 % + 20 %), final exam (30 %), homework (20%), project paper (5%), and participation in class discussions (5 %).

	Date	Time	Weight
1 st Exam	June 2	10:00 AM – 11:20 AM	20%
2 nd Exam	June 16	10:00 AM – 11:20 AM	20%
Final	To be determined	-----	30%

Midterm exams during the semester are not cumulative, but the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all the concepts as we go. Except for emergency conditions (i.e. health

emergency) no makeup exams will be given. Appeals for grades received on exams must be made within three working days of the date the graded exam is returned in class.

The course grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

RANGE	LETTER GRADE
≥ 93	A
90 – 92	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
60 – 69	D
< 60	F

BLACKBOARD AND LEARNLINK:

Emails and Blackboard are our main communication environment. I will post all the course material to Blackboard. You can send e-mails to my learnlink address via Blackboard and I will respond as soon as possible. In addition to course material I will post articles that are related with the topics we cover and can be of interest for the discussion in the class. I strongly encourage you to look for related articles that excite you and you would like to share and discuss in the class. Please feel free to send me those articles and I will post them in our Blackboard site.

Honor Code:

Scholastic dishonesty is broadly defined as any act by a student that misrepresents the student's own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Examples include (but are not limited to) receiving or giving help on exams, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another), unauthorized collaboration on assignments or exams, or sabotaging another student's work. The penalty for scholastic dishonesty in this course will be the failure (grade of zero) on the entire assignment or exam.

Tentative Course Schedule:

DATE	CONTENTS	CHAPTERS
Week 1		
May 19	Class Overview & First Principles	Ch.1
May 20	Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade	Ch.2
May 21	Supply and Demand	Ch. 3
May 22	Supply and Demand	Ch.3
Week 2		
May 25	No Class	Memorial Day
May 26	Consumer and Producer Surplus	Ch.4
May 27	Market Strikes Back	Ch.5
May 28	Market Strikes Back	Ch.5
May 29	Elasticity	Ch.6
Week 3		
Jun 1	Review Session I	
Jun 2	MIDTERM EXAM I	
Jun 3	Taxes	Ch.7
Jun 4	Taxes	Ch.7
Jun 5	Making Decisions	Ch.9
Week 4		
Jun 8	The Rational Consumer	Ch.10
Jun 9	Behind the Supply Curve	Ch.12
Jun 10	Behind the Supply Curve	Ch.12
Jun 11	Perfect Competition and Supply Curve	Ch.13
Jun 12	Perfect Competition and Supply Curve	Ch.13
Week 5		
Jun 15	Review Session II	
Jun 16	MIDTERM EXAM II	
Jun 17	Monopoly	Ch.14
Jun 18	Monopoly	Ch.14
Jun 19	Oligopoly	Ch.15
Week 6		
Jun 22	Oligopoly	Ch.15
Jun 23	Monopolistic Competition	Ch.16
Jun 24	Externalities	Ch.17
FINAL EXAM		

The tentative course schedule is subject to change.

All changes will be duly noted in class.