

ECON& 201: Microeconomics
Winter 2008, Online Section A (5226 and 5227)
Instructor: Chuck Curry

Office Hours: By appointment only, Room D200E (BCC campus)

Email: Blackboard Vista, the learning system within which our virtual classroom exists, includes an internal email system—please use this to contact me. If you are unable to contact me using Vista email, my BCC address is [ccurry@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:c Curry@bellevuecollege.edu)

Textbook: *Principles of Microeconomics, 5th Edition*, by N. Gregory Mankiw. The text is available as an ebook that is bundled with Aplia—an online learning tool that we will use for graded problem sets. You may also purchase a hard copy of the text from Aplia, the BCC Bookstore, or another source. However, you must register with Aplia in order to complete the homework assignments for the course.

Course Goals: Microeconomics is the study of the decision-making behavior of households and firms and their interaction in markets. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the basic tools of economic theory and the use of these tools in analyzing real-world issues and problems—what is often called “the economic way of thinking.” We’ll focus on the allocation of resources through competitive markets, prices, and government intervention. We’ll use the tools of economic analysis to examine issues including taxes, trade, monopoly power, and income inequality.

Recommended: 30 prior college credits.

Schedule:

	<u>Week 1</u>
Jan. 5 th – 9 th	<i>Principles of Economics</i> , Ch. 1, pp. 3-12. <i>Thinking Like an Economist</i> , Ch. 2
	<u>Week 2</u>
Jan. 12 th – 16 th	<i>Interdependence and the Gains from Trade</i> , Ch. 3
	<u>Week 3</u>
Jan. 19 th – 23 rd	<i>The Market Forces of Supply and Demand</i> , Ch. 4
	<u>Week 4</u>
Jan. 26 th – 30 th	<i>Elasticity and Its Application</i> , Ch. 5 <i>Supply, Demand, and Government Policies</i> , Ch. 6
	<u>Week 5</u>
Feb. 2 nd – 6 th	<i>Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets</i> , Ch. 7 <i>Applications of the Tools of Welfare Economics</i> , Ch. 8 & 9

Week 6

Feb. 9th – 13th *Externalities*, Ch. 10
Public Goods and Common Resources, Ch. 11

Week 7

Feb. 16th – 20th *Earnings and Discrimination*, Chapter 19
Income Inequality and Poverty, Chapter 20

Week 8

Feb. 23rd – 27th *The Costs of Production*, Ch. 13
Firms in Competitive Markets, Ch. 14

Week 9

March 2nd – 5th *Firms in Competitive Markets*, Ch. 14 (*continued*)
Monopoly, Ch. 15

Week 10

March 9th – 13th *Oligopoly*, Ch. 16

Week 11

March 16th – 18th *Monopolistic Competition*, Ch. 17

FINAL EXAM: A final exam will be held on the BCC campus during the final exams “week” (3/19, 20, and 23). The room, date and time will be announced during the quarter.

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in advance.

Attendance: I expect you to log in to our “classroom” daily (i.e., 5 times a week) to participate in discussions, check for announcements, and keep up-to-date with the week’s readings and homework assignments. Participation in class discussions accounts for 50 points of your grade. You will be graded not only on quantity (how many times you post) but also quality (the substance of your posts). I expect you to contribute at least one substantive post (more than “I agree”) to each week’s discussion by sharing your thoughts on the discussion topic and/or responding to others’ posts. Twice during the quarter (around Week 5 and 11) I will ask you to submit two examples of your postings and to self-assess the quality and quantity of your postings.

Aplia Problem Sets: We will make extensive use of the problem sets in Aplia. A word to the wise: plan to spend a significant proportion of your study time for this course working with the material in Aplia. For each chapter of our text there will be a graded problem set. To earn credit for the graded problem sets, they must be completed by the due date. Each homework assignment is worth 5 points and the points will be awarded based on the percentage of the problems you answered correctly (e.g., if you answered 80% of the questions correctly, you will earn 4 of the 5 points possible for that assignment). After the due date, you will be able to review the answers for the graded

problem sets but you will not be able to submit them for credit. The first Apla assignment will familiarize you with completing problem sets. On average, there will be two graded problem sets due each week. Diligently working through the problem sets is, for most students, the best way to learn the challenging material of this course.

Quizzes: There will be five quizzes during the quarter—one every other week, starting on the second week—worth 20 points each. These will be timed assessments in Vista. They will be open-book/open-note and I expect you to do your own work in completing each quiz. Quizzes will be short-answer/essay questions that include working with graphs and numerical problem solving.

Final Exam: The final exam will be a comprehensive, proctored exam. An on-campus final exam date and time will be scheduled during the College's final exams period (March 19th, 20th, and 23rd). The date and time of the final exam will be announced in the course calendar. Students *must present photo id* before taking the proctored exam. Those taking the final at a distance will need to arrange for a proctor. Arrangements for an off-campus proctored exam need to be made well in advance. Contact me during the first two weeks if you are planning to take your exam at a distance.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your contributions to class discussions (50 points), 20 Apla problem sets (5 points each for a total of 100 points), 5 quizzes (20 points each for a total of 100 points), and a final exam (100 points). The total number of points available is 350. Extra credit opportunities may be available during the quarter. *No extra credit work will be assigned at the end of, or after, the quarter.* Your final grade will be based on the number of points you earned expressed as a percentage of the total number of points possible. The table below shows how your final letter grade will be calculated:

<u>% of Points Earned</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
60-66	D
< 60	F

Communicating with Chuck: Taking an online class presents some challenges which students in face-to-face classes do not confront. One of these challenges is communicating with the instructor. Since we won't meet in a physical classroom, you won't be able to easily (i.e., in person) talk with me or ask me questions before, during, or after class.

Here are some suggestions for communicating in the virtual classroom.

-Email: Blackboard Vista, the online learning system within which our virtual classroom exists, includes an internal email system. This is the primary means by which to contact me. If you are unable to use the Vista email system, you can contact me at my BCC address: ccurry@bellevuecollege.edu. During the week (Monday-Friday), I will be logging in to our Vista classroom a few times each day and you can expect a response within 24 hours. If I do not respond to you within 24 hours, assume that your message did not reach me and please try again. Over the weekends, I will typically not log in to our classroom. You should expect a response to email received over the weekend on Monday morning.

-Discussion Board: I will be checking the discussion board in our classroom a few times each day (Monday-Friday) and will respond to any questions posted for me there. I'll also be contributing to the discussions with comments and follow-up questions. The discussion board will be our tool for creating a "classroom" environment.

-Chat: Vista includes a chat function. Though I don't hold regular "office hours" in chat, if you would like to make an appointment to meet in the chat room you may arrange a time in advance via email.

-Telephone: You may arrange a time to speak over the phone by emailing me to schedule an appointment.

-On-Campus Office Hours: I will not be holding regular office hours on campus during the quarter. I will be on campus occasionally and available to meet in my office by appointment. Email me well in advance to arrange an appointment.

Course Evaluation: I will post a link to an online class evaluation form near the end of the quarter. Please don't hesitate to provide feedback directly to me during the quarter as well.