

Bellevue College
Social Science Division
Department of Economics

Econ&201 Microeconomics
Summer 2010 Online Syllabus – Items 5222 B011, 5223 B011 and 5225 B011

Instructor Contact Information

Wubeshet Seyoum, Ph.D.
Office: D200E
wseyoum@bellevuecollege.edu

On campus Phone 425.564.5192
Division Fax 425.564.3108
Mailbox: Social Science Division, D110

Course Description

This course covers basic economic theories, models, concepts and shows their applications to a variety of social and economic issues like taxes, trades, market structure, efficiency and equity. Additionally, it explains decision-making based on the analysis of costs and benefits including the challenges surrounding implementations of economic policies

Course Objectives

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

- Be able to understand and explain key concepts like opportunity cost, marginal analysis and the utility of economic reasoning in personal and business decisions.
- Understand how trade creates wealth and be able to analyze the impact of governmental policies and regulations upon the economics of trade.
- Understand market structure, government regulations and competition in the market economy.
- Understand and examine the nature of market and government failures.
- 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 hours 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 online textbook required for this class is Microeconomics by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (second edition). It is available online via Aplia (www.aplia.com). The Aplia fee for online access is \$80.00. If you prefer a paper copy of the textbook, you can print the sections of the online textbook. A hard copy of the textbook can be purchased, but not required, directly from Aplia for an additional cost of \$50.00, or can purchased from other sources. *You will still need the online Aplia access in order to do the graded exercises and complete this course.*

Blackboard (BB) VISTA Description

The BB VISTA platform is the course homepage and presents an online learning environment that provides space for course content and tools. More information is provided in the homepage. Only registered students will be able to access the course homepage.

There is a BB VISTA tutorial attached to the Distance-Ed Web Site (<http://bellevue.edu/distance>) to help you get acquainted with the software used in your classroom. This interactive student tutorial can be reviewed at: (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/classroom.asp>).

APLIA Description (www.aplia.com)

You should think of the Aplia site as a source for:

- 1) the electronic version of your textbook
- 2) practice, non-graded exercises to give you immediate feedback on what you are reading
- 3) graded homework exercises that assess your understanding of materials covered.

Aplia is only one source of learning and assessment and is meant to be used in conjunction with the instructor's lecture notes and other class resources. Many assignments in Aplia come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. They are not counted as part of your grade. The graded problem sets do count towards your final grade. By completing regular work of practice and graded sets in association with the lectures, you will better prepare yourself for the exams in the course.

One of the advantages of an online class is flexibility on when you choose to study. Think about your learning style and your productivity at different times. This flexibility does not mean the course is self-study nor completely self-paced. Note deadlines and plan in order to meet them. We use a schedule in Aplia and also on the Vista site. PLAN AHEAD. The schedule 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.

Attendance

Students who do not log on at least 3 or 4 times during any given week and/or 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. The goal is simply to help you learn with an approach that will not leave you overwhelmed at the end.

Student 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. 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 to go on and then add more as necessary for the assignment or to follow all the links.
- Notify me ahead of time if you're going to be "absent" for two days or more in a row.
- Post or send the required work and regularly comment in discussions on other students' work

- Let me know if you're having trouble with the course material in a timely enough manner so that I can help you address it.
- 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.

Instructor responsibilities

- To be accessible and respond to your questions/concerns in a timely fashion.
- Facilitate and promote a learning environment that helps you learn and enjoy the process of discovery.

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

Grading Procedures

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on the following five components:

Hour Exam I	20%
Hour Exam II	20%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Postings	20%
Aplia Graded exercises	20%
Total:	100%

DUE DATES for Discussion Questions (DQ) and Aplia Assignments – SUMMER 2010

DQs are due on **SATURDAYS at 10:00 P.M.** Aplia Assignments are due on **SUNDAYS at 11:00 P.M.**

Week 1 (6/28-7/4)

Ch. 1 – First Principles
Introduction to Using Aplia Problem Sets
Maths and Graphing Assessment with Tutorials
Aplia Assignment Due : 7/4

Week 2 (7/5-7/11)

Ch. 2 - Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade
Ch. 3 – Supply and Demand
Discussion Question (DQ) Due: 7/10
Aplia Assignment Due: 7/11

Week 3 (7/12-7/18)	Ch. 5 – The Market Strikes Back Ch. 6 - Elasticity Discussion Question Due: 7/17 Aplia Assignment Due: 7/18
Week 4 (7/19-7/25)	Ch. 7 - Taxes Discussion Question Due: 7/24 Aplia Assignment Due: 7/25 Exam One: Covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Available on 7/22 - 10:00 P.M. / Closes on 7/25 - 10:00 P.M.
Week 5 (7/26-8/1)	Ch. 8 – International Trade Ch. 9 – Making Decisions Discussion Question Due 7/31 Aplia Assignment Due: 8/1
Week 6 (8/2-8/8)	Ch. 13 – Perfect Competition and The Supply Curve Ch. 14 - Monopoly Discussion Question Due: 8/7 Aplia Assignments Due: 8/8
Week 7 (8/9-8/15)	Ch. 16 – Monopolistic Competition and Product Differentiation Discussion Question Due: 8/14 Aplia Assignments Due: 8/15 Exam Two: Covers Chapters 7, 8, 9, 13 and 14 Available On 8/12 – 10:00 P.M. / Closes on 8/15 – 10:00 P.M.
Week 8 (8/16-8/22)	Ch. 15 - Oligopoly Ch. 17 - Externalities Discussion Question Due: 8/21 Aplia Assignments Due: 8/22
Week 9 (8/23-8/29)	Ch. 18 – Public Goods and Common Resources Ch. 19 – The Economics of the Welfare State Discussion Question Due: 8/28 Aplia Assignments Due: 8/29
Week 10 (8/30-9/2)	Exam Three: Covers Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 Available On 8/29 – 10:00 P.M. / Closes on 9/1 – 10:00 P.M.

Be Proactive! Take Charge of Your Own Learning!

Exams

Exams 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 as to what material you will have to go back and review including the type of questions. The three exams constitute 60 percent of your final grade. No re-takes are permitted and therefore follow posted schedules carefully.

Discussion Postings

You are required to respond to the discussion questions that will be posted. Your responses must be substantive notes which include providing your own thoughts (Not just "I agree" notes) and/or responding to your classmates. Examples of substantive notes include making comments that reference concepts found in the assigned reading and/or offering creative contributions or examples from your experience.

Your active participation in the learning process requires your involvement in class discussion with your in-depth contribution: adding to the body of knowledge being discussed, elaborating to provide greater clarity through the use of examples or comparisons, or applying theory to pragmatic applications achieved through your own work experience or other resource material.

Participation involves posting answers to discussion questions, reading posted answers of your classmates, and answering, questioning, and contributing to these posted answers. For a full grade of 5 for each DQ, follow this guideline: (1) post your answer to the DQ and this will earn you one point, (2) read about half of the postings or as many as you want to and that earns you another one point, (3) respond, expand, comment or ask questions related to (2) above by completing three separate postings and this will earn you additional three points. All of your posts must be well written. Follow this guideline to earn a full point of 5 for each DQ.

It is intended that your involvement in discussions be of collaborative nature. Collaboration is quite different from confrontation, when trying to establish a point.

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.

Aplia Graded Exercises

Each week Aplia assignments will be graded on different scales depending on how many points are assigned to the set of questions. Your final Aplia grade will be totaled and expressed as a percentage. Aplia assignments constitute 20 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

Due dates are exactly that. 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)

Read completely the Guidelines 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 SUMMER 2010

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.*
