

## **ECON& 201 Microeconomics**

Summer 2009

Credits: 5

Instructor: Erin Vernon

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Office hours: By appointment

Office: D200 E

### **Communication with the Instructor:**

To email me (the best form of communication) you can either use the email available within Vista or my above Bellevue College account.

I will usually log onto the course at various hours throughout the day and, consistently, late in the evening (Monday – Fridays). I will try to answer emails in a timely fashion. You should have “same day service” on the weekdays for email responses although they may not be returned until late in the evening. I tend not to log on to the course consistently over the weekends.

If you would like to speak with me over the phone, send me an email to arrange a phone appointment. If you would like to meet in-person, email me and we can work out an office hour time that works for us both. Note: I will be out of state for the last two weeks in August. In the past, I have had trouble reaching all students via their registered email accounts. For this reason, all of my class wide announcements are not sent out via email but, instead, posted in the announcement section on Vista. Be sure to check this section out often as any new course updates will be posted there.

### **Course Description ~ Outcomes**

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to do the following:

- Use economic concepts to describe market trends, consumer behavior and public policies.
- 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).
- Expand the basic model to understand the benefits and costs of taxation.
- Expand the basic model to understand various forms of market failures.
- Apply economic concepts to understanding Public Goods and Common Resources
- Understand the basic theory of international trade and its benefits.
- Apply elasticity concepts and their relation to human behavior and market outcomes.

“2” in Gen Ed ratings for “Critical Thinking” and for “Quantitative and Logical Reasoning” and “Writing” as well as 1s in 7 other areas.

**Prerequisites:**

Recommended: 30 prior college credits. You should have a grasp of basic math skills, such as calculating averages, percentage change, graphing, setting up equations and solving for unknown variables.

**Required Materials**

We will be using an online version of Microeconomics by Krugman and Wells.

You access this online book by obtaining an Aplia subscription. Aplia is an online learning tool for students, available at: [www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com). The Aplia site will not only provide online access to the text you will be using throughout the quarter, but also hosts valuable practice problems as well as the graded problem sets you will be working on throughout the class (worth 25% of your final grade).

Most have done just fine with the online version of the text and felt they have not missed out by not having a physical text. If, however, you want a paper copy of the text, you can order it for an additional \$50 via the aplia site.

The Aplia fee is \$80.00. **Instructions for how to sign up for Aplia are in “Getting Started with Aplia” document in Module 1 of Vista.** This will be something you must do during the first week of the course.

I may occasionally post additional articles for your required reading. They will be available in Vista and I will clearly state when they are available and where to access them.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to log into Vista the course on a relatively daily basis, and participate by posting onto the threaded bulletin board discussions. In this fashion, we will be creating a “virtual classroom.” Students who do not log in at least 4 times a week most likely will have trouble doing well in this course. Your postings will be an important component of the class requirements and your grade (see below).

## **Course Requirements**

1. One midterm exam which will be conducted on-line. It will consist of both multiple choice questions and short essay questions (from a sentence or two, to a long paragraph), so they will be slightly different from the Aplia assignments. The midterm exam will comprise 20% of the grade. **The exam will be open from Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> to Monday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

2. A final exam, also online, will mainly cover the latter portion of the quarter, along with a few selected components from the rest of the quarter. I will make clear what material you will have to go back to review. This exam will comprise 30% of the grade. It will be held during the final week of the quarter. **The exam will be open from Thursday, Aug 27<sup>th</sup> to Monday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.**

3. Discussion postings will comprise 25% of your grade. Each week I will pose questions, or refer you to an article, or ask you to respond to something in our reading. In general, you will respond with a “substantive” post each week, and at least 2 replies to other students’ postings. By “substantive” I mean engaging with the material and ideas being discussed, putting some thought into the issue at hand, and making use of the Economics you will be learning. Each weekly discussion will be graded on a scale of 0-10. You can miss a week, or I will drop your lowest grade. Each week I will explicitly state what the discussion requirements of that specific week are.

4. Weekly Aplia exercises will comprise 25% of your grade. Your Aplia grade will be a simple unweighted percentage of all your answers. You should be working on Aplia problems all week, not waiting until the Sunday evening deadline. There are usually more than one set of questions each week, sometimes (when there are 2 chapters in the text) several sets. And the way Aplia works, you can redo sections to raise your grade. So, get on it early in the week.

### **Grade overview:**

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Aplia assignments: 25%

Discussion postings: 25%

If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email or set up an appointment to come to see me. If you need course modifications/adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disabilities Resource Center (DRC). If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>

Other services you should be aware of include:

- For technical difficulties with the online aspects of the Vists course: Liz Anderson with Distance Ed, Rm. A140, 425-564-2438.
- For questions specifically related to Aplia email [support@aplia.com](mailto:support@aplia.com).
- Financial Aid, B building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 425-564-2227.
- Library Media Center, D126, 425-564-6161.
- Academic Tutoring Center, D204, 425-564-2468
- Social Sciences Advisor: Deanne Eschbach, [deschbac@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:deschbac@bellevuecollege.edu), 425-564-2216.
- Counseling Center, B234, 425-564-2212.

