

**Econ 310, Intermediate Microeconomic**  
**Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics**  
**California State University Channel Islands**  
**Course Syllabus, Spring 2012**

**Course:** Main Campus, Camarillo, CA  
Bell Tower 2598  
Friday, 9 – 11:50 a.m.

**Instructor:** William Koch, Ph.D.

**Email:** [william.koch@csuci.edu](mailto:william.koch@csuci.edu)

**Office location and hours:**

Sage Hall Rm. 2016

Hours: Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

**Required Materials:** Jacobs Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application by Nicholson & Snyder (11th edition, South-Western, 2008). Aplia on-line problem set course supplement (Cost \$40.00)

**Course Description:**

This is a course in microeconomic theory (upper division level). While the focus of the course is theory, applied examples will be used as a method to explain the economic intuition behind the theory as well as demonstrate the practical usefulness of concepts. Covered material includes major theoretical issues arising in the study of resource allocation, the function of markets, consumer behavior, and the determination of price, output, and profits in competitive, monopolistic, and oligopolistic market structures. Also considered are issues of welfare and public policy, and game theory.

Class time will include lecture and in-class discussion. Lecture material will be based on the material from the textbook, so it is good to read the text before or shortly after class.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Explain the economic behavior of households and individual firms
- Apply the principles of supply and demand to determine prices and identify the factors that affect supply and demand
- Describe and distinguish between various forms of market structures
- Evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative forms of public policy

## Course Requirements:

The class meets once a week. Students are responsible for all lecture material, readings assigned in class, class webpage material, and reading material listed in the syllabus unless otherwise specified by instructor. Problem sets will be administered through Aplia, an on-line course supplement. The cost is \$40.00 with sign-up instructions on the last page.

<b>Grading</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>(pts.)</b>
Aplia on-line assignments (10 of 12)	15%	(90)
Attendance/participation	5%	(30)
Midterm exams (2 exams, 20% for each)	40%	(240)
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>(240)</u>
Total	100%	(600)

### Basic Grading Scale:

≥ 90%: A+, A, A-

≥ 80%: B+, B, B-

≥ 70%: C+, C, C-

≥ 60%: D+, D, D-

< 60%: F

(Class scores may also be adjusted to account for the difficulty of the exams.)

### Problem assignments (15% of course grade)

Problem sets will be due on Saturday of the 2nd through 15th weeks excluding exam weeks. The two lowest problem set scores will be dropped. All problem sets will be entered and graded through Aplia and due at 11 p.m. every Saturday starting the 2nd week of instruction, excluding the weeks of midterm exams. No problem sets will be accepted by Aplia after the due date and time. Two extra credit problem sets will be offered towards the end of the semester which can replace low problem set scores for those students who have missed some problem sets or who wish to improve upon their overall problem set score.

### Attendance/participation/instructor evaluation (5% of course grade)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. If you know that you will be absent the day of the midterm or the day of your presentation, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

### Exams (20% each for the midterm exams and 40% for the final exam)

Exams will be closed book and cover textbook readings, lectures, and problems and any other material presented in class or posted on the class website. They will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer essay questions and quantitative analysis. The Midterm II exam will only cover material after Midterm I. The Final Exam will be quasi-comprehensive in that it will cover material after Midterm I with emphasis

on material after Midterm II. Any formulas required to answers the questions will be provided. Only a calculator and pen/pencil will be needed for the exams – no bluebook or extra paper.

## **Email**

In general, email is the best way to get in contact with me. I will be 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 assignment deadline, don't expect me to respond before the exam/due date.

## **Class Website**

There are two websites used in this class. The first has links to the class syllabus and any exam review material, extra credit material, and any other information regarding the class not listed on the syllabus but announced in class.

URL: [http://faculty.csuci.edu/william.koch/Spring2012\\_Econ310.html](http://faculty.csuci.edu/william.koch/Spring2012_Econ310.html)

The second website is the Aplia website where the class problem sets are administered. The last page of this syllabus has instructions on where to go and how to register on the internet.

URL: <http://www.aplia.com/?>

## **Important dates:**

**Midterm Exam I:   Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Midterm Exam II:  Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Final Exam:       Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 8 – 10:00 a.m.**

## **Course Standards**

It is assumed that all students will perform professionally in preparing work required for this class. If papers have to be prepared, all papers must be submitted before class on their due date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

All students commit to maintaining and upholding intellectual integrity. Any violations, including but not limited to cheating or plagiarism may result in sanctions. Sanctions may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade for the course, or suspension or dismissal from the university.

Students with Disabilities needing accommodation should make requests to the staff at the Disability Accommodation Services, East Bell Tower 1796 (805 437-3331, [accommodations@csuci.edu](mailto:accommodations@csuci.edu), Valeri Cirino-Paez, [valeri.cirino-paez@csuci.edu](mailto:valeri.cirino-paez@csuci.edu) or Arjelia Guillen-Acosta, [arjelia.guillen@csuci.edu](mailto:arjelia.guillen@csuci.edu)). Please discuss approved accommodations with the instructor.

## (Tentative) Class Schedule

This schedule is subject to change during the semester

Week	Date	Problem Set	Class Lecture/Discussion	Course Text Readings	
1	1/27		– Introduction and Math review	Chapters 1 , 2	
2	2/3	– Aplia PS #1 due following Sat 2/4 covering Ch (s) 1, 2	– Holiday		
3	2/10	– Aplia PS #2 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 2, 3	– Utility and Choice – Demand Curves	Chapter 2, 3	
4	2/17	– Aplia PS #3 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 3,6	– Market Demand, Elasticity – Production	Chapters 3, 6	
5	2/24	<b>Midterm I</b>			
6	3/2	– Aplia PS #4 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 6, 7	– Costs	Chapter 7	
7	3/9	– Aplia PS #5 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 7	– Profit Maximization and Supply	Chapter 8	
8	3/16	– Aplia PS #6 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 8	– Perfect Competiton	Chapter 9	
	3/23	– Aplia PS #7 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 9	– Spring Recess		
9	3/30	–	– Holiday		
10	4/6	– Aplia PS #8 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 10	– General Equilibrium	Chapter 10	
11	4/13	<b>MidTerm II</b>			
12	4/20	– Aplia PS #9 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 10, 11	– Monopoly – Imperfect Competition	Chapters 11, 12	
13	4/27	– Aplia PS #10 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 11, 12	– Imperfect Competition – Game Theory	Chapters 12, 5	
14	5/4	– Aplia PS #11 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 5,4 –	– Game Theory – Uncertainty and information	Chapters 5, 4	
15	5/11	– Aplia PS #12 due following Sat. covering Ch (s) 4, 15, 16, 17	– Asymmetric Information Externalities and Public Goods – Behavioral Economics	Chapters 15, 16, 17	

(Revised January 13, 2012)