



Econ 201-5105 A: Microeconomics

Economics Department, Social Science Division

Spring 2014 Syllabus

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Class Meets: M/W 9:30-11:20am and Friday 9:30-10:20am in A208
Office hours: M/W 11:30-12:30pm or Friday by appointment, A tower offices, 2nd floor A200A
Course Website: <https://bc.instructure.com/courses/943738>
Homework will be done through Aplia at: www.aplia.com - course Key: EBJX-LBCC-J3SQ

Communication with the Instructor: Welcome to our class! Students are always welcome to communicate with me through email or come to my office hours to clarify their understanding of the content or class expectations. If my hours do not work for you, please arrange an appointment time with me. Email is the best way to make those arrangements. A successful quarter starts and ends with good communication.

Scope of Microeconomics: In Microeconomics, we will examine individual markets, consumer and producer decision making. For example, what factors make the price of gasoline fluctuate so much? If we are in a recession, how does that affect demand for a particular worker, say in construction or real estate? How do wages get determined and what factors cause differentials in pay and compensation? What about tastes and preferences? Is economics all about increasing our material well-being or do we derive benefits from better social programs for others in health and education along with a more sustainable physical environment? Your Micro textbook by Mankiw gives you a foundation based on the Neo-Classical economic theory. Your supplemental reader (Dollars & Sense) addresses the shortcomings of the traditional theories. Your aim should be to effectively understand and evaluate the arguments made by both sides.

Method of Microeconomics: Economists like to use mathematical models and graphical tools to understand the workings of the economy. In this course, you will be introduced to or review models such as the production possibilities frontier and demand and supply models. The demand and supply graphical model will be used throughout the quarter, along with equations to show the relationship between variables that impact the markets we are studying.

General Education Outcomes

The foundation you will gain in this course will help you in achieving a relatively high level of competency in two of the general education outcome areas: reasoning, specifically critical thinking, creativity and problem solving and communication, specifically writing.

Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving

- Develops a lifelong habit of critical thinking about issues, and understands the value of authenticated information in any sort of analysis.
- Develops the ability to synthesize a range of responses to identified situations or problems, by invoking problem-solving processes that lead to creative and successful solutions.

Writing

- Writes clearly and effectively for varied audiences and purposes.

Learning outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

1. Apply the theory of rational choice to explain individual behavior.

2. Explain how markets allocate, produce, and distribute society's resources.
3. Predict how government intervention impacts market outcomes.
4. Critique market outcomes and government policies using concepts of efficiency and equity.
5. Explain firm behavior under various degrees of competition.
6. Extend the market framework to analyze market failures.
7. Critically analyze the positive and negative impacts of markets as they relate to social justice and environmental issues.
8. Represent and understand economic concepts and outcomes in numerical and graphical form.

Grading

Assessment	Percentage of overall grade	Point Value
Quizzes (4 X 25 points)	25%	100
Short Analysis Papers (2 X 36 points)	18%	72
Aplia Homework (3 dropped & avg. converted to points)	18%	72
Presentation	12%	48
Final Exam	18%	72
Class Participation and Attendance	9%	36
Total	100%	400

Quizzes:

There will be 4 quizzes on the section material (see calendar). Quizzes will be completed during class time and consist of multiple choice coupled with short answer problems. The final exam will have both a multiple choice and essay writing component to it.

Rules for Quizzes and Final:

- 1) Once any test has begun, students will not be permitted to leave the room until the exam has been handed in to the instructor.
- 2) All formal assessments (both essays, tests and the final exam) are individual. Any collaboration with person(s) or use of materials not permitted will result in an automatic failure (0 for the entire exam).
- 3) The use of Cell Phones, PDAs will not be allowed during exams. Separate calculators only
- 4) For each exam, please bring a scantron and calculator. For the final exam, you will need to bring an examination booklet (blue book)

Short Analysis Papers:

Short papers (2-3 pages) will allow students to analyze a particular economic problem where they will combine their textbook knowledge of concepts and economic vocabulary. Late papers carry a letter grade deduction per day. Papers will generally not be accepted after two days. Papers must be submitted by the due date/time in CANVAS for full credit. APA citation style is used. Students will be given the topic for the analysis paper one week before it is due.

