



## **Econ& 201-5229 G: Microeconomics Syllabus**

**Economics Department, Social Science Division**

**Fall 2009**

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10:30-11:20am

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### ***Course Information***

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

Welcome to our class. Students are always welcome to communicate with me through email or come to my office hours to clarify their understanding of the content or class expectations. If my hours do not work for you, please arrange an appointment time with me. Email is the best way to make those arrangements. A successful quarter starts and ends with good communication.

**Scope of Microeconomics:** In Microeconomics, we will examine individual markets, consumer and producer decision making. For example, what factors make the price of gasoline fluctuate so much? If we are in a recession, how is that affecting high end retailers like the ones just opened in Bellevue? How do wages get determined and what factors cause differentials in pay and compensation? What about tastes and preferences? Is economics all about increasing our material well-being or do we derive benefits from better social programs for others in health and education along with a more sustainable physical environment?

**Method of Microeconomics:** Economists like to use mathematical models and graphical tools to understand the workings of the economy. In this course, you will be introduced to or review models such as the production possibilities frontier and demand and supply models. The demand and supply graphical model will be used throughout the quarter, along with equations to show the relationship between variables that impact the markets we are studying.



### General Education Outcomes

The foundation you will gain in this course will help you in achieving a relatively high level of competency in two of the general education outcome areas: reasoning, specifically critical thinking, creativity and problem solving and communication, specifically writing.

#### Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving

- Develops a lifelong habit of critical thinking about issues, and understands the value of authenticated information in any sort of analysis.
- Develops the ability to synthesize a range of responses to identified situations or problems, by invoking problem-solving processes that lead to creative and successful solutions.

#### Writing

- Writes clearly and effectively for varied audiences and purposes.

### Specific course Learning Outcomes

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

- Evaluate economic examples as they related to personal incentives, voluntary exchanges, and decision making.
- Predict outcomes for a competitive market using demand/supply models.
- Using graphical analysis, analyze a competitive market model's associated components and outcomes (demand, supply, price, equilibrium) and their link to elasticity and various production decisions
- Apply the basic model's approach to factor markets such as labor
- Examine the role of governments in altering market outcomes in terms of equity and efficiency.
- Recognize and apply 'economic thinking' to various policy issues and applied problems, incorporating appropriately both positive and normative elements of analysis.

### Grading

#### Grading Scheme

<b>Mid term Exams (2 @ 100pts)</b>	<b>200 pts</b>
<b>Take Home short Analysis Paper (2@100 pts)</b>	<b>200 pts</b>
<b>Aplia Homework Assignments</b>	<b>200 pts</b>
<b>Class Assignments</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>200 pts</b>
<b>Article journal and reflection paper</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000 pts</b>



### **Mid Term and Final Exams**

Examinations will have an in-class test portion which will be multiple choice. The final exam is all in class and there will be both a multiple choice and essay writing component to it.

#### Rules for In-Class Examinations:

- 1) Once the exam has begun, students will not be permitted to leave the room until the exam has been handed in to the instructor.
- 2) **All** exams (both take home component and in class) are individual. Any collaboration or use of materials not permitted will result in an automatic failure (0 for the entire exam).
- 3) **The use of Cell Phones, PDAs will not be allowed during exams. Separate calculators only**

### **Take Home Analysis Papers**

Take home short papers (1-2 pages) will allow students to analyze a particular economic problem where they will combine their textbook knowledge of concepts and economic vocabulary. The take-home portion will be due at the beginning of class on the date due. Late exams carry a 20 percentage deduction per day. Take homes will generally not be accepted after two days. Email submissions will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### **Aplia Assignments:**

These will be required throughout the quarter as homework. Aplia is meant to be used as a way to get some practice problem solving and applying the concepts in your textbooks. There will be approximately 1 graded assignment per week (one per chapter), although there will be more assignments due at the beginning of the quarter as there are math review and other supplementary work to get you ready for heavier chapters. There will be one assignment at the beginning of the quarter which is a math review. This will help you refresh your mathematical knowledge or give you an indication of what you need to review. I will be available to work with students helping them to get “ramped up” especially in the first two weeks of the quarter. At the end of the quarter, I will drop your lowest three or non-completed assignments from your grade and then compute the % based on the number of questions you got right out of possible scores. Then your percentage will be converted to points (out of 200). Please see Instructions for Aplia access below.

### **Article Journal/Reflection Paper**

Students will be collecting one article per week from a reputable news source pertaining to a microeconomic concept we are discussing in class that week (I will give the topic). You should keep your article reference and short reflection (one paragraph) for the duration of the quarter. These articles will be kept in a lightweight folder for the duration of the quarter. I will be collecting these twice during the quarter. At the end of the quarter, students will write a short (2 pg) summary reflection paper on what they have learned from their collection.



