



ECON 001: Principles of Microeconomics

Fall 2014 Syllabus

Instructor Information

Professor: Rima Mabsout.

Email: mabsourk@wlaac.edu, after the first day of classes PM messages through Etudes only.

Time & Place: Online

Online section: 8079

Prerequisite:

Elementary Algebra (Math 115). Students may take Economics 1 or 2 as the first course.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the field of microeconomics, which focuses on the behavior of individual economic agents including consumers, business firms, and the government when confronted with scarcity. The course also examines contemporary social issues such as income distribution and poverty as well as global issues such as outsourcing and protectionism. Topics include supply and demand, elasticity, forms of business organizations, theory of production and cost, pricing and output decision in various market structures, market failure and the role of government, labor management relations, and international trade.

Introduction

This introductory microeconomics course provides an understanding of basic economic principles and forces, which govern the production, and distribution of goods and services. Topics include: forms of business organizations, the role of government in the economic system, value and price in a free enterprise system, labor/management relations and contemporary economic developments.

The objective of microeconomics is to provide the foundations for understanding of how an economy operates. All economic choices are ultimately made by individuals such as consumers, workers, investors, and managers. This course examines the decision making process of these economic agents and their interactions in individual markets. The functions of private property, entrepreneurship, and government regulation are also discussed. Production and pricing under various market structures, labor markets, and international trade as well as market failure are covered.

Required Textbook :

William A. McEachern, ECON Micro, Student Fourth edition, Cengage. 2014. ISBN: 9781285423548.

The textbook will be on two-hour, overnight, and 3-day reserve in the library. Textbook Website:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781111822217>

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Construct and interpret a Lorenz curve for the distribution of income and wealth; discuss the factors that explain the distribution of income in the US; compare and contrast income inequality in US with other countries.
- Apply the laws of demand and supply to analyze the market equilibrium price, price ceilings and price supports.
- Define price elasticity of demand and supply; identify types of elasticity; calculate the elasticity coefficient from two points on a demand curve or supply curve; and identify determinants of price elasticity.

Technical Requirements

Please carefully review the ETUDES system requirements located at:

[https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-](https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa)

[148ad08653aa](https://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa). Make sure you have configured your computer correctly *before* the course starts.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Your online course offers several advantages to a traditional classroom. Not only does the site offer easy communication with other students and your teacher, it allows access to a wealth of online resources. I encourage you to use this forum to exchange ideas, resources and comments with your fellow students and learn from what others know. I will be available through PM (Private Messages) in the discussion Forum if you feel you need help at any point in time through the course.

Please note, this is an 8 weeks class, students are responsible of turning in the Assignments by the due date, and no exceptions will be given for extension as each week we cover approximately 2 chapters, so students can't keep up with the pace of the course if deadlines are not met.

You are required to 'attend' class by keeping up on announcements, readings, assignments, and exams, in addition to participating in weekly discussions. A student in an online course must be prepared to act independently and to encounter technical glitches of all kinds. If you experience technical difficulties that may prevent you from keeping up with the curriculum, you must let me know immediately via e-mail so we can work out a solution.

Grading Scale

Your grade will be based on two timed tests, a final exam, discussions, and homework assignments. Weight of each evaluation component is as follows:

2 Timed Tests	40%	240 points
6 Homework Assignments	20%	120 points
Discussion/Participation	10%	60 points
Final Exam	30%	180 points
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Total	100%	600 points

Grading scale is as follows:

540-600	90 - 100 %	A
480-539	80 – 89 %	B
420-479	70 – 79 %	C
360-419	60 – 69 %	D
Below 359	Below 59 %	F

Timed Tests:

There will be two timed tests. Each test is worth 20%. No test will be given early or late. There will be one final exam.

Timed Test #1, covering Ch. 1 – 5 will be available on Friday, November 14, 2014, due on Sunday November 16.

Timed Test #2, covering Ch. 6 - 9 will be available on Friday, December 5, 2014, due on Sunday December 7.

Final exam, covering Ch. 10 – 14 and 19 will be available on Friday December 19, 2014, due on Sunday December 21.

Homework Assignments:

There will be 6 homework assignments posted with due dates on ETUDES under Assignments, Tests and Surveys. Assignments will be based on end-of-book questions and problems as well as some web-based materials. The homework assignments are provided as a learning aid for students and are designed to synthesize information from lecture, textbook and outside sources. If you understand the assignments, you will likely do well on the exams.

