

Econ 110: Principles of Microeconomics

California State University Channel Islands

Spring 2011

Instructor: Erin Kaplan

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Office Hours: M/W 1:30 – 2:30

OR by appointment

Class Times: M/W 3:00 – 4:15

Location: Aliso Hall 150

Office: Sage Hall 2016

Course Information

Course Description:

This course applies economic reasoning to the decisions of both consumers and producers and examines the consequences of those decisions for society as a whole.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the economic behavior of households and individual firms
2. Describe and apply the scientific method to economic behavior
3. Apply the principles of supply and demand to determine prices and identify the factors that affect supply and demand
4. Describe and distinguish between various forms of market structures
5. Evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative forms of public policy

Course Materials:

Textbook: Mankiw, "Principles of Microeconomics" (5th Ed.) – Required

Workbook: Mankiw, "Study Guide for Mankiw's Principles of Microeconomics" – Optional

Blackboard: All assignments and course announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Please check the course page frequently.

Course Policies

Attendance:

Lecture attendance is highly recommended, but does not directly figure into your grade. If absent, you are responsible for obtaining any material discussed or handed out in lecture.

Office Hours:

Students are strongly encouraged to attend office hours. The material covered in this course is often challenging, but students should consider office hours an additional resource to aid in their understanding. If you are unable to attend my scheduled office hours, please contact me to schedule another time to meet. I may also be available to meet with you via Blackboard's Virtual Classroom on days that I am not on campus.

Make-Ups and Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted. If you fail to turn an assignment in on time, you will receive a zero. If you are unable to attend lecture on the day an assignment is due, I will accept it via email as long as it is sent before the beginning of class on the due date. Make-up exams will not be permitted. If you are unable to attend one of the exams, please contact me as soon as you discover the conflict.

Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes the following examples as well as any other similar conduct which is aimed at falsely representing a student's academic performance: cheating, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaborating on course work, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, or intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above.

If you are caught cheating on an exam or an assignment, you will receive a zero on the exam or assignment. In addition, the event will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs and may lead additional actions from the University.

Use of Cell Phones:

The use of cell phones during lectures is a disrespectful distraction to your instructor and other classmates. Please turn your cell phone and other electronic devices off while you are in class. In emergency situations, please discuss limited use of cell phone with me prior to the class during which you would like to use your cell phone. *Students are NOT allowed to use cell phones or any internet capable devices during exams.*

Email:

In general, email is the best way to get in contact with me. I am happy to answer questions via email as long as they don't require too much explanation. However, if you send me an email within 24 hours of an exam or homework deadline, don't expect me to respond before the exam/due date.

Course Grades

Problem Sets (25%)

There will be 10 problem sets, each designed to help you practice applying the economic methods taught in class to specific problems. Each assignment will be posted on Blackboard at least 1 week prior to its due date. Your lowest score will be dropped, so your best 9 problem set scores will make up 25% of your grade. Students are encouraged to work in groups on the problem sets; however, each student is individually responsible for completing and turning in the assigned work.

Article Reports (15%)

Over the course of the semester you will be required to write 3 one page reports about news articles relating to the material covered in the course. One report will be due on or before each of the three exams. Students are strongly encouraged to stay engaged with the world around them through print, radio, television, and/or online news media sources. You may either choose to report on an article that you come across or one that I have posted on Blackboard. A guide for writing article reports as well as a sample report can also be found on Blackboard.

Midterms (40%)

There will be two midterm exams, so each exam will be worth 20% of your grade. The first exam is tentatively scheduled for February 28th, and the second exam is scheduled for April 13th. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, which will be similar to your homework assignments.

Final (20%)

The final exam will be comprehensive and similar in format to the midterm exams. It will be held during the week of 5/10- 5/14, as scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
Jan. 24 th	Thinking Like and Economist	Ch. 1, 2	
Jan. 26 th	Interdependence and the Gains from Trade	Ch. 3	
Jan. 31 st	The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	Ch. 4	
Feb. 2 nd			Due: Problem Set 1
Feb. 7 th	The Theory of Consumer Choice	Ch. 21	
Feb. 9 th	Elasticity and its Application	Ch. 5	Due: Problem Set 2
Feb. 14 th	Market Equilibrium and Efficiency	Ch. 6,7,8	
Feb. 16 th			Due: Problem Set 3
Feb. 21 st	Government Policies		
Feb. 23 rd	<i>Review</i>		Due: Problem Set 4
Feb. 28 th	Midterm 1		Due: Article Report 1
March 2 nd	The Costs of Production	Ch. 13	
March 7 th			
March 9 th	Firms in Competitive Markets	Ch. 14	Due: Problem Set 5
March 14 th			
March 16 th	Monopoly: Single Price	Ch. 15	Due: Problem Set 6
March 21 st	No Class: Spring Break		
March 23 rd			
March 28 th	Monopoly: Price Discrimination	Ch. 15	
March 30 th	Monopolistic Competition		Due: Problem Set 7
April 4 th	Oligopoly	Ch. 17	
April 6 th			
April 11 th	<i>Review</i>		Due: Problem Set 8
April 13 th	Midterm 2		Due: Article Report 2
April 18 th	Externalities	Ch.10	
April 20 th	Public Goods	Ch. 11	
April 25 th	International Trade	Ch. 9	Due: Problem Set 9
April 27 th			
May 2 nd	Income Inequality and Poverty	Ch. 20	
May 4 th	Economics of Information - Health Care		Due: Problem Set 10
May 9 th	<i>Review</i>		
May 11 th			Due: Article Report 3
May 16 th	Final Exam: 4:00 – 6:00pm		

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced both in class as well as on Blackboard.