

# **ECON& 201 Microeconomics**

Item number 5223

## **Syllabus**

### **Winter 2010**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30 – 12:20 in Room C208

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Office Location: D200E

Office Hours: by appt

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### ***Course Information***

<b>Course Outcomes &amp; General Requirements</b>
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In one sentence, the goal for the students in this course is “to develop a baseline understanding of microeconomics and how it can be applied to real world situations.” To achieve this we will focus on the below objectives:

#### **Course Outcomes**

- Learn methodologies that can be used to understand and explain consumer behavior.
- Use concepts of supply and demand to explain price and other market related fluctuations.
- Understand the effects on the market from government intervention.
- Understand how comparative advantage drives trade decisions.
- Understand the basic impacts stemming from the Law of Diminishing Returns.
- Develop a basic understanding of economic property rights.
- Discuss interest rates and how they play a role in consumer and firm decisions.
- Discuss the unique market characteristics of monopolistic firms and cartels.

**BCC General Requirements**

BCC is committed to ensuring that graduates receive a comprehensive liberal arts education, including acquisition of essential skills and understanding of a range of intellectual perspectives. This foundation should help graduates build fulfilling and successful lives as individuals, workers, citizens, and life-long learners.

This course will draw on and continue to enhance many of the general education outcome areas that you should have been exposed to previously: 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.

**How Outcomes will be met**

In order to achieve the objectives stated above, we will develop microeconomic models and principles and then apply these tools to real world events. Because of that, emphasis will be put on both textbook readings and multiple problem sets to ensure that you can understand and utilize the concepts and models developed in class.



## Grading

Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

<b>Online Problems</b>	<b>= 25%</b>	Due Sat at 11:00 pm of the week assigned (see calendar below)
<b>In Class Exam 1</b>	<b>= 30%</b>	Thursday, 2/11
<b>In Class Final Exam</b>	<b>= 30%</b>	Tuesday, 3/23, 11:30 am-1:20 pm
<b>Participation</b>	<b>= 15%</b>	

The majority of the course materials including the syllabus, announcements, lecture aids, practice problems, discussion questions and assignments are to be accessed online through Vista. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Vista system on their own. More information can be found on the Distance Education website for BCC (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/>). Per the information found in the Distance Education Section of the quarterly schedule, it is assumed that students have a good working knowledge of their computer, Internet Service Provider (ISP) and browser. Feel free to contact me via my email listed on the first page of the syllabus, however, if you have any questions about this course's Vista content.

NOTE: All important class announcements will be posted in the Vista announcement section for this course. Please be sure to check this section frequently.

**Online Problems** – There will be 6 homework problems to be turned in for grading throughout the quarter. They will be posted on the Vista website (in the Assignment category) on Tuesday afternoon and are due online by Sunday at midnight (note that they can be turned in in-class on Thursday if preferred). The homework assignments must be turned in individually and on time. No late submissions will be accepted. I will, however, drop the lowest homework score when calculating your final grade. The homework assignments will be graded primarily on the process and work shown and less on the final answer so please make sure to show all of your work.

**Exams** – There are two exams, one midterm and a final. Please refer to the calendar on the final page of the syllabus for the exam dates. I do not offer make-ups unless there is a medical emergency. The final is cumulative but will consist mainly of the post midterm material. I will advise you on the specific subjects from the earlier material that will be fair game for the final exam.

Please note for all of the exams, only pencils and a **basic** calculator will be allowed. Graphing calculators, cell phones and all other electronic devices will NOT be allowed.

**Participation** – Five percent of your participation grade consists of your engagement during in-class activities. Please note that due to the current generation's addiction to Facebook and email, computers will not be allowed during the lectures as they have been found to be highly distracting to other students.

