

Econ 2010 (Micro Economics)

Syllabus and Grading Policy

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Text, Author, Publisher:

Text: Microeconomics McConnell and Brue 18th Edition. Authors: Campbell R. McConnell, Stanley L. Bruce. There is an optional study guide if you would like but not necessary.

Office Hours:

My on-line office hours will be announced in the Instructor Area of the Discussion Group. Students are also encouraged to e-mail the instructor for an on-line chat time if specific problems of concerns arise. I work out from my home and not on campus so I have been given this provision. Problems coming up or desire to chat please email me on WebCT and we can work it through over WebCT mail. Now that Blackboard purchased WebCT it is referred to as Blackboard too.

E-Mail:

***Identification:* Students are requested to properly identify all e-mail to the instructor.**

***Addresses:* Please note identifying information within your E-mail. I have several students a semester and teach more than one course. Don't assume I will know who you are by the E-mail tag. hotstuff123 may not be enough to let me know who you are to assign an assignment grade!**

Assignments: Identify all assignments by the number of the assignment. For example "Assignment #1". As I receive several E-mails during a course this will allow me to identify and properly respond to your e-mails in a timely fashion. If E-Mail is not properly identified there are no guarantees that it will be answered in a timely fashion.

Response Time: I will respond to all student E-mails within 24 hours unless it is over the weekend or a family emergency comes up. I had a time when one of my children was in the hospital for several days and I was there most of the time to console them. However, even if an emergency does present itself, I will still get back to you in a timely fashion. This does not mean that I will have all your questions answered or that I will bail you out of a problem if you have procrastinated. Nevertheless, I generally have a quick response most of the time.

Specific Concerns:

If a problem arises please add "Urgent" to the subject line so that I can sort through assignments, examination, student correspondence, etc. in a timely fashion and go to your mail immediately. I will respond to these types of concerns as quickly as possible. Please be respectful of my time and do not unnecessarily mark "Urgent" on assignments or other correspondence that is not urgent. I even have had a student or two in the past who several times a term made URGENT demands, email me ASAP etc. You don't have to do that unless there is a dire emergency. I promise under most circumstances I will get back within 24 hour period so there is no need unless there is a dire emergency. Repeat offenders who continually demand Urgent ASAP attention could experience a grade reduction.

Course Description:

Economics deals with a smorgasbord of timely issues. For example we will examine the following: Consumer demand or how consumers operate in the market place and later the supply or methods firms employ towards efficient resource allocation. Afterwards, we will examine the Market structure of US capitalism, which include demand, supply curves and elasticity of both. Then, we will review a new concept called the production function or how goods are produced by the firm plus the production costs to produce goods and services. Next we will review the four firm types which are pure competition, pure monopoly, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, and monopoly. We will examine how firms operate within one of

these four criteria and its efficiency in the market place and we will discuss the role of the US Justice Department and their concerns over firms and the monopolization process. Furthermore, we will deal with concepts such as wage determination, pricing of resources and general price equilibrium level. International economics is also discussed using Ricardo's comparative advantage theories. We will also examine domestic issues such as the rising costs of medical care, so you can gain your own opinion as to why and how this continuous growing burden can be contained.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an increase in computing, critical thinking, decision-making, information retrieval, speaking and writing skills in this course, as mutually agreed upon by the student and instructor.
2. Recognize basic supply and demand analysis.
3. Recognize the structure and the role of costs in the economy.
4. Describe, using graphs, the various market models: Perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly.
5. Explain how equilibrium is achieved, in the various market models, in both the long and short run.
6. Recognize how resource markets relate to the product markets.
7. Identify problem areas in the economy, and possible solutions, using the analytical tools developed in the course.
8. Recognize how all the parts of the economy integrate into the whole.
9. Recognize the international economy, and describe how it works.

At the conclusion of the class the student will be able to explain the basic concepts of microeconomics. The student will progress from the basics to more complex micro economic concepts.

Regular Effective Contact:

Because this is an on-line course there are no class meetings. In order to monitor progress in this course it is absolutely necessary that students participate in all assignments and discussions. Please remember, that 45% of your grade will be decided by your weekly assignment and discussion participation efforts. **WARNING** I have found over the years since I have been teaching this class that those students who complete all of their assignments and discussions pass. While those students who fail to submit their discussions and assignments have a greater risk of failure.