### **Grading**

93% and above: A

90-92%: A-

87-89%: B+

83-86% B

80-82%: B-

77 – 79%: C+

73 – 76%: C

70 – 72%: C-

67 – 69%: D+

63 – 66%: D

60 – 62%: D-

Below 60: F

### **TENATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE as of 6/29/09**

The following chapter assignments are from your textbook. There also may be articles assigned occasionally, for your discussion posts.

Micro: *Microeconomics*, Krugman and Wells ~ accessed via aplia

WEEK 1 (June 29 – Jul 3) Micro, Ch 1.

WEEK 2 (Jul 6 – 10) Micro, Ch 2 and 3

WEEK 3 (Jul 13 – 17) Micro, Ch 4 and 5

WEEK 4 (Jul 20 – 24) Micro, Ch 6 and 7

WEEK 5 (Jul 27 – 31) Micro, 8; Midterm Exam

WEEK 6 (Aug 3 – 7) Micro, 12 and 13

WEEK 7 (Aug 10 – 14) Micro, 14 and 15

WEEK 8 (Aug 17 – 21) Micro, 16 and 17

WEEK 9 (Aug 24 – 31\*) Micro, 18; Final Exam

\*Last day to take final exam is Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Key Deadlines

### EXAMINATIONS

Midterm exam: **Open from Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> to Monday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Final exam: **Open from Thursday, Aug 27<sup>th</sup> to Monday, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### APLIA ASSIGNMENTS

**Due every Sunday evening at 11:00 p.m.** But, to re-emphasize what I said above, work on these continuously through the preceding week.

### DISCUSSION POSTINGS

Starting the first week, I will post one or two discussion question prompts in the Vista Discussion section for you to post answers on. For most weeks, you will be required to do one major posting on these prompts using economic concepts you have learned. In addition, you also must post at least two well thought out responses to others' postings. **These are due every Sunday evening at 11:00 p.m.**

Each week, I will post a "To-Do" list (see below) for students on the main page which will explicitly detail the required postings for the specific week.

As a general rule, I will not respond directly to your posts, I will leave that to your fellow students. I will write up summaries of the postings and key learning concepts of the discussions every other week. About half-way through the course, I will also give you the "current grade" of your Discussion postings to let you know how you are personally doing with this portion of your grade.

### HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Late Sunday/Early Monday morning of each week I will post a "This Week's Comments & To-Do List" on the main page. This will include my comments about the subject matter you will be learning in that particular week as well as a checklist of required activities for the week. Reviewing this document each week is a good way to get your week going. The previous weeks' documents will be removed from the Vista main page but still can be found in the associated learning module.

**ONLINE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES  
OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION  
Revised Summer 2009**

Bellevue College's 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 BC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

The college's "Affirmation of Inclusion" is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an online course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions. Part of this respect involves professional behavior towards the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself.

Cheating, Stealing, and Plagiarizing\* and Inappropriate Behavior

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the [Core Rules of Netiquette](#). The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. 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, [link to Student Code](#).

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). It is the student's responsibility for maintaining contact and adhering to the agreed-upon actions. Vista class sites, and material, may not be directly accessible after the end of the quarter so it important to make arrangements before the quarter ends. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F"). There is a standard form that instructors have access to in their instructor's grade briefcase.

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

Final examinations may involve proctored on-campus arranged exams or may be administrated completely online at the discretion of the instructor and in keeping with the stated policies provided in the course syllabus. Please refer to the syllabus at the start of the quarter for additional details and contact the instructor directly for any clarifications. A student who is not in compliance with the scheduled format 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 in compliance with 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

*Academic Year:* 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.

*Summer Quarter:* College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the fifth week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). After the sixth day and through the end of the fifth week of the quarter, the "W" grade will become part of the student's transcript record.

Check [Enrollment Calendar Deadlines, Refunds/Withdrawals](#), for additional details. As with most enrollment deadlines, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates and act accordingly.

#### Hardship Withdrawal (HW)

From page 9 of the current course catalog, [2008-2009 online catalog](#), HW indicates a withdrawal request made because of extenuating circumstances after the official withdrawal period is over. The student must contact the instructor to request this withdrawal option, or the faculty member may initiate the contact. No points are calculated into the grade-point average. 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 contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) [link to DRC](#). The office is located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110, email [drc@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:drc@bellevuecollege.edu)). Students will need to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter or contact your online instructor directly by email. Students who require accommodation in a course should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

#### Distribution of Grades

Students should access their grades through the BC Web site. Any returned material should be accessed prior to the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Vista class sites may not be accessible by students. Individual instructors may use non-Vista tools for recording and maintaining the students' progress. Questions about grades assigned should be initially directed to your instructor.

#### Submission and Returning of Papers, Assignments and Assessments:

Specific guidelines for taking exams and submitting assignments are published in the syllabus. Please contact instructor at the start of the quarter for any clarifications.

#### Technical Assistance

Vista-related or technical issues should be referred to Distance Education, [link to Distance Education web resources](#). You may also email them at [landerso@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:landerso@bellevuecollege.edu) or call 425-564-2438 (1-877-641-2712). Vista tutorial help and basic instructions can be found at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/studentguide/>

*\*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 Vice President of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*