The other 10% of the grade is based on your online participation in the discussion section of Vista. To achieve the maximum grade in the discussion portion of the class, you are expected to post **at least 10 quality posts** throughout the quarter. As this is a hybrid, the majority of the practice problems are to be done online. After each major topic I will post practice problems (both technical and conceptual) in the discussion section for the class to work through. It has been my observation that those who do not take the time to do the online practice problems often have problems passing this class.



### **Books and Materials Required**

Text: *Principles of Microeconomics, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*, by Eugene Silberberg and Gregory Ellis, Pearson Publishing, ISBN: 0-536-46177-57

I also reserve the right to add supplemental current event articles throughout the quarter. If additional articles are required, I will announce it both in class and in the Announcement portion of Vista.

## ***Classroom Learning Atmosphere***

### **Instructor's Expectation**

In addition to turning in homework on time, I expect all students to download the appropriate lecture aids for the specific lecture *prior* to coming to class. The lectures are a great deal easier to follow when you have downloaded these aids. Keep in mind, however, that the lectures and associated lecture aids found in the modules are intended to supplement the textbook chapters and are not meant to replace actual textbook reading or class attendance. In addition, the lecture aids are not a good substitute for class attendance as I have found that grades are very much correlated to in class attendance. Students are also expected to fully understand the practice problems posted in the Discussion section of Vista and the associated homework problems. If there is confusion, I expect you to contact me for further help prior to the exam.

### **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>

### **Division Statements**

You are expected to write ethically and do your own work. Plagiarism is more than just forgetting to put quotes around someone else's exact wording. Even if you paraphrase, you must give credit to the source; this allows you to incorporate the reasoning and evidence from that work into yours as well as acknowledging others' work.

Information about Bellevue Colleges copyright guidelines can be found at:  
<http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/links/copyright.html>

A good resource for Plagiarism is the Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

### **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**

The final exam is schedule for Tuesday, 3/23, 11:30 am-1:20 pm in our classroom (C208)

### **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.

***Tenative Course Calendar as of 1/04/2010***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>In Class</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>General Topics</b>	<b>Related Reading</b>
5-Jan	Tues			Intro to microeconomics	Ch 1
7-Jan	Thurs			Demand	Ch 2.2 - 2.4
9-Jan	SAT			<b>Hmk 1 Due</b>	
12-Jan	Tues			Demand	Ch 2.5-2.7
14-Jan	Thurs			Demand	Ch 3.2-3.3
16-Jan	SAT			<b>Hmk 2 Due</b>	
19-Jan	Tues			Supply & Demand	Ch 3.4, 4.2-4.5
21-Jan	Thurs			Supply & Demand	Ch 5.1-5.2
23-Jan	SAT			<b>Hmk 3 Due</b>	
26-Jan	Tues			Supply & Demand	Ch 5.3 - 5.4
28-Jan	Thurs			Marginal Costs	Ch 6.3 - 6.6
2-Feb	Tues			<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
4-Feb	Thurs			Labor Market Discrimination	Ch 13.6
9-Feb	Tues			Review	
11-Feb	Thurs			<b>Exam 1</b>	
16-Feb	Tues			Comparative Advantage	Ch 6.1-6.2
18-Feb	Thurs			The Law of Dim Returns (LDMR)	Ch 7.1 - 7.3
20-Feb	Sat			<b>Hmk 4 Due</b>	
23-Feb	Tues			The LDMR	Ch 7.1 - 7.3
25-Feb	Thurs			LDMR & Coase	Ch 9.2
27-Feb	Sat			<b>Hmk 5 Due</b>	
2-Mar	Tues			Game Theory	Ch 9.6
4-Mar	Thurs			<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
9-Mar	Tues			Interest Rates	CH 10
11-Mar	Thurs			Interest Rates	CH 10
13-Mar	Tues			<b>Hmk 6 Due</b>	
16-Mar	Tues			Monopolies & Cartels	Ch 11, 12
18-Mar	Thurs			Review	
23-Mar	Tues			<b>FINAL 11:30 - 1:20 pm Room C208</b>	