

Course Title: Introduction to Economics: Microeconomics
Course Number: ECON 201
Credit Hours: 5
Prerequisites: 30 prior college credits recommended.
Meeting times: Tuesday, Thursday; 7:50pm-10:00pm

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Textbook: Microeconomics, 7th ed., Colander
Supplementary material: Practice test package

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Course description: Investigates the economic forces behind pricing and production decisions, wages, structure of labor markets, and distribution of income. Students evaluate government intervention in markets and analyze environmental degradation, welfare policy, tax systems, poverty, and discrimination from an economic perspective.

Course Outcomes

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

- Be able to evaluate economic examples as they related to personal incentives, voluntary exchanges, and to recognize the key concept of opportunity cost.
- 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) and their link to utility theory, and various production decisions
- Apply the basic model's approach to factor markets
- Expand the basic model to address elements of market failures
- Be able to calculate both marginal and average values for a variety of data sets and be able to use them appropriately within decision-making evaluations of choices.
- Understand the value of the competitive market model's outcome as a benchmark for evaluating more realistic models of industrial organization and government activity.
- Recognize and apply 'economic thinking' to various policy issues and applied problems, incorporating appropriately both positive and normative elements of analysis, with measures of efficiency and equity.

In addition, students may be introduced to a subset of the following:

- Elasticity as a measure of quantity's responsiveness to changes in prices or income
- Coase Theorem and transaction costs as they pertain to market failures
- Maximizing behavior and the limitations of rationality assumptions for households, firms and government agents.
- Discuss, in depth, alternative mechanisms of allocation beyond the market mechanism of the price signal.

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

Course topics to be covered:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
<u>Overview</u>		<u>Demand</u>	
Introduction	1	Price Elasticity	6
Macro vs Micro		Determinants	
Scarcity & Choice	1	Income Elasticity	6
Opportunity Costs		Cross Price Elasticity	6
Positive vs Normative	1	Utility Theory	8
Production Possibilities	2	Marginal Utility	
Production Constraints		Total Utility	
		Utility Maximization	8
<u>Supply & Demand</u>		<u>Business Forms</u>	3
Markets		Business Forms	
Comparative Advantage	2	Proprietorship	
Demand	4	Partnership	
Determinants		Corporation	324-328
Demand Schedule & Curve		<u>Production Costs</u>	
Change in Demand		Productivity & Cost	
Normal vs Inferior		Production Function	9
Substitute vs Complement		Marginal Product	9
Supply	4	Costs	9
Determinants		Total Cost	
Supply Schedule & Curve		Marginal Cost	
Change in Supply		Average Cost	
Market Equilibrium	4	Avg Cost & MC relation	
Supply & Demand	4	Econ. vs Acctg. Profits	
Price & Allocation		Economies of Scale	10
Labor Markets			
Price Ceilings	5	Midterm 2	
Price Floors	5, 19		
Midterm 1			
		<u>Imperfect Markets</u>	
<u>Competitive Firms</u>		Oligopoly	13
Competitive Firms	11	Demand Curve	
Revenue	11	Market Outcomes	
Profit Maximization	11	Monopolistic Competition	13
Shut Down Decision			
Tax Effects	not in text	<u>Financial Markets</u>	
Property Tax		Financial Markets	
Payroll Tax		Present & Future Value	not in text
Income Tax			
<u>Competitive Markets</u>		<u>Externalities & Environment</u>	
Characteristics	11	Pollution	19
Econ. vs Acctg Profit		Market Incentive	19
<u>Monopoly</u>		Pollution Reduction Options	19
Non-competitive Industries			
Monopoly	12	Final (cumulative)	
Monopoly vs Competition			
Barriers to Entry			
Monopolist Incentive			
Pros and Cons			
Price Discrimination	12		
Midterm 3			

Approximate exam dates:

- Midterm 1; Apr. 30 (tentative)
- Midterm 2; May 19 (tentative)
- Midterm 3; Jun. 9 (tentative)
- Final; Jun. 16

- Commented [b3]: 8th class night
- Commented [b4]: 13th class night
- Commented [b5]: 19th class night

Approximate paper due dates:

- Paper 1; Apr. 16 (tentative)
- Paper 2; May 7 (tentative)
- Paper 3; Jun. 16 (tentative)

- Commented [b6]: 5th class night
- Commented [b7]: 10th class night
- Commented [b8]: final exam night

Number of exams: 4

Types of exams: Multiple choice

Other graded material/assignments: 3 papers

Percentage points for course grade:

Midterm 1;	16%
Midterm 2;	16%
Midterm 3;	16%
Final;	26%
Paper 1;	7%
Paper 2;	7%
Paper 3;	7%
Class participation;	5%
<u>Total percentage points;</u>	<u>100%</u>

Makeup exams: One makeup midterm is allowed by arrangement prior to the missed test, but one point will be deducted from the score. If a midterm is missed without prior arrangement, that test grade will be replaced with a grade .5 lower than the lowest grade of the other 3 tests (2 midterms and final). The final must be taken in order to receive credit for the course.

Cheating on an exam will result in a failing grade for the class.

Example calculations of course grade:

This person got a 2.4, 3.1, and 2.6 on the 3 midterms, 2.4 and 3.4 on the papers, 3.3 on the final, and a 2.9 for class participation. The course grade is calculated as:

$$.16 \times (2.4 + 3.1 + 2.6) + .105 \times (2.4 + 3.4) + .26 \times 3.3 + .05 \times 2.9 = 2.9$$

Decimal-letter grade conversion

3.8 - 4.0	a	1.8 - 2.199	c
3.5 - 3.799	a-	1.5 - 1.799	c-
3.2 - 3.499	b+	1.2 - 1.499	d+
2.8 - 3.199	b	0.8 - 1.199	d
2.5 - 2.799	b-	0.5 - 0.799	d-
2.2 - 2.499	c+		