



MICROECONOMICS Syllabus – Fall 2014

ONLINE CLASS: Econ201-5112 OBS

Instructor: Liliana Halim Lawrence, PhD
E-mail: Liliana.halim@bellevuecollege.edu
Phone: 425.564.6245
Office location: A 200 A
Office Hours: Tue and Thu, 4:30 – 5:30pm, or by appointment at other times.

Course Outcomes

- Be able to evaluate economic examples as they related to personal incentives, voluntary exchanges, and to recognize the key concept of opportunity cost.
- Be able to set-up and identify, both graphically and in words, a competitive market model's associated components and outcomes (demand, supply, price, equilibrium) and their link to utility theory, and various production decisions
- Apply the basic model's approach to factor markets
- Expand the basic model to address elements of market failures
- Be able to calculate both marginal and average values for a variety of data sets and be able to use them appropriately within decision-making evaluations of choices.
- Understand the value of the competitive market model's outcome as a benchmark for evaluating more realistic models of industrial organization such as Monopoly, Oligopoly and Monopolistic; and government activity.
- Recognize and apply 'economic thinking' to various policy issues and applied problems, incorporating appropriately both positive and normative elements of analysis, with measures of efficiency and equity.
- *In addition, students may be introduced to a subset of the following:*
- Elasticity as a measure of quantity's responsiveness to changes in prices or income
- Maximizing behavior and the limitations of rationality assumptions for households (as consumers), firms (as producers); indifference curves and budget constraints.
- Understand the tax system (sales tax and income tax) and its impact on the society.

Course Prerequisites

- A 30 prior credit of college is recommended. You should have a good understanding of basic Math (Algebra) such as calculating averages, percentage changes, graphing, and setting up and solving simple equations. Additionally, you should have good English writing skills.

How Outcomes will be met

Firstly, please make sure you have your **MyBC Account** activated, and your **Canvas** account.

Always check CANVAS for “**Announcements**”&“**Modules**”

Read through the **Syllabus** and the **Course Calendar**.

Register with Saplinglearning.com (for the weekly homework) within the first week, they closed it after the 10th day.

To help us structure the class, please check the calendar in the last page of this syllabi, or the Modules on Canvas

Weekly Assignments include: the Discussion Questions (DQs) and the online Sapling homeworks.

Final Exam by the end of the quarter to evaluate your understanding of the overall materials covered in the quarter.

Grading

Each of your work will graded with 100 point-base and then will be taken in percentage as follows:

Weekly Discussion Questions (DQs)	35%
Weekly Sapling Homework	35%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Grade

A	92-100
A-	88-91.9
B+	84-87.9
B	80-83.9
B-	76-79.9
C+	72-75.9
C	68-71.9
C-	65-67.9
D+	60-64.5
D	56-59.5

We will cover 16 chapters of the textbook, and for each chapter you will have enough assignments to improve your grade throughout the term. Your grade reflects your understanding of the chapter readings and the time and efforts that you put into it

Books & Materials

- For Reference: *Microeconomics*, Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, 3rd edition, Worth Publisher;

ISBN-10: 1464137781

ISBN-13: 9781464137785

You may use the second edition for reading materials for less price.

- For homework, I'll be using Sapling exercise, and for a stand-alone access for a quarter, (\$27); please register with Saplinglearning.com within the first week.

Other option: Worth publisher also offered a bundle [Krugman Micro 3e e-Book & Sapling](#) for a net price of \$55.00

Discussion will also cover the ongoing economic issues from newspapers and magazines: The New York Times, Economist, Business Week, Fortune, and other online sources.

Discussion Questions (DQs)

DQ assignments constitute 35 percent of your final grade.

