

Department of Economics  
ECON&201 Microeconomics 5112B233  
Syllabus – Winter 2013

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Instructor Contact Information

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Course Description

This course will cover basic economic theories, models, and concepts and shows their applications to a variety of economic issues. We will examine topics like supply and demand, taxes, trades, market structures, efficiency and equity. Additionally, it explains decision-making based on cost/benefit analysis including challenges surrounding implementations of policies.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the quarter, students are expected to accomplish the following:

- Be able to evaluate key concept of opportunity cost and the utility of economic reasoning in personal and business decisions.
- Understand how international trade creates wealth, and be able to analyze the impact of government policies and regulations on trade.
- Understand market structures, government regulations and competition in market economy.
- Identify and examine the nature of market failure, government interventions and externalities.
- Be able to understand and critique the reasonableness of economic content of newspapers, journals, radio or TV broadcasts.

Prerequisites

There are no particular prerequisites for this course except that 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.

Required Materials

The textbook required for this class is Microeconomics by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (second edition). It is available in Campus bookstore. You can also purchase it wherever you find it available.

Sapling Learning provides a learning resource exercise materials which is a weekly homework assignments. The Sapling Learning resource access fee is \$24.99 and *you will need access to Sapling in order to do the exercises and complete the course.*

How to access Sapling Learning for homework exercises:

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com>

2a. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 3.

2b. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a SaplingLearning account. Click the blue button with the Facebook symbol on it (just to the left of the username field). 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 and timezone, accept the site policy agreement, and click "Create my new account". You can then skip to step 3.

2c. Otherwise, click "Register here". Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account". Check your email (and spam filter) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email.

3. Find your course in the list (you may need to expand the subject and term categories) and click the link.

4. 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 competent, fast and cooperative to resolve issues for your success.

Sapling assignments constitute 20 percent of your final grade. You have access to your book while doing these exercises. Additionally, you will have three attempts and no deduction per attempt so grades should be relatively high in this area. The practice questions can help you immensely since it provides you with immediate feedback also. All Sapling assignments are due on Sundays at 11:00 P.M. NO EXCEPTIONS.

#### 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
- (3) Respond, expand, comment or ask questions by completing three separate postings and these will earn you additional 3 points. All of your posts must be well-written.

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. At the end of the quarter, the points earned are totaled and expressed as a percentage. DQ assignments constitute 20 percent of your final grade.

## Exams

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 your syllabus so you do not miss the "open" period. The three exams constitute 60 percent of your final grade. There will be no make-ups for missed exams and therefore follow posted schedules carefully.

## Attendance

One of the advantages of an online class is its flexibility. Think about your learning style and your productivity at different times. This flexibility does not mean that the course is completely self-paced. There are deadlines and plan in order to meet them. PLAN AHEAD. The calendar will show topics by week. I will ignore the issue of holidays, week-ends, and school closures. Some of us may choose to work during those days while others stay to a regular 5 day a week approach.

Students who do not log on for 2 consecutive traditional school days are likely to miss important assignments or information. It is your responsibility to keep current and get an email message to me if you are planning on missing consecutive days. It is so easy to fall behind or miss vital procedural information if you do not set yourself a regular schedule.

Having said that, I do not plan on being online 24/7 myself. I know you all have other important parts of your life which require some of your attention. My goal is to help you organize yourself and utilize an approach that will not leave you overwhelmed at the end.

## Responsibilities

Read instructions carefully and be certain to meet deadlines for all assignments and exams. You are responsible for missed assignments and exams and no re-taking is allowed. There is no extra credit assignments also. The following are additional responsibilities you are expected to accomplish:

- Visit the on-line classroom four or five times a week. Realistically, set at least three or four times each week.
- Notify me ahead of time if you're going to be "absent" for two days or more in a row.
- Complete and submit required assignments on time.

- Let me know if you're having trouble with the course material in a timely enough manner so that I can help you solve it successfully.
- Obtain and maintain access to the Internet
- Cope with technology problems, including virus, that involve your own machine or software.
- Write ethically and do your own work. Plagiarism is not allowed.

The instructor is responsible to be accessible and respond to your questions/concerns in a timely fashion, and facilitate and promote a learning environment that helps you learn and enjoy the process of learning.

#### Components of the Course Grade

Hour Exam I	20%
Hour Exam II	20%
Hour Exam III	20%
DQs	20%
Sapling Exercises	20%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Course Grading Scale

Percentages	Letter	Percentages	Letter
100 – 95	A	76 – 74	C
94 – 90	A-	73 – 70	C-
89 – 87	B+	69 – 67	D+
86 – 84	B	66 – 64	D
83 – 80	B-	63 – 60	D-
79 – 77	C+	Below 60	F

Homework Assignments and Exams Due Dates:

Discussion Question Assignments are due on Saturdays at 10:00 P.M. Sapling Assignments are due on Sundays at 11:00 P.M.  
No exceptions, and no makeup exam.

<p>Week 1 (1/2-1/6)</p>	<p>Ch. 1- First Principles Discussion Question (DQ) Due: 1/5 Sapling Due: 1/6</p>
<p>Week 2 (1/7-1/13)</p>	<p>Ch. 2-Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade Ch. 2-Appendix: Graphs in Economics Discussion Question Due: 1/12 Sapling Due: 1/13</p>
<p>Week 3 (1/14-1/20)</p>	<p>Ch. 3-Supply and Demand Discussion Question Due: 1/19 Sapling Due: 1/20</p>
<p>Week 4(1/21-1/27)</p>	<p>Ch. 4-Consumer and Producer Surplus Ch. 5-The Market Strikes Back Discussion Question Due: 1/26 Sapling Due: 1/27</p>
<p>Week 5 (1/28-2/3)</p>	<p>Ch. 6-Elasticity Discussion Question Due: 2/2 Sapling Due: 2/3</p> <p>EXAM ONE on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Available on 1/31 at 10:00 P.M. Closes on 2/3 at 10:00 P.M.</p>
<p>Week 6 (2/4-2/10)</p>	<p>Ch. 7-Taxes Ch. 8-International Trade Discussion Question Due: 2/9 Sapling Due: 2/10</p>
<p>Week 7 (2/11-2/17)</p>	<p>Ch.9-Making Decisions Ch. 10-The Rational Consumer Discussion Question Due: 2/16 Sapling Due: 2/17</p>

<p>Week 8 (2/18-2/24)</p>	<p>Ch.12-Behind the Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs  Discussion Question Due: 2/23  Sapling Due: 2/24</p> <p>EXAM TWO on Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10  Available on 2/21 at 10:00 P.M.  Closes on 2/24 at 10:00 P.M.</p>
<p>Week 9 (2/25-3/3)</p>	<p>Ch.13-Perfect Competition and the Supply Curve  Ch.14-Monopoly  Discussion Question Due: 3/2  Sapling Due: 3/3</p>
<p>Week 10 (3/4-3/10)</p>	<p>Ch.15-Oligopoly  Ch. 16-Monopolistic Competition and Product Differentiation  Discussion Question Due: 3/9  Sapling Due: 3/10</p>
<p>Week 11(3/11-3/17)</p>	<p>Ch.17- Externalities  Discussion Question Due: 3/16  Sapling Due: 3/17</p>
<p>Week 12 ( 3/18-3/20)</p>	<p>EXAM THREE - Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17</p> <p>Available on 3/17 at 10:00 P.M.  Closes on 3/20 at 10:00 P.M.</p>

Read completely the Guideline below:

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.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION  
Winter 2013

**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.

**Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who

require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

#### 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.*