

# MICROECONOMICS Syllabus – FALL 2012

Econ201- 5111-OAS - ONLINE CLASS

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## Course Outcomes

- Be able to evaluate economic examples as they related to personal incentives 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
- Be able to calculate both marginal and average costs 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 and other types of markets.
- 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 Elasticity as a measure of quantity's responsiveness to changes in prices or income; and maximizing behavior and the limitations of rationality assumptions for households (as consumers), firms (as producers); indifference curves and budget constraints.

## Course Prerequisites

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

## Grading

Each of your work will graded with 100 point-base and then will be taken in percentage as below (on the left-hand side), and the grade range as follows (on the right hand side):

Discussion Questions (DQs)	25%	A	92-100
Sapling homeworks	50%	A-	88-91.9
(16 chapters @ 3% each)		B+	84-87.9
Approx..		B	80-83.9
		B-	76-79.9
Final Exam	25%	C+	72-75.9
		C	68-71.9
Total	100%	C-	65-67.9
		D	60-64.5

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## Books and Materials Required

- Please make sure you have your **MyBC Account (CANVAS)** activated; always check for “Announcements” & “Shared File”
- Textbook: “*Microeconomics*”, Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, 2e, Worth Publisher
- *Sapling Homework*: For homework, I’ll be using Sapling exercise, and for a stand-alone access for a quarter, (\$24.99).

### Note on Sapling Homework:

At the conclusion of every chapter we discussed in class, to help you build more understanding on the concepts, I will assign you Homework using Sapling, for exercise, and they will be graded. You will have 5 (five) attempts when solving each problem, before they are graded. We have 16 chapters, it means you will have 16 homeworks to work on, and there will be 8-10 problems for each chapter.

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. Sapling assignments constitute 50 percent of your final grade. You have access to your book while doing these exercises so grades should be relatively high in this area. The practice 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 set up the due date on Monday at 11pm.

Here are the steps to access Sapling:

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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](mailto:support@saplinglearning.com) explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor. \*\*\*\*\*

## Exams and DQs requirements

Exams are online and are made up of various kinds of questions including, but not limited to, multiple choice questions and short essay answers that require short paragraph(s). I will provide specific information on each exam and it will be “open” for a certain period (e.g. a couple days). Make sure you check so you do not miss the “open” period. The two exams constitute 25 percent each of your final grade. There will be no make-ups for missed exams and therefore follow posted schedules carefully.

### Discussion Questions (DQs)

Discussions are a crucial aspect of this course. 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 responses must be substantive that include your own thoughts. You are also required to respond to your classmates’ posts. 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.

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. For a full grade of 5 points for each DQ, follow this guideline:

- (1) Post your answer to the posted DQ and this will earn you 1 point.
- (2) Read as many posts as you want – say 20 or 40 or more and this will earn you another 1 point. The system will be set up so that you need to open and read others’ posts prior to your writing your own post.
- (3) Respond, expand, comment or ask questions related to (2) above by completing three separate postings and these will earn you additional 3 points. All of your posts must be well-written. Please check for spelling, grammar, and content, prior to posting it. The system will enable each student to compile all his/her postings and they could be a good amendment of your CV when you need to apply for a position in the future.

It is intended that your involvement in discussions be of a collaborative nature. Collaboration is quite different from confrontation. Each week’s discussion question will be graded on a scale of 0 – 5. Due date for each DQ will be on Monday night 11pm, but you are free to make your comments and participate right after the DQ is posted. At the end of the quarter, the points earned are totaled, and expressed as a percentage. DQ assignments constitute 25 percent of your final grade.

**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.**

## COURSE CALENDAR

Fall 2012 : Sep 18 – Dec 4, 2011, E201-Micro-5111-OAS – ONLINE CLASS

SEP 2011			
	WEEK		ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Sep-18	1	Introduction, Syllabus & “Assessment” Ch.1 - Principles Ch.2 – Appx: Math Review	By Monday 11pm (the following week): Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Sep-24	2	Ch.2 - Trade Ch.3 - Supply-Demand	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Oct-1	3	Ch.4 - Consumer Surplus Ch.5 - Government Controls	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Oct-8	4	Ch.6 - Elasticity Ch.7 – Taxes	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Oct-15	5	Ch. 8 – Int’l Trade Ch. 9 – Decision-Making	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Oct-22	6	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	<b>Open period for midterm exam: between Oct 29 – Nov 1</b>
Oct-29	7	Ch.10 – Budget Constraint Ch.11- Indiff Curves	By Monday 11pm(the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Nov-5	8	Ch.12 –Costs Ch.13: Competitive Market	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Nov-12	9	Ch.14 - Monopoly Ch.15 – Oligopoly	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Nov-19	10	Ch.16 – Monopolistic Competition HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Nov-26	11	Ch. 17 - Externalities Ch. 18 – Public Goods	By Monday 11pm (the following week):: Sapling homework & Discussion Question
Dec-4	12	<b>FINAL EXAM (Dec 7)</b>	<b>Open period for final exam: between Dec 5 – Dec 7</b>

## 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.

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*\*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.*