

# Course Syllabus

## ECON& 201 - Microeconomics - Winter 2015

Sections OAS (5109) and OBS (5110)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Instructor</b>        | Grace Kim Robbins  |
| <b>Course Websites</b>   | <a href="http://bc.instructure.com">http://bc.instructure.com</a><br><a href="http://www.boundless.com/IK2BWBUV263KQ">www.boundless.com/IK2BWBUV263KQ</a> (Links to an external site.)   |
| <b>Instructor Email</b>  | <a href="mailto:grace.robbings@bellevuecollege.edu">grace.robbings@bellevuecollege.edu</a><br>or via Canvas Inbox  |
| <b>Instructor Phone</b>  | 425.564.2370   |
| <b>Instructor Office</b> | A100C on BC Main Campus  |
| <b>Office Hours</b>      | Mondays 1:30-3:20pm<br>Wednesdays 8:30-10:20am<br>Fridays 11:30-12:20pm  |
| <b>Meeting Times</b>     | ONLINE ONLY<br>This course is asynchronous (meaning that you are not required to be online at any specific time). You complete the assignments according to your own schedule before the due dates.<br>This course is NOT self-paced (meaning that you can not necessarily move through at your own pace and potentially finish earlier or later than others). Many assignments require collaboration with your peers and become available the week prior to them being assigned to the class. |

## Course Description

Economics provides a useful perspective and set of tools for analyzing and interpreting the world around us. Economics 201, a microeconomics course, focuses on the small subsets of the economies, such as individual consumers, producers, and governments. We examine the decisions made by these groups, and we will use a variety of frameworks for analyzing such decisions, including supply and demand, utility/profit maximization, and game theory. We will explore in detail how markets function, and understand how, in theory, markets lead to efficient outcomes through perfect competition. We will then loosen some assumptions to see how markets operate under more realistic conditions, including monopolist, oligopolist, and monopolistically competitive frameworks. We will also explore other conditions under which markets fail, i.e. lead to inefficient outcomes, such as when there are externalities, public goods, or imperfect information.

## Learning Outcomes and Goals:

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Apply the theory of rational choice to explain individual behavior.
- Explain how markets allocate, produce, and distribute society's resources.
- Predict how government intervention impacts market outcomes.
- Critique market outcomes and government policies using concepts of efficiency and equity.
- Explain firm behavior under various degrees of competition.
- Extend the market framework to analyze market failures.
- Critically analyze the positive and negative impacts of markets as they relate to social justice and environmental issues.
- Represent and understand economic concepts and outcomes in numerical and graphical form.

## Prerequisites

It is recommended that students have taken MATH 99 (or higher) and ENGL 101 (or higher) to prepare them for the work in this course. It is recommended that students have taken 30 college credits prior to taking this course. There is no requirement to have taken any economics courses before taking this introductory level class.

## Contact with the Instructor

The easiest way to reach me with quick questions is by email. I do my very best to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week. I may not respond to emails received on evenings and weekends until the next business day. Some questions are much more easily answered in person, so I am available during office hours listed above. I will be available in person, online, and by phone during the office hours listed above. If you are able to meet with me in person on campus, you do not need an appointment to come to office hours. Please feel free to stop by with any questions about the course, or feel free to stop by simply to chat!

## Canvas Instructions

We will be using the online learning management system called Canvas, which can be accessed at <https://bc.instructure.com>. You should use your BC login and password. (For example, my login is grace.robbings as set by the BC network.) If you have any problems with accessing your account, you should contact the Help Desk. <http://depts.bellevuecollege.edu/helpdesk/students/> (Links to an external site.) Canvas is where you can find access to our learning material, video lectures, supplemental readings, discussions boards, quizzes, and homework.

## Required Text and Resources

FREE online readings from [www.boundless.com/IK2BWBUV263KQ](http://www.boundless.com/IK2BWBUV263KQ) (Links to an external site.)

The textbook we will be using for this course is a series of free online readings provided under a Creative Commons License. "[Creative Commons](#)" (Links to an external site.) develops, supports, and stewards legal and technical

infrastructure that maximizes digital creativity, sharing, and innovation.” Specifically, Boundless uses a [CC-BY-SA \(Links to an external site.\)](#)license.