#### Books and Materials Required/Course Calendar

**Online Textbook bundled with Aplia assignments**

**www.aplia.com**

**Access Begins:** 09.21.09    **Access Ends:** 12.12.09

Fee: \$80.00 USD

Grace Period: ends at the end of the day on 10.11.09

Textbook: Principles of Microeconomics by Mankiw, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

Bookstore Options: None in Bookstore

Course Key: HKAD-UEW9-T38Y



# COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1 9/21	Introduction of site/text 10 Principles of Economics Thinking Like an Economist	Chapters 1-2,
Week 2 9/28	Supply/Demand Model Elasticity	Chapter 4-5
Week 3 10/5	Cont'd	<b><i>Take Home Analysis #1 Due: Friday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup></i></b>
Week 4 10/12	Demand Focus cont'd Supply/Demand Gov. Policies	Chapter 6 <b><i>Test #1 (covers material from Ch. 1-2, 4-6)</i></b>
Week 5 10/19	Welfare and Public Goods	Chapter 7, 10-11
Week 6 10/26	Cont'd	
Week 7 11/2	Supply side/Production Decisions	Chapter 13-15 <b><i>Take Home Analysis #2 Due: Friday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup></i></b>
Week 8 11/9	Cont'd	<b><i>Test #2 (covers material from 7, 10, 13-15)</i></b>
Week 9 11/16	Labor Markets/ Discrimination/inequality	Chapter 18-20
Week 10 11/23	Cont'd	
Week 11 11/30	Article Seminars (Mon – Tues) Wrap-up and Review (Wed- Fri)	<b><i>Summary reflection paper due: Wed. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></i></b>
FINALS WEEK	<b>FINAL EXAM (cumulative)</b>	Wed. Dec. 7th at 11:30- 1:20pm

## Notes:

- Other dates to remember October 2nd is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the quarter. November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> are holidays. There is no class on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Chapters and reading assigned should be done before material is discussed in class.
- No make-up tests will be given except under exceptional circumstances.
- This syllabus was constructed as a tentative plan for how the course will proceed. A number of conditions and circumstances may arise which can alter the topics, schedule, activities, materials, etc. The faculty member reserves the option to make any changes as she deems n

## ***Classroom Learning Atmosphere***

### **Instructor's Expectation**

Instructor's materials (includes article links, lecture notes, Aplia assignments etc...) can be found at: [www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com) You will be able to see all upcoming Aplia assignments and readings. If you click on the link to the class materials you will see the files I have uploaded.

Useful Website: Amos Web Glossarama for economic terminologies and concept checking tests  
<http://www.amosweb.com/gls/>

Students are expected to utilize the BCC library periodical database *ProQuest*. The database is available off campus as well to everyone student registered in a BCC class.

This class is *not intended* to be simply a review of a given textbook. We are constructing our own investigation into understanding the basic concepts of microeconomics. We will draw on the material from the text, but also on the instructor's experience, current examples from the various newspapers and magazines, and information provided by students.

Chapters in the assigned text should be read before the material is discussed in class. The schedule is only meant to indicate the order of the material to be read and the timing of the exams.

**Email Address:** This is how I will normally communicate with students outside of campus. It is assumed that any email address you provide will be checked regularly and is private. When sending me an email, you should use the following convention in the subject line: the course you are enrolled, your first initial last name subject of your email for eg)  
Econ201G\_JDoe\_article1, This way I can organize your emails for the duration of the quarter and you will get the appropriate points for submission.

### **Attendance:**

Participation in class is a significant component towards success in the course. Our daily class meetings are not meant to be just a review of the assigned readings but an opportunity for you to test out your understanding and practice what you are learning. I will take attendance at the beginning so I can get to know students' names quickly. I will also be giving short assignments in class that will count for points throughout the quarter. The class assignments are to encourage both individual and peer to peer learning. If you are not there, the whole class will miss your contribution to our learning community. Students will be earning class participation points on those days (generally Wednesday and Friday). Missed class assignments cannot be made up.

**Missed Class Policy:** If you do miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered. This means A) check with a fellow student B) check our class website (APLIA) and finally C) see instructor during her office hours. As a courtesy, please let me know if you will be missing a class due to illness or some other reason. If you know you will be missing more than 5 classes during the quarter (10% or more of our meetings), please consider withdrawing from the class and retaking it during a quarter where you can regularly attend.

**Extra Credit Assignments:** There will be no extra credit assignments given. However, if there are campus lectures/events that relate to our class content, 2 extra credit points may be earned if the student submits a one paragraph summary relating the event to something we have learned in class. This paragraph is due within 2 weeks of the event. Maximum points that can be earned is 6.

### 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 Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

### 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. 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 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](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp)

## ***Important Links***

### **Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC**

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

### **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. . . . Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc)

### **Public Safety**

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

### **Final Exam Schedule**

**We will have a CUMULATIVE exam on:**

Monday, 12/7, 11:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/classes/exams>

### **Academic Calendar**

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.



# PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Winter 2009

## ***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.

## ***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.