

ECON& 201 Microeconomics
(This course was formerly known as:
ECON 201 Introduction to Economics: Microeconomics)
Section information for an on-line course: Fall 2008
Credits: 5

Instructor: Michael Righi
Office hours: On the BCC campus at 12:30 daily, or by appointment
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Phone: 425.564.5184

Communication with the Instructor:

If you want to email me, first use the email available within Vista. If this is not possible, you can email me at my BCC address above. All BCC students are also encouraged to get a BCC email address (registration for BCC email addresses is done at the N building).

I will usually log onto the course during business hours on weekdays (Monday – Fridays, 9am – 5pm), and will try to answer emails in a timely fashion. I tend not to log on to the course 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, come to campus during office hours, or give me a call to set up another time.

Course Description

Microeconomics tries to explain how an industrial capitalist economy such as the United States goes about the production and distribution of goods and services. We study the operation of markets – product (goods and services) and factor (labor and capital) markets. We analyze how prices and wages are determined in these markets, the effects of economic power, and who gets what incomes and why. We examine the role of government in markets, and discuss disagreements among economists over what that role should be.

The course will present basic economic models, and apply these models to current issues such as monopoly power, the minimum wage, the environment and the distribution of income and wealth. In particular, this quarter we will look at the issues surrounding economic inequality and our high-consumption lifestyle. You will hopefully gain a grounding in basic economic theory, and a greater ability to critically evaluate current economic policy. We will approach topics from differing perspectives, not in a way that “answers” controversial issues of understanding and policy.

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, etc. And basic English writing skills.

Texts and other Required Materials

Required: Paul Roberts, *The End of Oil*. You will need this at the beginning of the 3rd week of the quarter. It is not at the BCC bookstore; it is easily available online or at a local bookstore.

Aplia subscription: Aplia is an online learning tool for students, available at: www.aplia.com. The Aplia site has problems, exercises, quizzes, and online access to the basic Micro text, by Krugman and Wells. If you want a paper copy of the text, you can order it for an additional amount (or, you could find a used copy online – older editions would work fine.)

The Aplia fee is \$70.00. Instructions for how to sign up for Aplia are in “Getting Started”.

I may occasionally post additional articles for your required reading.

Attendance

Students are expected to log into the course on a daily basis, and participate by posting onto the threaded bulletin board discussions. In this fashion, we will be creating a “virtual classroom.” Your postings will be an important component of the class requirements and your grade (see below).

Course Requirements

1. Two midterm exams which will be conducted on-line. These will require short essay answers (from a sentence or two, to a long paragraph), so they will be different from the Aplia assignments. They will come at the end of the fifth and ninth weeks of the quarter. The first exam will cover ALL the material in the first five weeks of the course; the second will cover all the material in week six through nine. Each exam will comprise 10% of the grade.
2. A final exam, also online, will cover the last weeks of the quarter, along with some selected components from the rest of the quarter. I will make abundantly clear what material you will have to go back to review. This exam will comprise 15% of the grade. It will be held during the final exam period.
3. Discussion postings, which will comprise 25% of your grade. You are required to respond to the discussion questions posted every week, by providing a “substantive” post to each of the questions posted, and at least 2 replies to other students’ postings. By “substantive”, I mean providing a quality post, providing your own thoughts on the material and/or responding to your classmates with a post showing that you are engaging with the material and ideas being discussed. Each weekly discussion will be graded on a scale of 0-10, and then at the end of the quarter, averaged and expressed as a percentage. The lowest weekly discussion grade will be dropped.
4. Weekly Aplia exercises, which will comprise 20% of your grade. Your weekly Aplia assignment will be graded on a scale of 0 - 10. Your final Aplia grade will be an average of your weekly scores and expressed as a percentage.
5. Analysis papers, based on the End of Food textbook, will ask you to summarize, analyze, and comment upon sections of the book, using the Economic concepts you are learning. There will be four of these short, 2-page, papers, one after each of the two-week segments of the course (starting at the end of the third week). Each will be worth 5% of the grade (20% overall). I will give clear instructions about how to write these, and what I will be looking for.