The readings are similar in structure and organization to *Microeconomics* by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (third edition). There are a few copies of this textbook on reserve at the library for short-term use.

## Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- help in creating a positive learning environment.
- log into the classroom daily (at least 5 times per week) and keep up to date with all messages and announcements.
- know and meet the deadlines for all assignments and exams. *Please note that no make-up assignments or exams are offered!*
- come for extra help before small misunderstandings become major learning gaps.
- gain access to the internet. Students should maintain access and cope with any technology problems, including viruses, that involve your own machine or software.
- know BC's policies on withdrawing and other quarterly commitments
- complete their own work and be familiar with Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College, especially with respect to cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing.

## Grading Policy

The best way to learn economics is by doing, not by memorizing. There will be a variety of homework assignments, exams, and activities in which students will demonstrate how they have learned to implement economic reasoning and analysis. Grades will be assigned according to the following grading scale:

Remember, according to BC:

A grades indicate *outstanding achievement*

B grades indicate *high achievement*

C grades indicate *satisfactory achievement*

D grades indicate *poor achievement*

F grades indicate *unsatisfactory achievement*

| Letter grade | %      |
|--------------|--------|
| A            | 93-100 |
| A-           | 90-92  |
| B+           | 87-89  |
| B            | 83-86  |
| B-           | 80-82  |
| C+           | 77-79  |
| C            | 73-76  |
| C-           | 70-72  |
| D+           | 67-69  |
| D            | 63-66  |

|    |          |
|----|----------|
| D- | 60-62    |
| F  | Below 60 |

Grades will be based on the following weights:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Reading Assignments     | 20% |
| Quizzes                 | 20% |
| Application Assignments | 20% |
| Midterm Exam            | 20% |
| Final Exam              | 20% |

### Reading Assignments - 20%

We will be using a free, online, open source textbook available at [www.boundless.com/IK2BWBUV263KQ](http://www.boundless.com/IK2BWBUV263KQ) (Links to an external site.). There will be a number of readings assigned each week, and they are all available through the boundless.com website. There are two assignments with each reading, a reading assignment of comprehension questions (which are graded on effort as well as accuracy) and a reading response discussion board (which are graded based on substance and depth). More information about the structure and grading of these assignments can be found at the start of each assignment. In general the comprehension questions are due on Wednesday evening at 11:59pm, and the discussion board requires one post by Friday evening at 11:59pm and another post by the following Monday at 11:59pm.

### Quizzes - 20%

Nearly every week there will be a timed (60-minute) 15-question multiple choice quiz based on the material for that week. The lowest quiz score of the quarter will be dropped. In general the quizzes are due on Friday evening at 11:59pm.

### Application Assignments - 20%

These activities are designed for the application of economic concepts and theories to real world examples. These assignments will vary each week and will be submitted in Canvas on Monday evenings at 11:59pm. Some will be discussion boards, some will be calculation based assignments, some will be writing assignments, depending on the material for the week. You can find links to the assignments in the learning module for each week, or you can go to the "Assignments" tab in the left-hand navigation to see a list of all assignments to date, or you can see the assignments on the "Calendar" at the top right hand corner of Canvas.

### Exams (on Canvas) - 20% each

The midterm and final exams will be completed in Canvas. They are comprised of multiple choice and essay questions. The midterm exam is due at the end of the fifth week of the quarter (Monday, February 9th). The final exam is due at the end of the 11th week of the quarter (Monday, March 23rd).

## Preventing Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources without properly citing them. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
- You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- You do not write summaries and paraphrases in your own words and/or do not document your source.
- You turn in work created by another person.
- You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.

In order to help identify (and therefore hopefully avoid) plagiarism, we will be using a service called **turnitin.com**, which checks your written work against other sources to check for originality. You can check your originality score after you submit your written work in Canvas.

If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

Please see the following Writing Lab link for more information regarding plagiarism: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html> (Links to an external site.)

**Out of fairness to all students, no extra credit will be offered unless it is available to all students; i.e. no extra credit will be awarded after the quarter has ended. It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of the expectations set forth for this course. If these expectations of you are unclear, please come and speak with me as early as possible.**

## Campus Resources

### Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [asn@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:asn@bellevuecollege.edu) or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. [www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/) (Links to an external site.)