Make-Up Policy/Exam:

There are five 2 Chapter tests for this course. Students may make-up a maximum of one (1) exam during the semester. **MAKE-UPS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOTIFIED THE INSTRUCTOR IN ADVANCE.** However I would sooner have you mail me a 20 point BONUS PAPER for students who don't do as well on one of the tests. It is easier for you and it is easier for me that you mail it to me before the end of the term.

BONUS PAPER:

Here is how this Bonus Paper works: You must turn in a term paper before the end of the term. It consists of 7 single spaced pages and has 4 references of your choice. You may write on an economist i.e. Adam Smith or an economic subject, i.e. Monopolies. This paper is out of 20 points which could bring up your grade 6%. You do the math $20/350 = 6\%$. If you have 84% it could bring your grade up to 90% or by completing the paper potentially your grade could move from a B to an A or a C to a B. I believe you will learn far more by mailing me a paper rather than redoing an exam. So instead of choosing to rewrite and prepare for a make up examination instead mail me at the end of the term your 7 page paper of the economic topic or economist of your choice. Please mail me your topic and when I should expect your paper to arrive.

Assignment, Discussion and Exam Help Policy:

For assignment discussion and exam purposes, students will be responsible for any/all material in the course text, lecture notes and/or discussion chats. Please note that material in the lecture may be different than that in the text. If you are unable to log into any discussion, assignment or exam etc. please phone Tech Support using 652-7500 and talk to tech support to walk you through this online process. I find that if you have any login problems attend to them right away and clear them up ASAP so you don't get behind. I find one problem that students have when they first begin any online class is their websites anti-pop-up software. PS Try to disable any anti pop-up software your Internet provider like AOL or Earthlink etc. may have before phoning up Tech Support to make sure that isn't your problem.

Class Grading Policy

1) Assignments:

There are fifteen weekly assignments worth five (5) points each. Each question must be fully explained using information from class lecture, the text and the discussion (if applicable). Partial answers will receive partial credit only.

Assignments are due on the Monday after they are given. Because many of our students attend church on Sunday I have tried to maintain a non Sunday assignment provision. So in other words you have one week and a few hours to turn in each assignment.

Make-up provisions:

Assignments are due the Monday after they are assigned. Therefore the assignments for Week 1 must be e-mailed to me on or before the due date on the front page of the course by midnight in order to receive credit for them, and so forth for the rest of the semester. Make-up provisions for assignments are to be arranged in advance. If you fail to meet the deadline for an assignment and have not made arrangements with me PRIOR to the deadline, you will receive a score of 0. Week 9 works a little differently. All assignments and discussions will be due by the last day of the semester.

2) Discussions:

Discussion groups are vital to on-line courses. There are fifteen weekly discussion questions for this course which you are to post up Wednesday evening. Students are encouraged to follow instructions and thoroughly post information and answer the questions listed. Discussion session responses will be graded. A point value of five (5) is assigned to all discussions. Points for the discussions will be noted on the graded assignment for that week. Example, Discussion # 1's point value will be listed on the graded version of Assignment #1.

Make-up Provisions:

Discussion responses are due one week after they are assigned. Therefore the discussions for Week 1 must be posted on the Discussion Board on or before the due date by midnight in order to receive credit and so forth for the rest of the semester. Discussions must be sent on Wednesday prior to the Assignment and Worksheet submission. Assignments and Worksheets will be mailed to me every Monday.

Economics is not like history where you can sit down and answer the questions in one sitting. It takes several days to think through each chapter and then a Eureka the economic ideas or philosophy begins to unfold. I purposely have you do the discussions first on Wednesday to get you to open up your text through the week and begin to read the material so you will have ample time to understand its complex meanings prior to your Monday submission.

There is NO make-up provision for the discussion credit. Either you complete it by the deadline or you get a score of 0. I visit the message board only once the day after the discussion is due. If you have not posted, you get no credit and I do not return to the discussion page to check for late postings.

Derogatory comments, swearing, cursing or other rude behaviors detract from the learning environment. They are not tolerated in the classroom nor will they be tolerated in discussion group. If this behavior is engaged the perpetrator's grade will be substantially reduced.

Discussion participation is crucial to your success in: *Principles of Economics (Micro)* because this course lends itself to discussion. It is very important due to the nature of the material that students become familiar with the different perspectives on the topics presented in this course. I

WILL be popping in occasionally to add my comments to the group discussion. The discussions will answer the **LAST WORD** discussions at the end of each chapter. Each week you will answer one chosen question.