Aplia Assignments:

These will be required throughout the quarter as homework. Aplia is meant to be used as a way to get some practice problem solving and applying the concepts in your textbooks. There will be approximately 1-2 graded assignments per week (one per chapter), although there will be more assignments due at the beginning of the quarter as there are math review and other supplementary work to get your ready for heavier chapters. Your math review (in Aplia) is meant to refresh your mathematical knowledge. Please use it as a guide to help you assess what you need to review. I will be available to work with students helping them to get "ramped up" especially in the first two weeks of the quarter but the responsibility is on you. At the end of the quarter, I will drop your lowest three or non-completed assignments from your grade and then compute the % based on the number of questions you got right out of possible scores. Then your percentage will be converted to points (out of 72). Please see Instructions for Aplia access below.

Class Participation & Attendance:

Participation & Attendance:

Our face to face meetings are absolutely essential. You are responsible for getting your online assignments and readings completed in a timely manner so that our meetings' goals will be to enhance, collaborate and share learning (and what is still unclear) from the relevant material. Due to our time constraints, I may not be able to do a detailed review of every topic that you are responsible for. It is up to everyone in the class to bring up questions and ask for clarity on concepts or theories.

Our class meetings are not meant to be just a review of the assigned readings but an opportunity for you to test out your understanding and practice what you are learning. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class meeting. Since attendance is taken in the first minutes of class, if you arrive late, it will be noted on your attendance record. Lateness is disrespectful to both the instructor and fellow students. Please make a serious attempt to be on time for every class. If you are not there, the whole class will miss your contribution to our learning community. Each missed class will result in a loss of class participation points (lateness is a half point lost). There are absolutely no exceptions to this. I do offer ways to earn extra credit which can offset a missed class or two.

Missed Class Policy:

If you do miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered. This means **A)** check with a fellow student, **B)** check our class website and finally **C)** see instructor during her office hours. As a courtesy, please let me know if you will be missing a class due to illness or some other reason. If you know you will be missing **more than 3** class meetings during the quarter (10% or more of our meetings), please consider withdrawing from the class and retaking it during a quarter where you can regularly attend.

Missed tests or late papers:

Missed tests, presentations or in class assignments cannot be made up! If you miss a scheduled test or assignment, you will receive a 0 grade. You may arrange to take your final exam early but must arrange this with me at least two weeks in advance. Late papers are accepted with a penalty of a portion of a letter grade per day and will not be accepted after one week of the due date.

Presentation:

Students will present in groups on a current microeconomic issue in the last three class meetings of the quarter. More details to follow in about week four of the course. There will be interim deadlines throughout the quarter and students will be given a small amount of class time to work on their presentation. Please plan on at least two meetings with your group outside of class time to rehearse and prepare your presentation.

Final Exam:

There will be an in class final exam in this course which will require you to write a timed essay that will allow me to assess the cumulative knowledge you have attained. In addition there will be 15 multiple choice questions from anywhere in the course material. **The date/time for the final is Friday June 20th, at 9:30am.**

Extra Credit:

If there are campus lectures/events that relate to our class content, 2 extra credit points may be earned if the student submits a one paragraph summary relating the event to something we have learned in class. One out of the three extra credit assignments can be a film or event attended outside of campus. This paragraph is due within 2 weeks of the event and must be uploaded in the appropriate area in CANVAS. Maximum points that can be earned for the quarter is 6. The class evaluation also counts for 2 extra credit points with proof of submission.

Books and Materials Required:

Required I

OPTION 1:

Online Textbook bundled with Aplia assignments

www.aplia.com course key: EBJX-LBCC-J3SQ

Begin: 01.06.14 End: 03.31.13

Textbook: Principles of Microeconomics by Greg Mankiw

OR

OPTION 2:

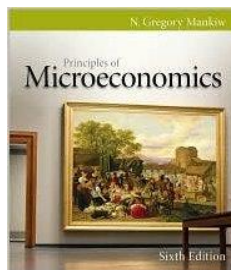
Available in the bookstore.