Assignment #1 will be available on **Monday, October 27, due November 2.**

Assignment # 2 will be available on **Monday, November 3, due November 9.**

Assignment #3 will be available on **Monday, November 10, due November 16.**

Assignment #4 will be available on **Monday November 17, due November 23.**

Assignment #5 will be available on **Monday November 24, due November 30.**

Assignment #6 will be available on **Monday, December 1, due December 7.**

Please note that **Assignment #7** is Optional, (extra credit) it will be available on **December 8 and due on December 14.**

Participation:

Discussion topics related to current material will be posted on ETUDES-NG under discussion and Private Messages tool. It will be announced every week each time there is a new discussion. Discussion is an important part of the class. It is where students can talk about topics in detail and explore difficult issues. You are encouraged to find articles (from the internet or other sources) and share them with the class.

Practice Web Quizzes:

There will be timed Web quizzes available for each chapter under Modules Tool. I also put them under Assignments, Tests and Surveys as part of your weekly practice. It is highly recommended for students as it gives a great idea about the type of questions asked in a timed test as well as the Final exam. (it is not part of your grade)

Make-up Exam Policy:

NO Make-up Exams in this course. No special considerations will be given if you need a particular grade for whatever reason.

Special Needs and Disabled Students Policy

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a Private Message. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) Office in providing them. The DSP&S Office provides special assistance in areas including: registration assistance specialized tutoring, academic and career guidance counseling, instructor liaison, special instruction and testing assistance. You can contact the Director of the DSP&S Office, Adrienne Foster, at fosteraa@wlac.edu describing the accommodations that are necessary.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and WLAC; therefore, acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify will not be tolerated in this course. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and you can read about it here:

<http://www.plagiarism.org>. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. When there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism in classroom work, the instructor may assign a failing grade, "F," or zero points to the examination or assignment in which the alleged cheating or plagiarism occurred. Before a substandard grade is issued the instructor will provide the student with supporting documentation of the plagiarism or cheating charge. Instructors have the authority to use plagiarism detecting instruments such as "Turn It In" to detect academic dishonesty.

Forms of Behavior which Violate Academic Integrity

Cheating. Using any materials or devices or strategies which provide undue advantage on any exam, assignment, activity or other method of assessment for a course. This includes, but is not limited to, looking at another student's exam, using phones or other communication systems to text message during exams, taking pictures or images of exams, talking with others during exams, using Internet to find information, or any other system of inappropriate "help." Exams are to be measures of what YOU, as an individual, have learned.

Collaboration. Working together on projects, papers, exams or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually.

Plagiarism. Taking anyone else's work as one's own. Presenting another's words, ideas, forms of expression, materials, or labor without proper citation, referencing, and declaration that this material originated outside the student's own work.

For assistance with classroom projects, papers and assignments, please visit the Learning Skills Center, HLRC.

Deadlines. Odd things happen in cyberspace—emails get lost, servers disconnect temporarily, and logins fail. Do not wait for the last minute to do your work. Allow time to meet deadlines.

Dropping a Class

Student wanting to drop a class should drop online at www.wlac.edu, click “For Students,” then “Student Information System.” Students who stop attending a class are responsible for withdrawing from the class to prevent being issued a failing “F” grade in the class.

Instructional Support and Monitoring

Monitor your academic progress online at www.wlac.edu click “Counseling, Assessment and Orientation,” then on the DegreeWorks icon, or visit the Counseling Office in A13.

For instructional support and assistance with research projects, visit the Learning Skills Center and Library in HLRC.

Professional Conduct in Our Virtual Classroom Community:

I encourage you to participate in the DISCUSSIONS, and to ask questions and post items of interest in the Student Lounge or Chat Room. This class is a "safe harbor" for you to have discussions. One of the unifying objectives in this course is to familiarize you with best practices and give you exposure to becoming a member of a professional community. I also have the responsibility to insure that our virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, discussion groups and chat rooms:

1. No profanity or foul language, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.
2. Please address everyone politely by their name.
3. Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.
4. Unless I specifically ask you to do so as a proper part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of a personal nature, including a photo, sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information. Violators will be excluded from the course.
5. Please use common sense and common courtesy as if you are already a professional in the business community. Please check with me first if you have any questions about what is appropriate.

