

Economics 2010

Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2011

7:30 - 8:45 a.m. Tuesday; Thursday

UHB 220

Instructor: Lecia Parks Langston
Office: UHB
Off-Campus Office: 40 South 200 East, St. George
Telephone: 688-3115 (Off-Campus Office)
E-mail: lecialangston@utah.gov (Use to contact me)
langston@dixie.edu
Office Hours: Following class; (8:45 a.m Tuesday/Thursday) or by arrangement

Course Description

For students seeking to fill the social science requirement of the general education requirements. The course fills Business pre-core requirements. The course offers an introduction to the way economic theory explains scarcity, consumer and producer choice, competition and monopoly, labor, capital, and resource markets, antitrust and other government regulation, and income distribution. The course helps students understand and appreciate the ideas, processes, dynamics, and institutions that underlie the social and economic system, and it gives them a foundation for higher academic work. Three lecture hours per week.

Required Text

Fred Gottheil, *Principles of Microeconomics*, Mason, Ohio: South-Western, 6th Edition. Feel free to use the 3rd through the 5th editions if you can find them.

Course Requirements

Four Exams	45%
Final Exam	15%
Economic Essay	15%
Oral Report	5%
Homework/Quizzes/Participation	20%

Exams

- Four regular exams and one final exam will be given during the course.
- Regular exams will consist primarily of multiple choice questions and one essay question. Exams will cover both text and lecture material.
- You may not use notes or textbook when taking exams.

- Exams, with the exception of the Final, will be available online at the Testing Center (First floor of the Career/Financial Aid Building). You can get information on their website at <http://www.dixie.edu/testing/>. Exams will be available during the block of days indicated on Blackboard Vista. Remember, the Testing Center does not handout exams after 9 p.m.
- The final exam will be comprehensive and cover **all** coursework and will be conducted in the classroom at the time indicated on the schedule.
- ***Makeup exams will only be given with **prior** arrangement or under **extreme circumstances** (i.e. illness with a doctor's note, death of your mother with an obituary). You must present some sort of proof of your "extreme circumstance." I will not give makeup exams under any circumstances after exams have been returned to students.***
- ***I do not consider procrastinating taking the exam until the last minute and then having a something "come up" one of the extreme circumstances mentioned above. Plan and use your time wisely.***

Homework/Quizzes/Participation

- You are required to read the assigned chapters *prior* to the lecture.
- Homework will be submitted through the Blackboard Vista system. (See the Blackboard Vista section for more information.) To receive credit for homework, you must complete it within the time frames outlined in the assessments portion of Blackboard Vista.
- If you miss class, it is your responsibility check the Blackboard Vista site for homework assignments.
- Points will be awarded for participation in various (and numerous) classroom activities during the semester. **You will not be able to make up these activities.**
- There may be several "pop" quizzes during the semester.
- This section accounts for a large portion of your grade. If you fail to attend class on a regular basis, it will be impossible to receive a good grade.

Attendance

While, technically, I don't grade on attendance, you will receive points toward the participation category of your grade during class. These points can **only be earned in class**. In other words, if you don't attend, you will lose participation points. Missing one or two activities will not affect your grade.

I will work with students who must be absent for college-related functions (sports, etc.). They will not be penalized for missing class activities. However, they should make **prior** arrangements to take exams and/or turn in assignments.

Economic Essay

You will be required to write one paper using the economic principles learned in class to explain and describe economic events from a current news article. The essay should include:

- At least 700 words
- A copy of the article (not included in the 700 required words).
- Introduction and conclusion
- Identification and definition of economic principle--use examples.
- Well-written explanation of how the principle pertains to the article.
- At least one well-labeled graph illustrating the principle.

An instruction sheet will be provided when the assignment is given.

Oral Report

The oral report will consist of a five-minute oral presentation of a current news article and the economic principle that it represents. You will be able to sign up for a particular day. The instructor will demonstrate how the reports are to be given. Unless you're deathly ill with a doctor's note, etc., **reports can only be rescheduled prior to the report date for full credit.** Unscheduled late reports will be docked 50 percent.

Grades

I grade on a modified "curve." I typically don't give as many "F's" as "A's." I will only fail students who I think truly deserve to fail. This protects students in the event that my exams are extraordinarily difficult and also guards against "grade creep." Please keep all graded assignments/tests until you complete the course. This will allow us to correct any mistakes made in recording your grades.

Bonus Points

Because economists believe people respond to incentives, you will have the opportunity to earn bonus points through various classroom activities during the semester. These bonus points will be applied to your regular exam score.

Blackboard Vista

Coursework and homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard Vista.

To access the Blackboard Vista system, login by going to www.dixie.edu and clicking on the "Blackboard Vista" link on the left-hand side of the page.

- I will post important dates, announcements and files on the site.
- You will have access to PowerPoint files of my lecture slides through the site.
- Essay and oral report assignments will be available on the site.
- Homework assignments will be located in the "Assessments" section of the site.

- You will be able to check your scores on the site.
- It is **your** responsibility to make sure that you can log on and use the Blackboard Vista site. Obviously, I will be glad to help, if you are having difficulties.