Principles of Microeconomics. W/Aplia (Looseleaf), 6th ed

Course Key: EBJX-LBCC-J3SQ

ISBN: 9781285917054

Please note that option 1 does not include a hard copy of the textbook. You will have to read the textbook online. I recommend students choose option #2. You can access the textbook for free on the first day of class before you decide to purchase.



Required 2

Real World Micro, 20th edition

Author Dollars+Sense

ISBN: 9781939402042



COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	Readings (Mankiw)	Readings (Dollars & Sense)	Assignments
WEEK 1-2(4/7-4/18)	Introduction to class & Aplia Chapters 2,4,5 Thinking Like an Economist Supply/Demand Model Elasticity	Ch. 1: Introduction 1.2 "Shaking the Invisible Hand" Ch. 2: Introduction 2.1"Supply, Demand & Tortillas" 2.4 "Famine Myths"	Quiz #1: 4/18
WEEK 3-4 (4/20-5/2)	Chapters 6-8 Supply/Demand cont'd Governmental policies & Welfare & Taxation	2.5 "Does Rent Control Hurt Tenants?" Ch. 9 "Intro" 9.1 "Can Tax Cuts Really Increase Government Revenue"	Quiz #2 5/2
WEEK 5-6 (5/4-5/16)	Chapters 10-12 & Externalities & Public Goods & Taxation applications	1.5 "Sharing the Wealth of the Commons" Chapter 8:Market Failure & Gov. Policy "Introduction" 8.1 "Pricing the Priceless" 8.3 "Are the Green Secretly Red?" 8.6 "Universal Health Care, Can We Afford Anything Less?"	Paper #1 due: 5/8 by 11:59pm Quiz #3 5/16
WEEK 7-10 (5/19-6/9)	Chapters 13-17 Costs & Supply Side Decisions (Perfect Competition, Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly)	Ch. 4 Introduction 4.3 What's Good for WalMart 4.7 Turning Towards Solutions Ch. 5 Introduction 5.1 Is Small Beautiful, Is Big Better 5.2 Drug Prices in Crisis	Paper #2 due: 6/5 by 11:59pm Quiz #4 6/9 (10:30-11:20am)
Presentations: Wrap Up (6/11, 6/13,6/16) & Final Exam			Final Exam: June 20 th at 9:30am

Notes on Calendar

1. Other dates to remember 4/18 is the 10th day of the quarter.
2. Chapters and reading assigned should be done before material is discussed.
3. No make-up tests (including the final) will be given except under exceptional circumstances.
4. Extra credit assignments (6pts maximum) are not replacements for missed tests or papers
5. This syllabus was constructed as a tentative plan for how the course will proceed. A number of conditions and circumstances may arise which can alter the topics, schedule, activities, materials, etc. The faculty member reserves the option to make any changes as she deems necessary

Class Expectations and Learning Atmosphere

1. This class is not intended to be simply a review of given textbooks. We are constructing our own investigation into understanding the basic concepts of microeconomics. We will draw on the material from the text, but also on the instructor's experience, current examples from the various newspapers and magazines, and information provided by

students. Chapters in the assigned text should be read according to the schedule and indicates the order of the material and the timing of the exams.

2. Disruptive/Inappropriate Behavior: Laptops, tablets & mobile devices are ok during class, however you should be using them for class purposes only. Please keep chatting and eating to a minimum. Side conversations disrupt other students so I will ask students involved to leave after one warning. I don't mind if students have a small snack and drink in the classroom but please refrain from eating meals during class. Inappropriate language in the classroom will not be tolerated. Please keep our classroom comfortable and welcoming for all of us.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College 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 Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Student Code

"Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive online behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: using offensive or derogatory language in posts and other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. 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." The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at: http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

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.

The DRC office is located in B 132 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

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

*Please see next file for Policies and Procedures for the Social Science Division