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc) (Links to an external site.)

### The Writing Lab – D204-d

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing>

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Monday – Thursday   | 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.    |
| Friday              | 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. |
| Saturday and Sunday | 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.   |

The Writing Lab is a place where you can work on developing college-level writing skills. As a student, you can receive personalized feedback on your writing for class, college applications, or short personal correspondence. Tutors can listen to your ideas and help you develop strategies to see and avoid significant errors.

Students can drop in any time the Writing Lab is open as well as make an appointment. We recommend visiting the lab at least two days before a paper is due. A tutoring session is a 35-minute, face-to-face conversation to discuss your writing. The tutor will not fix your paper but will work with you to identify areas to revise independently.

### **Math Lab (Academic Success Center)**

Students who are enrolled in a math class can stop by D-207 for help on math related problems.

### **Academic Tutoring (Academic Success Center)**

Drop-in or individual tutoring may be available for students with a grade of C or below. Please stop by D-204 to ask about eligibility and/or to apply. There is a Business and Economics Study Center located in C207K which offers economics and business students drop-in help.

### **MCS – Multicultural Services**

MCS has a very friendly staff who can answer any questions or provide help in a variety of areas. They can help you plan to complete college successfully, help you with financial aid application process, help you select classes, connect you with campus resources, help you talk with instructors, connect you with community resources that can help you with food, transportation, and temporary housing challenges, and generally support you in overcoming non-academic and academic challenges. They are located in the B-building above the bookstore.

### **TriO**

The TriO program provides extensive academic support, personal assistance, and financial aid guidance for students who qualify (first generation college students, low-income students, or students with a documented disability).

## **PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**

### **Spring 2011**

#### Bellevue College's Affirmation of Inclusion

BellevueCollege is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different

backgrounds at BC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

The college's "Affirmation of Inclusion" is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an online course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions. Part of this respect involves professional behavior towards the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself.

#### Cheating, Stealing, and Plagiarizing\* and Inappropriate Behavior

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the [Core Rules of Netiquette \(Links to an external site.\)](#). The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services, [link to Student Code \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

#### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). It is the student's responsibility for maintaining contact and adhering to the agreed-upon actions. Vista class sites, and material, may not be directly accessible after the end of the quarter so it is important to make arrangements before the quarter ends. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F"). There is a standard form that instructors have access to in their instructor's grade briefcase.

#### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

#### Final Examination Schedule

Please refer to the syllabus at the start of the quarter for additional details and contact the instructor directly for any clarifications. A student who is not in compliance with the scheduled format may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be in compliance with any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

#### Withdrawal From Class

*Academic Year:* College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

*Summer Quarter:* College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the fifth week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). After the sixth day and through the end of the fifth week of the quarter, the "W" grade will become part of the student's transcript record.

Check [Enrollment Calendar Deadlines, Refunds/Withdrawals \(Links to an external site.\)](#), for additional details. As with most enrollment deadlines, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates and act accordingly.

## Hardship Withdrawal (HW)

From page 9 of the current course catalog, [2008-2009 online catalog \(Links to an external site.\)](#), HW indicates a withdrawal request made because of extenuating circumstances after the official withdrawal period is over. The student must contact the instructor to request this withdrawal option, or the faculty member may initiate the contact. No points are calculated into the grade-point average. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

## Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) link to DRC. The office is located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110, email [drc@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:drc@bellevuecollege.edu)). Students will need to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter or contact your online instructor directly by email. Students who require accommodation in a course should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

## Distribution of Grades

Students should access their grades through the BC Web site. Any returned material should be accessed prior to the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Vista class sites may not be accessible by students. Individual instructors may use non-Vista tools for recording and maintaining the students' progress. Questions about grades assigned should be initially directed to your instructor.

## Submission and Returning of Papers, Assignments and Assessments:

Specific guidelines for taking exams and submitting assignments are published in the syllabus. Please contact instructor at the start of the quarter for any clarifications.

