

ECON &201-5224 E: Microeconomics
Bellevue Community College: Social Science Division (D110)
SYLLABUS: Fall 2008: Daily 12:30- 1:20 pm
Room C208

Instructor: Humaira Jackson

Phone: (425) 564-2370

Credits: 5

Email: hjackson@bellevuecollege.edu (the best way to communicate with me)

Office hours: Wed, Fri A100F 9:30-10:20am

Communication with the Instructor: Students are welcome to come to my office from 9:30-10:20am. 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, work on projects or just come to chat about economics related topics. **We are located in the A265 student lounge. I will be there right after class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:20pm.** 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, look for articles, or bring your team to work on your course project. This is your space and we welcome your suggestions. If these times do not work for you, please call or email me to set up an appointment

Scope and Objectives of the Course:

Scope: Economics is a social science. It studies the social problem of choice from a scientific viewpoint. In this course we will develop and use the basic models and theories for consumers, firms and the government.

Objectives: Investigates the responses of individual economic agents to incentives. This course provides the framework for analyzing simple models of choices for individual markets and industries within a mixed economy. The structure and outcomes of the basic model can then be modified to analyze a variety of market structures and be used to address a range of social issues, using the common policy goals of efficiency and equity.

Learning Goals for the Class:

(From: Econ 201-Microeconomics (Learning Outcomes)/Economics Dept. Bellevue Community College)

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 utility theory, elasticity and various production decisions
- Apply the basic model's approach to factor markets
- 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.

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.

Prerequisites:**Recommended: 30 prior credits**

In this course, the student will be getting quite a lot of practice using graphs to show the relationship between two variables.

Basic math skills will be assumed (calculating averages, differences, percentages, graphing) and a student should see the instructor if he or she requires additional work in this or any area. In addition, students are assumed to have obtained familiarity with the acceptable behaviors within a class, the resources available on campus, and the preliminaries in writing and reasoning abilities.

Required Materials:**Online textbook bundled with Aplia assignments**

www.aplia.com

Access begins: 09.22.08 Access ends: 12.19.08

Fee: \$70.00 USD

Grace Period: ends at the end of the day on 10.12.08

Textbook: Principles of Microeconomics by Mankiw (you have the option of purchasing a hard copy for an additional fee through the Aplia site)

Bookstore Options: Nothing in the Bookstore (Online Only)

Course Key: VA5J-EM8T-3D4C (please see attached for student registration information)

Instructor's materials (includes article links, lecture notes, assignments etc...)

www.mybcc.net You will be able to see our class listed. If you click on the link to the class 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)

Econ201E_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.

Schedule

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|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Week 1 9/22 | Introduction of site/text 10 Principles of Economics Thinking Like an Economist | Chapters 1-2, |
| Week 2 9/29 | Supply/Demand Model Elasticity | Chapter 4-5 |
| Week 3 10/6 | Cont'd | |
| Week 4 10/13 First Test (Fri. October 17th: ch. 1,2, 4-6) | Demand Focus cont'd Supply/Demand Gov. Policies | Chapter 6 |
| Week 5 10/20 | Welfare and Public Goods | Chapter 7, 10-11 |
| Week 6 10/27 | Cont'd | |
| Week 7 11/3 | Supply side/Production Decisions | Chapter 13-17 |
| Week 8 11/10 2ndTest (Fri, November 14th) | Cont'd | |
| Week 9 11/17 | Labor Markets | Chapter 18-20 |
| Week 10 11/24 | PRESENTATIONS: (M-W) | |
| Week 11 12/1 | Presentations, (Mon – Tues) Wrap-up and Review (Wed- Fri) | |
| FINALS WEEK | FINAL EXAM (cumulative) | Wed. Dec. 10th at 11:30- 1:20pm |

Notes:

-Other dates to remember October 3rd is the 10th day of the quarter. November 27th and 28th are holidays. There is no class on Oct. 29th and Nov. 11th.

-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 necessary.

Grading Scheme

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|---|------------------|
| Mid term Exams (2 @ 150pts) | 300 pts |
| Aplia Homework Assignments | 200 pts |
| Group Presentation | 100 pts |
| Final Exam | 250 pts |
| Class assignments & article review | 150 pts |
| Total | 1,000 pts |

Exams

Examinations will have an in-class test portion and take-home short paper (1-2 pages) portion. The take-home portion will be due at the beginning of class on the day of the in-class exam. 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. The final exam is all in class and there will be an essay writing component to it.

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). 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 two 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 Review

Students are required to send me 1 article with a short analysis per week via email from a reputable news source pertaining to the topics we are discussing in class that week. You should keep your article reference and short analysis (one paragraph) for the duration of the quarter. If there are any discrepancies with what you submit and my record of receipt, you may be able to re-submit your work. You may check with me during the quarter to find out how many articles you have submitted.

Group Presentation: Groups will be presenting their topics in week 10 and week 11 of the quarter. You are expected to be present for those days even if you are not presenting. A list of topic suggestions and requirements will be formalized within the first 4 weeks of the quarter. I will be assigning you to a group.

Missed Class Policy: If you do miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered.

Extra Credit Assignments: There will be no extra credit assignments given

Rules for In-Class Examinations:

- 1) The use of Electronic Language Translators will not be allowed.
- 2) Once the exam has begun, students will not be permitted to leave the room until the exam has been handed in to the instructor.

- 3) **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).

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS: Students requiring any special accommodations for the class should make arrangements at the beginning of the term through advisors/counselors in B233, Student Services Building or by calling 641-2498.

GRADING SCALE:

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|----|-----|----|-----------|
| A | 93% | C+ | 77% |
| A- | 90% | C | 74% |
| B+ | 87% | C- | 70% |
| B | 84% | D+ | 67% |
| B- | 80% | D | 64% |
| | | F | below 60% |

*Just a reminder on grades (taken from the **2000-2001 Bellevue Community College Course Catalog**)*

"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"

This class will adhere to all the requirements and guidelines of the College and this division with regards to exams, student conduct, etc. A copy of the Division's guidelines is the last page of this course outline.

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PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Spring 2008

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

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 Community 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 Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

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 BCC 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.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

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 BCC 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.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*