

Econ 201, Online, Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

- Betsy Zahrt Geib
- E-mail: elizabeth.zahrtgeib@bellevuecollege.edu
- Phone: 425.564.2708
- Campus Office location: A200K
- Office Hours: online via email or chat, contact to schedule an appointment

Required Materials

- Aplia access packaged with Mankiw, Gregory. Principles of Microeconomics, 6th ed. South-Western/Cengage. Click [here](#) for information on how to access the Aplia site for this course.
- You may also choose to purchase a looseleaf or used copy of the book. The Aplia access listed above comes only with the e-book.
- other readings/books as assigned
- desktop, laptop, tablet or netbook and a reliable internet connection

Course Outcomes

- Be able to evaluate economic examples as they relate to personal incentives and 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 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
 - Coase Theorem and transaction costs as they pertain to market failures

- Maximizing behavior and the limitations of rationality assumptions for households, firms and government agents.
- Discuss, in depth, alternative mechanisms of allocation beyond the market mechanism of the price signal

Pacing

This is not a self-paced class. Please use the due dates as a guide for the material you should be working on each week. There is a richness to our discussions when students are working on the same material at the same time.

Learning Atmosphere

- contact the instructor immediately when:
 - you don't understand a concept or are having difficulty with an assignment,
 - there is a possibility that you may miss the deadline for an assignment;
 - you are concerned about your grade;
- interact positively with classmates;
- attempt all assignments, even if you are unsure of your results;
- submit all assignments on time;
- ask questions and voice your opinion
- read assignment comments and feedback
- log into the class site a minimum of 4 times each week, and spend approximately 10 hours each week on class assignments.

Modules

This course is divided into 5 modules. These modules are:

Module	Description	Content
Getting Started	Course tour, practice assignments, syllabus	Aplia introduction; syllabus quiz; demonstration assignments, tech survey, Canvas orientation
Module 1	Introduction to Microeconomics	Chapters 1, 2, 3
Module 2	How Markets Work	Chapters 4, 5, 6
Module 3	Market Failures	Chapters 7, 8, 9
Module 4	The Economics of the Public Sector	Chapters 10, 11, 12

Module 5	Firm Behavior and Industrial Organization	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
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Grading

Total grades for the course will be based on the following weights.

Item	Weight
Final Exam	20%
Aplia Chapter Assignments	20%
Module Quizzes	10%
Discussions	20%
Applications	25%
Getting Started Module	5%
Total	100%

Items

- **Final Exam:** The final exam for this course is online, timed, and the due date is March 26th at 11:59 pm. The final exam opens at 12:01 am Sunday, March 23rd.
- **Module Quizzes:** There will be a 5 module quizzes; one at the conclusion of each module. These quizzes are online, timed, and due by 11 pm on their due dates. Check the course calendar for specific dates. Each quiz will stay open for 48 hours (2 days).
- **Graded Aplia Problem Sets:** There is a graded problem set associated with each Chapter in this course. Students have 3 attempts at each question in these assignments, and the average score for each assignment is recorded toward the final grade in this course. Students are allowed to drop their 3 lowest Aplia problem set grade.
- **Discussions:** Throughout the quarter we will have an opportunity to discuss more deeply aspects of the course. Students are expected to read or watch the material and participate in the online discussions or assignments.
- **Applications:** To encourage critical thinking, students will be asked to apply microeconomic theory to real world issues either through short thought papers/essays, guided inquiries, or current events. Students are allowed to drop their lowest 1 application grade.
- **Getting Started Module:** There are several simple assignments due the first week of class. These assignments are intended to ensure that students have the skills and information

necessary to be successful in this course. You will not be able to access any other course content until you have completed the Getting Started module.

Points and weights

Each assignment has a point score assigned to it. At the end of the quarter, all grade groups will be weighted so that there is a total of 100 points per graded group before applying the grade group percentage to compute the final grade.

Deadlines

Each assignment has a due date. In the event that you fall below expectations, contact me immediately to set up a meeting to discuss options. Keep this in mind and make every attempt to begin assignments well before the due date. **There is no extra credit.**

Distribution of Grades

Throughout the quarter, you will be able to see your total points in Canvas. Be sure to check grades often and notify me of any potential discrepancies. End-of-quarter grades will not be posted in Canvas (total points will, but not letter grades), 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.