*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Vice President of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*

# Course Calendar

The most up-to-date information about the course schedule and assignment deadlines can be found on Canvas. However, to give you a sense of how we will move through the quarter:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Week 1<br>Starting 01/05/15 | Economic Principles   |
| Week 2<br>Starting 01/12/15 | Markets: Supply and Demand  |
| Week 3<br>Starting 01/19/15 | Consumer and Producer Surplus<br>Government Intervention in Markets |
| Week 4<br>Starting 01/26/15 | Elasticity<br>Taxes   |
| Week 5<br>Starting 02/02/15 | MIDTERM EXAM<br>Market Failure: Externalities                       |



|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Week 6<br>Starting 02/09/15      | Market Failure: Public Goods and Common Goods |
| Week 7<br>Starting 02/16/15      | Consumer Theory                               |
| Week 8<br>Starting 02/23/15      | Production Costs                              |
| Week 9<br>Starting 03/02/15      | Perfect Competition<br>Monopoly               |
| Week 10<br>Starting 03/09/15     | Monopolistic Competition<br>Oligopoly         |
| Week 11<br>Starting 03/16/15     | Income Inequality                             |
| Finals Week<br>Starting 03/23/15 | FINAL EXAM                                    |

| Date             | Details   |
|------------------|---|
| Wed Jan 7, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 1 - Economic Principles</u></a>  |
| Fri Jan 9, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Economic Principles Quiz</u></a>   |
| Mon Jan 12, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 1 - Introduce Yourself</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 1 - Economic Principles</u></a>  |
| Wed Jan 14, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 2 - Markets: Supply and Demand</u></a>   |
| Fri Jan 16, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Markets: Supply and Demand Quiz</u></a>  |
| Tue Jan 20, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 2 - Markets: Supply and Demand</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 2 - Markets: Supply and Demand</u></a>                                     |
| Wed Jan 21, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 3 - Economic Surplus and Government Intervention</u></a>   |
| Fri Jan 23, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Economic Surplus and Government Intervention Quiz</u></a>  |
| Mon Jan 26, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 3 - Economic Surplus and Government Intervention</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 3 - Economic Surplus and Government Intervention</u></a> |
| Wed Jan 28, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 4 - Elasticity and Taxes</u></a>   |
| Fri Jan 30, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Elasticity and Taxes Quiz</u></a>  |
| Mon Feb 2, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 4 - Elasticity and Taxes</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 4 - Elasticity and Taxes</u></a>   |
| Wed Feb 4, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 5 - Externalities</u></a>  |
| Fri Feb 6, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Externalities Quiz</u></a>   |
| Mon Feb 9, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Midterm Exam</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 5 - Externalities</u></a>  |

| Date             | Details   |
|------------------|---|
| Wed Feb 11, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 6 - Public Goods</u></a>   |
| Fri Feb 13, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Public Goods Quiz</u></a>  |
| Mon Feb 16, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 6 - Externalities and Public Goods</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 6 - Public Goods</u></a>                                     |
| Wed Feb 18, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 7 - Consumer Theory</u></a>  |
| Fri Feb 20, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Consumer Theory Quiz</u></a>   |
| Mon Feb 23, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 7 - Consumer Theory</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 7 - Consumer Theory</u></a>   |
| Wed Feb 25, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 8 - Production Costs</u></a>   |
| Fri Feb 27, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Production Costs Quiz</u></a>  |
| Mon Mar 2, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 8 - Production Costs</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 8 - Production Costs</u></a>   |
| Wed Mar 4, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 9 - Perfect Competition and Monopoly</u></a>   |
| Fri Mar 6, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Perfect Competition and Monopoly Quiz</u></a>  |
| Mon Mar 9, 2015  | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 9 - Perfect Competition and Monopoly</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 9 - Perfect Competition and Monopoly</u></a>               |
| Wed Mar 11, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 10 - Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly</u></a>  |
| Fri Mar 13, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly Quiz</u></a>  |
| Mon Mar 16, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 10 - Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 10 - Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly</u></a> |
| Wed Mar 18, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Reading Comprehension on Week 11 - Income Inequality</u></a>   |
| Fri Mar 20, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Income Inequality Quiz</u></a>   |
| Mon Mar 23, 2015 | <a href="#"><u>Application Assignment Week 11 - Income Inequality</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Final Exam</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Reading Response on Week 11 - Income Inequality</u></a>      |