



Economics 201

5 Credit Hours

Summer, 2019

Online section OAS and OBS

Instructor: Chace Stiehl

Office: Online, video conferencing available, send an email request

Online Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2 pm and Thursday 7-8 am, or by appointment

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# Principles of Microeconomics

## *Course Information*

### **Course Outcomes**

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Apply the theory of rational choice to explain individual behavior.
- Explain how markets allocate, produce, and distribute society's resources.
- Predict how government intervention impacts market outcomes.
- Critique market outcomes and government policies using concepts of efficiency and equity.
- Explain firm behavior under various degrees of competition.
- Extend the market framework to analyze market failures.
- Critically analyze the positive and negative impacts of markets as they relate to social justice and environmental issues.
- Represent and understand economic concepts and outcomes in numerical and graphical form.

### **Grading**

Evaluation of student performance will be based on two exams, 4 discussions, online interactive homework sets (SaplingLearning), and end of chapter quizzes. The relative weights are as follows. A grade scale is listed below and each component is described in detail below:

Exam: 30%

Discussions: 20%

Sapling HW: 30%

Ch. Quizzes: 20%

### **Grade Scale:**

- >94 = A
- >90 = A-
- >87 = B+
- >83 = B
- >80 = B-
- >77 = C+
- >73 = C
- >70 = C-
- >67 = D+

>60 = D  
<60 = F

## Exams:

There will be an essay exam at the end of Module 4 and module 7. The exams will be open for at least 48 hours, but they will be timed. Make up exams will only be given for school excused absences, catastrophic accidents, profound personal tragedy, severe illness, or other extraordinary circumstances. Poor planning, being overloaded with work, or travel plans do not constitute valid reasons for make-up exams.

## Discussions:

Through the quarter we will have discussions that force you to think critically about the theory and its use in society. I want you to create an original post in the discussions by Wednesday of the following week at 11:59pm and then follow up with a response to a classmates before Sunday at 11:59pm of the following week. Late work will not be graded for Discussions. Ensure you complete work by due dates. School excused absences will be allowed to make up the quiz by writing a 3 page position paper in response to the discussion prompt. More explicit instructions will be included with individual discussions, but initial posts should be substantial (at least 2-3 paragraphs), make an argument, contain evidence or examples, and detailed explanation for your reasoning/position. Responses to peers should actively critique or further the peer's argument.

## Sapling Learning Homework

Sapling Learning is an online interactive homework platform. It is one of the required "texts" for the course. If you purchased an access card from the bookstore then you can follow the directions on it. If you haven't, then just follow the directions below in italics to subscribe.

1. Go to [SaplingLearning.com](https://www.saplinglearning.com)
2. *If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 3.*
  - a. *If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a SaplingLearning account. Click the blue button with the Facebook symbol on it (just to the left of the username field). The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password and timezone, accept the site policy agreement, and click "Create my new account". You can then skip to step 3*
  - b. *Otherwise, click "Create account". Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account". Check your email (and spam filter) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email.*
3. *Find your course in the list (you may need to expand the subject and term categories) and click the link. [Our course is Bellevue College, ECON 201-Microeconomics, Instructor: Stiehl]*
4. *Select a payment option and follow the remaining instructions.*

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up - and throughout the term - if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to [support@saplinglearning.com](mailto:support@saplinglearning.com) explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor.

The sapling homework will allow you to continue to rework the problem sets until you get them correct. However, with each incorrect attempt you will lose 10% for that section of the question. You will be able to drop the two lowest homework assignments. It is *impossible* to do well in the course without doing these. ***You should have a back up plan in place for any computer/internet issues you may run into. If your personal computer or internet goes down, then you are responsible for getting to one of the computer labs, library, or other publicly available options.***

All Sapling Learning Homework will be due on Sunday at 11:55 pm of the week/module they are assigned. No late work will be accepted. I will drop your two lowest Sapling scores. I also offer several extra credit assignments to boost your overall Sapling Average by the end of the quarter. I add these extra credit assignments to compensate for the fact that everyone will find at least a few questions they feel were worded poorly or were "unfair" in one way or another. The homework questions have been vetted, but this just makes it so we don't have to argue. I think you will find almost all of them to be very clear, albeit challenging at times. Follow the instruction carefully.

## Quizzes

All quizzes are due on Friday at 11:59pm of the week/module they are assigned. The week 7 quizzes are due on the last day of the quarter at 11:59pm. No late work will be accepted. Although you will be allowed to drop your two lowest quiz scores.

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog and also on the web at: [http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000\\_grading.asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000_grading.asp).

<b>Books and Materials Required</b>
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*MicroEconomics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Hubbard and O'Brien  
Access to Sapling Learning for Online problem sets  
Internet Access

## ***Classroom Learning Atmosphere***

### **Instructor's Expectation**

## **Netiquette: Rules for Electronic Communications**

In this course, you will be asked to participate in discussions in Canvas. You will also be able to use Inbox to send messages to your instructor and classmates. Please follow these rules when communicating electronically.

## **Spelling and Grammar**

Always use good grammar and correct spelling. Poor grammar and misspelled words are unprofessional and reflect poorly on you and your message. A suggestion is to type your message or information into MS Word, apply the spell and grammar checker, make changes, then copy and paste the text to your communication source.

## **Proofread**

Always proofread your messages and posts! You do not have the opportunity to use body language while communicating electronically, and people may misinterpret your message if you do not write with good tone. Do not write messages that are confrontational, rude, foul-mouthed, or All Caps (MEANS SHOUTING!).

## **Use Good Tone**

Good tone is critical with electronic writing. The wrong words can leave a bad impression and upset the reader. Always check your writing to ensure it is polite and neutral regarding requests and conveying information.

## **Be Professional at All Times**

Do not engage in abuse. If you find yourself frustrated, then take at least 15 minutes and come back to a message or discussion. Your messages/post should be about content and critique of arguments and theory. At no point is it appropriate to attack another person in this class. Borderline behavior, as judged by your instructor, will result in a warning. If problematic behavior continues, then you will be removed from the course until you have met with the Dean of Student Success. Outrageous behavior will result in immediate action and referral to the Dean of Student Success.

Also this class is a place for folks to learn. It is not a dating site or a meet up group. If you have sent someone two private messages and they haven't responded, then assume your

attention/offer/request is of no interest to them. Further private messages to a student will constitute harassment and you will be referred to the appropriate school or city officials.

## **Schedule**

I will open a new module every week. I would very much like folks to be working on the same material at the same time. I want the community discussion boards to be relevant and timely to what you are working on. This makes it more likely that I can help several of you at a time with posts and that you can also help each other. This class will not be designed to go at your own pace. I will be developing content and rolling it out as we go along.

Week 1 – Module 1, Chs. 1-2

Week 2 – Module 2, Chs. 3-4

Week 3 – Module 3, Chs. 5-6

Week 4 – Module 4, Chs. 10-11 – Exam 1 Opens Saturday at 12:01 a.m

Week 5 – Module 5, Chs. 12-13

Week 6 – Module 6, Chs. 14-15

Week 7 – Module 7, Chs. 17-18 – Exam 2 Opens Monday at 12:01 a.m {note the quarter ends on Thursday, so all work must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 pm

## **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>

## **Religious Holidays**

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

## **College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)**

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

For further information and contacts, please consult [College Anti-Discrimination Statements](#).

## **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**

<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.