Since we are not meeting person-to-person in class for lectures, much of our learning takes place through participations in DQs postings. You are required to participate in posting answers to the weekly discussion questions (DQs). Your active participation in the learning process requires your involvement in the discussion process. Participation involves posting answers to discussion questions (DQs), reading posted answers of your classmates, and answering, questioning, and expanding the discussion process. Each week's discussion question will be graded on a scale of 0 – 10. At the end of the quarter, the

points earned are totaled and averaged, expressed as a percentage. As a guideline, each of the **10 points** will be derived from the following:

1. Post your answer (400-500 words) to the posted DQ responding to the matter asked, instead of repeating the question or not attending to the question. Substantive answers include making comments using concepts found in the assigned reading materials or offering examples from your experience. Hence merely providing a brief “yes, I agree” or “no, I do not agree” postings are not adequate posts
2. Write in correct grammar; any errors will translate to a deduction in points.
3. Check for the spelling; any errors will deduct points.
4. Your responses must be substantive that include your own thoughts, supported with research (at least two external sources other than textbook, and you must quote these sources).
5. You get one point when you respond to one of your classmates’ posts, also with substantive comments (100-200 words).
6. One more point when you respond to another classmate’s post (100-200 words).
7. One point for collaboration. It is intended that your involvement in discussions be of a collaborative nature. Collaboration spirit is quite different from confrontation.
8. Deadline: due date for each DQ will be on Monday night 11.55pm, but you are free to make your comments prior to Monday night. One point will be deducted for each day of late submission.
9. Environmental impact: in addition to the obvious socio-economic impacts of each topic, please creatively address the environmental impact of the issues. You get one extra point for addressing this.
10. Offer a future recommendation or alternative options for the future with regard to the topic in question.

Remember: All your posts must be well-written, targeting at the topic at hand (not on the person), research-based argument, and always re-read it before posting. Take a note that it is unacceptable behavior to post rude or personal attacks in discussion messages or using information from the personal biographies posted to harass fellow students. The instructor reserves the right to remove messages posted, downgrade the assessment of the exercise, and/or refer the student(s) to the appropriate authorities.

Sapling Homework

Sapling assignments constitute 35 percent of your final grade. For all 16 chapters, you will be assigned 8-10 problems for each chapter. So each problem set for each chapter will constitute a small percent to your final grade, but they accumulate and they help you build deeper understanding. You will have 5 (five) attempts when solving each problem, before they are graded. Each week assignments will be graded on different scales depending on how many points are assigned to the set of questions. Your final Sapling grade will be totaled and expressed as a percentage. You have access to your book while doing these exercises so grades should be relatively high in this area. The questions can help you immensely since it provides you with immediate feedback also.

Due Dates

Any assignment can be completed earlier but not after the deadline since the system locks you out. Note: All deadlines are based on local time (Pacific-time). Usually I will set up the due date on Monday at 11.55pm (midnight).

Here are the steps to access Sapling:

Students:

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com>
2. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 5.
3. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a SaplingLearning account. Click "create account" located under the username box, then click "Login with Facebook". The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password, fill in the remaining information, accept the site policy agreement, and then click "Create my new account". You can then skip to step 5.
4. Otherwise, click "create account" located under the username box. Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account". Check your email (and spam inbox) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email to confirm your account.
5. Find your course in the expandable list (sorted by subject, term, and instructor) and click the title link.
6. Select a payment option and follow the remaining instructions.

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up - and throughout the term - if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor. *****

Final Exam

The Final Exam constitutes 30 percent of your final grade. Final Exam will follow the College's schedule, and it will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. For this ONLINE class, you will do it via Canvas (under QUIZZES), and you will be given a window of time to access the exam, and further information or instruction will be given a week prior to the scheduled exam date. Please do not miss the exam. If it is an emergency, **you must notify me beforehand, and forward me the proof of the reason.**

Overall Grade will be uploaded on Bellevuecollege.edu WebGrade page within one week after the Final Exam.