Online Student Resources

Technical Requirements:

<https://myetudes.org/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa>

ETUDES Student Guide:

http://www.wlac.edu/online/documents/Student_guide_etudesng.pdf

WLAC Online Homepage: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/students.asp>

WLAC Online Academic Counseling: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/counselingonline.asp>

WLAC Online Tutoring: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/tutoring.asp>

WLAC Library: <http://www.wlac.edu/library/>

WLAC Online Bookstore: <http://onlinestore.wlac.edu/>

Course Outline and Objectives

Dates	Topics	Reading & Assignments
Week 1	The Art and Science of Economic Analysis Economic Tools and Economic Systems <i>Topics: Types of economic resources; the principle of efficient allocation of scarce resources to current economic issues; the importance of full employment and full production; a production possibilities frontier.</i>	Read Chapters 1 & 2. Assignment #1 Discussion #1
Week 2	Economic Decision Makers: <i>Topics: A circular flow diagram, the major revenue sources and expenditure categories of the federal, state, and local governments; average and marginal tax rates; types of taxes collected in the US.</i> Demand, Supply, and Markets: <i>Topics: the price mechanism, and competition, the demand curve; the supply curve; equilibrium, shortages, and surpluses in a supply and demand diagram; shifts in supply and demand; changes in equilibrium quantity and price.</i>	Read Chapters 3 - 5. Assignment #2 Discussion #2

	<p>5. Elasticity of Demand and Supply.</p> <p><i>Topics: The price elasticity of demand and its meaning; an inelastic and an elastic demand curve; the reasons why a good or service has a high or low elasticity; the relationship between price elasticity of demand and changes in total revenue caused by changes in price.</i></p>	
Week 3	<p>Consumer Choice and Demand:</p> <p><i>Topics: The meaning of marginal utility; the concept of diminishing marginal utility and apply it to human behavior; the relationship between relative prices and relative marginal utilities; the consumer surplus and explain its importance.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Production and Cost in the Firm:</p> <p><i>Topics: fixed costs and variable costs; marginal costs and average costs; the importance of the short run and the long run for a business firm; the shutdown and going-out-of-business rules; average fixed cost, average variable cost, average total cost, and marginal cost.</i></p>	<p>Read Chapters 6&7.</p> <p>Assignment #3</p> <p>Discussion #3</p>
Week 4	<p>Perfect Competition:</p> <p><i>Topics: Profit maximization, marginal revenue, total revenue and the profit maximizing level of output; the shutdown rule and going out of business rule; the shutdown rule and going out of business rule in a diagram; the graph of average cost to show efficiency for a firm; the difference between the firm's</i></p>	<p>Read Chapters 8 & 9</p> <p>Assignment #4</p> <p>Discussion #4</p>

	<p><i>short run and long run supply curves.</i></p> <p>Monopoly:</p> <p><i>Topics: Examples of monopoly; examples of barriers to entry; demand and marginal revenue for a monopoly and the profit-maximizing level of output and profits; natural monopoly and public policies to deal with it.</i></p>	
Week 5	<p>Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly:</p> <p><i>Topics: Examples of monopolistically competitive behavior; monopolistically competitive profit-maximization in the short run and in the long run; costs and benefits of product differentiation; costs and benefits of price discrimination; the efficiency of monopolistic competition; excess capacity; examples of oligopoly market structure.</i></p> <p>Resource Markets:</p> <p><i>Topics: Marginal physical product, total revenue product, and marginal revenue product; shifts in the marginal revenue product; the supply and demand curves for land; economic rent.</i></p>	<p>Read Chapters 10 & 11</p> <p>Assignment #5</p> <p>Discussion #5</p>
Week 6	<p>Labor Markets and Labor Unions:</p> <p><i>Topics: The backward-bending labor supply curve; a supply and demand curve determination of wage rates; reasons for wage differentials in the US labor market; the controversy of the</i></p>	<p>Read Chapters 12 & 13.</p> <p>Assignment #6</p> <p>Discussion #6</p>

	<p><i>minimum wage, the importance of key events in US labor history.</i></p> <p>Capital, Interest, and Corporate Finance:</p> <p><i>Topics: the supply and demand curves for loanable funds; the supply and demand curves for the productivity of capital and explain their meaning; define and summarize arguments for and against its social usefulness; discuss arguments for and against usury laws.</i></p>	
Week 7	<p>Transaction costs, Imperfect Information, and Market Behavior:</p> <p>14. Transaction Costs, Imperfect Information, and Market Behavior.</p> <p><i>Topics: The rationale for the firm and its scope of operation; imperfect information and market behavior, the impact of asymmetric information on product markets; asymmetric information and labor markets.</i></p>	<p>Read Chapter 14</p> <p>Optional Extra Credit Assignment # 7</p>
Week 8	<p>International Trade:</p> <p><i>Topics: The history of US trade; the history of US tariff laws; the production possibilities curve and trade possibilities curve for two countries; the concepts of absolute advantage and comparative advantage, potential gains from trade; arguments in favor and against reducing trade restrictions; the impact of trade restrictions.</i></p>	<p>Read Chapter 19</p>