Other

- Dmail: Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a Dmail account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "Dmail," for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Dmail email, so please check it often.
- **I hate competing with cell phones. Please don't talk or text on them during my lecture. I reserve the right to dock a substantial number of points from your participation score, if I catch you talking or texting during my class.**

Resources

Your text includes access to a number of on-line resources. Information on accessing these resources is on a card that came with the book. You may find the "xtra" portion of the services particularly helpful, if you are having trouble with the graphing. However, note that the address on the card is incorrect. It should read: <http://gottheixtra.swlearning.com>.

The Tutoring Center typically has a tutor for microeconomics. I will post the schedule on Blackboard Vista when it becomes available. The Tutoring Center is located in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. There is a schedule of what courses have tutors at what times outside the door. You can also visit them online at <http://www.dixie.edu/tutoring/>

I would also suggest using the **Writing Center** (Browning Learning Center, first floor) as a resource when preparing your essay. You can also visit them online at http://dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Val Browning Library or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>

Classroom Expectations

It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. This means not talking when the instructor is talking, not texting or making cell phone calls, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

College approved absences: Dixie College Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club

activities, field trips for other classes, etc). Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>

Academic Dishonesty/Integrity

Cheating: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated at Dixie State College, including but not limited to plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes. Teachers at Dixie State College may discipline students proven guilty of academic dishonesty by:

- Giving a failing grade on the specific assignment where dishonesty occurred,
- Failing the student in the entire course,
- Immediately dismissing and removing the student from the course, and/or
- Referring the student to Student Affairs, a committee which may reprimand, place on probation, suspend, and/or expel the student.

Students who believe themselves wrongfully disciplined may appeal those disciplinary actions through the standard grievance procedure. (Policy 5-35)

Contacting Me

I am an adjunct instructor which means I spend most of my time working off-campus and I am often out of town. The best way to contact me is through e-mail. If you need to drop something off for me (assignments, etc.), inform me by e-mail, and leave them with the office staff of at the Business Department Office (3rd floor Hazy Bldg.) and they will put it in my mail box.

Disability

If you are a student with a medical, psychological or a learning difference and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to this disability, you must provide an official request of accommodation to your professor(s) from the Disability Resource Center within the first two weeks of the beginning of classes. Students are to contact the center on the main campus to follow through with, and receive assistance in the documentation process to determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability.

You may call (435) 652-7516 for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Disability Resource Center is located right next to the Testing Center on the bottom floor of the Financial Aid and Career Center building.

Economics 2010 Microeconomics Tentative Course Schedule--Spring 2011*

Dates	Topics	Reading Assignment	Other Assignments	Exams*
1/11	Intro to Class			Exam on Chapters 1-4 February 4-7 in the Testing Center
1/13	Intro/Production Possibilities/Opportunity Costs	Chapters 1-2		
1/18	Production Possibilities/Opportunity Costs			
1/20	Demand and Supply	Chapter 3		
1/25				
1/27				
2/1	Elasticity	Chapter 4		Exam on Chapters 5-9 March 2-5 in the Testing Center
2/3				
2/8	Marginal Utility and Consumer Choice/Consumer Surplus	Chapter 5	Oral Reports Assigned	
2/10	Price Ceilings and Price Floors	Chapter 6	Oral Reports Begin	
2/15	Business Ownership and Organization	Chapter 7		
2/17	Costs of Production	Chapter 8		
2/22				Exam on Chapters 10-13 March 31 - Apr 4 in the Testing Center
2/24	Maximizing Profit	Chapter 9		
3/1				
3/3	Identifying Markets and Market Structures	Chapter 10		
3/8	Price/Output in Monopoly/Perfect Competition	Chapter 11		
3/10			Essay Assigned	
3/15	Spring Break			Exam on Chapters 14-17 and Taxes April 20-24 in the Testing Center
3/17	Spring Break			
3/22	Price/Output Under Oligopoly	Chapter 12		
3/24				
3/29	Anti-Trust and Regulation	Chapter 13		
3/31	Wages Rates in Competitive Labor Markets	Chapter 15		
4/5	Wages and Employment and Interest/Rent/Profit	Chapters 16 -17		Material in Chapters 18-19 included in Final Exam
4/7	Externalities/Market Failure/Public Choice	Chapter 14		
4/12				
4/14	Taxes		Essay Due	
4/19				
4/21	Income Distribution and Poverty	Chapter 18		
4/26	International Trade	Chapter 19		Final Exam
4/28	Final Review			
5/5	Final Exam 7:30 a.m. in UHB 220			

*Note: Schedule is subject to change. Please attend class and check Blackboard Vista for most current schedule.

an 10 Classwork Starts

Jan 12	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Jan 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Jan 25	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Jan 31	Graduation Application Deadline
Feb 1	Pell Grant Census
Feb 1	Last Day for Refund
Feb 1	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Feb 2	Courses dropped for non-payment
Feb 4	Last Day to ADD Classes
Feb 21	President's Day
Feb 28	Mid-Term Grades Due
Mar 4	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes
Mar 14-18	Spring Break
Mar 21	Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Mar 22	Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Mar 23	Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Mar 24	Summer Registration open to all students
Apr 1	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Apr 11	Fall Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Apr 12	Fall Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Apr 13	Fall Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Apr 14	Fall Registration open to all students