Grade overview:

- Aplia assignments: 20%
- Discussion postings: 25%
- Midterm exams: 20%
- Final exam: 15%
- Analysis papers: 20%
- Total: 100%

If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email or come to see me during office hours. 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 course: Liz Anderson with Distance Ed, Rm. A140, 425-564-2438.
- Financial Aid, B building, 1st floor, 425-564-2227.
- Library Media Center, D126, 425-564-6161.
- Academic Tutoring Center, D204, 425-564-2468

- Social Sciences Advisor: Deanne Eschback, deschbac@bellevuecollege.edu, 425-564-2216.
- Counseling Center, B234, 425-564-2212.

And lastly, starting this quarter, The Economics Department at BCC has an Economic Study Center where students can individually or in groups/teams come and do their homework, clarify their understanding of economics, study for tests, and work on projects. We are located in the A265 student lounge. There will be an instructor there from 12:30-2:20pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is an informal place to gather where there will be newspapers and economic related readings. Consider coming on your own to meet other students. This is your space and we welcome your suggestions.

Cheating

Any student who is found cheating or engaging in plagiarism will receive no grade (i.e. a zero) for that exam or assignment.

Grading

The student's grade will be determined by the total number of points earned during the course divided by the total possible points, which then establishes the student's percentage.

Grading scale:

- 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

Remember: according to BCC,

- A grades indicate outstanding achievement
- B grades indicate high achievement
- C grades indicate satisfactory achievement
- D grades indicate poor achievement
- F grades indicate unsatisfactory achievement.

Withdrawals

The last day to withdraw without a W is Oct. 3rd and the last day to withdraw with a W is Nov. 7th.

Class Schedule

Weekly reading assignments	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28
Ch. 1 (text)			Last day to		Last day to		

INTRO			add without a Blue card			withdraw with a 100% refund. Discussion week 1 posting due.	Aplia assignment #1 due
Week 2 Ch. 2 and 3 (text)	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5
SUPPLY AND DEMAND #1 Week 3 Ch. 4 (text); Prologue and Ch. 1 (Food)	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12
SUPPLY AND DEMAND #2 Week 4 Ch. 8, 9 (text); Ch. 2, 3 (Food)	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19
COST AND MONOPOLY #1 Week 5 Ch. 14, 15 (text); Ch. 3, 4 (Food)	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26
COST AND MONOPOLY #2 Week 6 Ch. 12, 13 (text); Ch. 5 (Food)	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2
TRADE AND EQUITY #1 Week 7 Ch. 17 (text); Ch. 6 (Food)	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 9
TRADE AND					Nov. 7 Last day to withdraw with a W. Discussion		Nov. 9

EQUITY #2

week 6
replies due;
week 7 post
due

Week 8 Ch. 19 (text); Ch. 7 (Food)	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	Nov. 12	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	Nov. 15	Nov. 16
POLLUTION AND RESOURCES #1		ANALYSIS PAPER #3 due			Discussion week 7 replies due; week 8 post due		Aplia #8 due

Week 9 Ch. 20 (text); Ch. 8 (Food)	Nov. 17	Nov. 18	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21	Nov. 22	Nov. 23
POLLUTION AND RESOURCES #1					Discussion week 8 replies due; week 9 post due		Aplia #9 due EXAM #2

Week 10 Ch. 21 (text); Ch. 9 (Food)	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	Nov. 26	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30
PUBLIC POLICY #1		ANALYSIS PAPER #4 due		Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Holiday	Discussion week 9 replies due; week 10 post due		Aplia #10 due
Week 11 Ch. 22 (text); Finis	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6	Dec. 7
PUBLIC POLICY #2					Discussion week 10 replies due.		Aplia #11 due

Week 12	Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec. 10
	FINAL EXAM		