COURSE CALENDAR: Fall 2014: Sep 22 – Dec 8, 2014; E201-Micro-5112-OBS

	WEEK		ASSIGNMENTS DUE	
Sep 22	1	Introduction: Syllabus, Sapling, Canvas Ch.1 - Principles Ch.2 – Appx: Math Review	By Monday 11pm (the following week): -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Sep 29	2	Ch.2 - Trade Ch.3 - Supply-Demand	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Oct 6	3	Ch.4 - Consumer Surplus Ch.5 - Government Controls	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Oct 13	4	Ch.6 – Elasticity Ch.7 – Taxes	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Oct 20	5	Ch. 8 – Int'l Trade Ch. 9 – Decision-Making	-By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Oct 27	6	Ch.10 – Budget Constraint Ch.11- Indiff Curves	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Nov 3	7	Ch.12 –Costs Ch.13 - Competitive Market	By Monday 11pm(the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Nov 10	8	Ch.14 - Monopoly (Nov 11: Holiday)	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Nov 17	9	Ch.15 – Oligopoly, Game Theory	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Nov 24	10	Ch.16 – Monopolistic Competition (Nov 27, 28: Holiday)	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: -Sapling homework -Discussion Question	
Dec 1	11	<u>Last week of the term:</u> Class Evaluation Review for Final Exam		
Dec 8		FINAL EXAM		

Division Statements

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean 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 Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

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

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter 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 present at 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

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.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**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 Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*

Addendum: Getting Started - also posted separately as a Welcoming Note

Welcome to the class! Listed here are the elements that will help you go through the quarter smoothly. The basic structure of the class will be based on “weekly” units, with each week requiring assigned reading, problem sets, and discussion questions work. First of all: Please read through the Syllabus. Basically there are five things you’ll need to do each week over the course of the quarter: 1. Read the assigned chapter for that week and check the power point slides; 2. In-class group exercises; 3. Do the Graded exercise sets via Saplinglearning.com; 4. Write and responds to the DQs each week; and, 5. Final Exam by the end of the quarter.

Textbook: I’m using the third edition of Krugman/Wells textbook. You may use the 2nd edition of Krugman/Wells textbook from any online sources for less price as a reading material (Amazon.com, HalfPrice.com, etc.); or you can get a digital version via Saplinglearning.com or via the Worthpublisher.com. Additionally, I will upload power point slides, based on this textbook, for each chapter, as we go week by week, and there will be some accompanying notes that I incorporated into each slide or if space is not enough on the slide, please choose “view note” option to see additional notes below each slide. Also I added some example, exercises, and questions, some of them will have answers (check for the note underneath each slide), and for some you need to figure out on your own based on the examples). The powerpoint slides are like a “map” to guide you as you study, but to get the full understanding, you still need to read each chapter.

Exercise Sets: Go to Saplinglearning.com and register during the first week, because the enrollment period is only 10 days. Every Monday there will Graded Exercise Sets due at 11.55pm, which will cover the material from that previous week’s assigned chapter(s). The total point value of the each set will be 100 points. These points will be given based on the % of the maximum points that you receive. The setup is for five times trial, with discounting points at each try, so it will give you chances to get the correct answer. If all five tries fail (hopefully not), you could see the answer and some explanations that will help you understand the concept.

A Typical Week

From Monday to Friday you’ll want to read the chapter(s) for that week. On Saturday/Sunday/Monday you should work through as much of the Sapling problem sets as you can, and make sure to submit it by Monday at 11.55pm. (For online class: Discussion Question (DQ), the cutoff time is also Monday night at 11.55pm you’ll want to make sure to finish up with any contributions you may have).

Final Exam: The final exam will be covering all chapters for the quarter. I will post further information as we’re approaching the last week.

Grading

Your final grade will come from the following: 35% from the DQ essays, 35% from the Sapling exercises, and 30% from the Final Exam.

Example: Suppose Tom received an *average* of 85/100 from DQ essays, an average of 90/100 from Sapling exercises for all 16 chapters, and received 80 on the final exam. The grade calculation:

$(35\% \times 85) + (35\% \times 90) + (30\% \times 80) = 85.25$ points; which according to the table below is a B+.

92 - 100 =	A	(4.0 gpa)
88-91.9 =	A-	(3.7 gpa)
84-87.9 =	B+	(3.3 gpa)
80-83.9 =	B	(3.0 gpa)
76-79.9 =	B –	(2.7 gpa)
72-75.9 =	C+	(2.3 gpa)
68-71.5 =	C	(2.0 gpa)
65-67.9 =	C-	(1.7 gpa)
60-64.5 =	D	(1.3 gpa)
Below 60 =	F	(0.0 gpa)

For other information, please read through the SYLLABUS.