Highest	Lowest	Letter Grade
100.00%	93.00%	A
92.99%	90.00%	A-
89.99%	87.00%	B+
86.99%	83.00%	B
82.99%	80.00%	B-
79.99%	77.00%	C+
76.99%	73.00%	C
72.99%	70.00%	C-
69.99%	67.00%	D+
66.99%	60.00%	D
59.99% and below	0%	F

Student Code

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. I will 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

Inclusion

I am 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. I highly value our different backgrounds, abilities and interests at Bellevue College. Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office located in B132 to establish their eligibility for accommodation. Upon receipt of the letter of accommodation from the DRC, I will meet with you to find out how I can best accommodate your learning. The DRC office has moved to the Library Media Center for the Fall Quarter, or you can call their reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach them by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit their website for application information and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

I'm still learning how to create a website that doesn't include unnecessary barriers. If you find content that you cannot access, please let me know.

Date	Day	Details
Jan 6	Mon	Quarter Begins Start: Getting Started Module
Jan 9	Thu	Complete "Introduction to Using Aplia Assignments" (outside LMS graded assignment) Decisions, Decisions, Decisions (essay) Finding your way around the course Getting Started Quiz (timed graded quiz) Graphing Tutorial and Assessment Syllabus Quiz
Jan 10	Fri	Last day to withdraw with full refund
Jan 12	Sun	CHAPTER 1: 7 Principles of Economics Chapter 1 Problem Set (Aplia) Decisions, with a Scoring Rubric Find the key words (group level discussion) Introduce yourself (class level discussion)

Date	Day	Details
Jan 16	Thu	CHAPTER 2: Thinking like an Economist Chapter 2 Problem Set (Aplia) Check your understanding: Production Possibilities Curve Module 1 Discussion: On the Invisible Hand and Darwin Economics
Jan 17	Fri	Last day to withdraw w/o a W on your transcript
Jan 19	Sun	CHAPTER 3: Interdependence and the Gains from Trade Chapter 3 Problem Set (Aplia) Class Level Discussion: Trade Exploration: International Trade in the Garment Industry
Jan 22	Wed	Module Quiz 1 opens
Jan 23	Thu	CHAPTER 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand Module 1 Quiz
Jan 25	Sat	Last day to withdraw with a 50% refund
Jan 26	Sun	CHAPTER 4: DAY 2 Chapter 4 Problem Set (Aplia) Why we shouldn't trust markets with our civic life (class level discussion)
Jan 30	Thu	CHAPTER 5: Elasticity and Its Application Application: Minimum Wage Chapter 5 Problem Set (Aplia)
Feb 2	Sun	CHAPTER 6: Supply, Demand, and Government Policies Chapter 6 Problem Set (Aplia) Minimum Wage Exploration
Feb 6	Thu	Module 2 Discussion: The Minimum Wage
Feb 8	Sat	Module 2 Quiz opens
Feb 9	Sun	CHAPTER 7: Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets Application: Consumer Surplus Chapter 7 Problem Set (Aplia) Module 2 Discussion closes Module 2 quiz
Feb 13	Thu	CHAPTER 8: Application: The Costs of Taxation Application: Airline Taxes and Fees Chapter 8 Problem Set (Aplia)
Feb 16	Sun	CHAPTER 9: Application: International Trade Chapter 10 Problem Set (Aplia)

Date	Day	Details
		Chapter 9 Problem Set (Aplia) Module 3 Discussion News Event: Price Drops Energize the Market for Solar Panels (Aplia)
Feb 19	Wed	Module 3 Quiz opens
Feb 20	Thu	Module 3 discussion closes Application: Tariffs Module 3 Quiz
Feb 23	Sun	CHAPTER 10: Externalities Last day to withdraw with a "W"
Feb 27	Thu	CHAPTER 11: Public Goods and Common Resources Chapter 11 Problem Set (Aplia) Class Level Discussion: Public Goods
Mar 2	Sun	CHAPTER 12: The Design of the Tax System Chapter 12 Problem Set (Aplia) Module 4 Discussion (group level)
Mar 5	Wed	Module 4 Quiz opens
Mar 6	Thu	Module 4 Quiz
Mar 9	Sun	CHAPTER 13: The Costs of Production Chapter 13 Problem Set (Aplia)
Mar 13	Thu	CHAPTER 14: Firms in Competitive Markets Chapter 14 Problem Set (Aplia) Exploration: Concentration Ratios
Mar 16	Sun	CHAPTER 15: Monopoly Chapter 15 Problem Set (Aplia) Exploration: Monopoly in the Beer Market
Mar 20	Thu	Chapter 16: Monopolistic Competition Module 5 Quiz Chapter 16 Problem Set (Aplia) Class Evaluation Module 5 Discussion (group level)
Mar 22	Sat	Module 5 Quiz opens
Mar 23	Sun	Final Exam opens Module 5 Quiz
Mar 26	Wed	Quarter Ends

Date	Day	Details
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Final Exam