In terms of discussion generally, differing points of view, disagreement and vigorous debate are welcome as these critical thinking activities enhance the learning environment and stimulate interest. Nevertheless, all communication must be respectful and tactful.

3) Worksheets or Practicum

You will have 15 weeks worksheet assignments or Practicum. Your “Worksheet” Practicum assignment offers you a chance to review the new theories you learn in each chapter in a new light and from a real world perspective. This is what administration asked me to add to your curriculum. These worksheet or practicum assignments will be done weekly. I was instructed by administration to add these special assignments because we don’t meet in a regular classroom setting so we needed to add one other element of practical experience other than our “Last Word” discussions to meet accreditation needs to equal that of a classroom setting while working in an online environment.

Because it may take some time to contemplate the Worksheet or Practicum Assignments they are due on the same Monday as your regular Assignments. In other words you have more time to think about each worksheet or practicum assignment which is to be submitted the same day as your regular assignment which will be every Monday. You will post up your answers similar to the discussion page rather than mailing them to me.

A point value of five (5) is assigned to all worksheet assignments. Points for the will be noted on the graded a day or two after Monday each week. Example, Worksheet # 1's point value will be listed on the graded version of Assignment #1.

Examinations:

4) There are five (5) scheduled tests True or False in this course. You can answer them on WebCT or Blackboard now and will not have to go to the testing center to take these tests. For more detail please see the course schedule.

Each test is theoretically worth one hundred (25) points. However, the actual number of points possible on each test may vary slightly. It is estimated that there will be a total of one hundred and twenty five (125) points possible on examinations.

5) There will be one comprehensive final (ONLINE rather than in the TESTING CENTER) at the end of the term. Therefore, the final will be a 50 question comprehensive True or False format which equates to 2 points each for a total of 100 points. It should take you between 1 to 1.5 hours to complete it. The questions will be in a True or False like the other 5 test questions. I have found multiple tests rather than just a mid term and final all help you better remember what you learned so that is why we will apply this multiple examination format.

Grade Computation:

There are four hundred-fifty (450) points possible for this course.

2) Wednesday Discussions $15 \times 5 = 75$

1) Monday Assignments: $15 \times 5 = 75$

3) Monday Worksheets: $15 \times 5 = 75$

4) 5 Tests $25 \times 5 +$ 125 (See Calendar for Dates)

5) Final 100 (See Examination Week)

Total Points 450

Grades will be computed by taking the number of points that have been earned and dividing them by the number of points possible during the quarter.

A 400 & above

B $360 - 400$

C $315 - 360$

D $270 - 315$

Assignment Grade Format

A ~ Assignments or Discussions are thoughtful and show applications of course concepts by offering a variety of references of course concepts using references, outside sources and examples including personal experiences. Your answers demonstrate strong thinking skills and grammar skills.

B ~ Assignments or Discussions are thoughtful and show application of concepts but could add more in depth discussion. Occasionally gives a reference to text or other sources and uses good language, concepts and grammar.

C ~ Assignments and Discussions show inconsistent thought and limited application of course concepts. Infrequent reference to text and outside materials. Often discusses mainly personal experiences without supporting text etc. when offering examples. Many grammatical problems can be found its written content.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is claiming as your own a paper, report, article, outline or speech which in whole or in part was prepared by someone other than yourself. Plagiarism can result in failure of the course.

In the box below type: I understand plagiarism is claiming as my own a paper, report, article, outline or speech which in whole or in part was prepared by someone other than me, and that committing plagiarism can result in failure of the course.

Outside Reading:

Students are encouraged to read about current issues and policies from the major publications such as Forbes and Business Week etc. The college or your local library has monthly or weekly magazines. New programs and radio programs also provide valuable insight into economic discussions too. Some examples include: Dateline, C-Span, CNN, and CNBC.

Students with a Disability:

"If you are a student with a physical or mental impairment and would like to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in Room 201 of the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility for services based upon complete professional documentation. If you are deemed eligible, the Disability Resource Center will further evaluate the effectiveness of your accommodation requests and will authorize reasonable accommodations that are appropriate for your disability."

Syllabus Disclaimer:

A syllabus is not a contract between instructor and student but rather a guide to course procedures on attendance, requirements, grading and objectives. The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus when conflicts, emergencies or situations arise that necessitate a change. Students will be notified of any changes.