

**Econ 310, Intermediate Microeconomic**  
**Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics**  
**California State University Channel Islands**  
**Course Syllabus, Spring 2014**

**Course:** Main Campus, Camarillo, CA  
Bell Tower 1602  
TuTh, 1:30 – 2:45 p.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: Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Required Materials:** Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application by Nicholson & Snyder (11th edition, South-Western, 2008). Aplia on-line problem set course supplement. Bundle ISBN: 9781133807001

**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, monopoly, 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 class. .

**Program Learning Goals:**

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Conduct (Ethics)
6. Competency in Discipline

**Learning Objectives:**

- Analysis of theories behind economic behavior of households and firms (Program learning goals 1, 3, 6)
- In-depth analysis of underlying factors of market supply and demand (1, 6)
- Analyze various forms of market structures, and theoretical welfare and efficiency implications (1, 5)
- Analyze alternative forms of public policy (1, 3, 5)
- Through in-class polling consider alternative economic policy solutions (1, 2, 4)

## Course Requirements:

The class meets twice 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. Aplia registration instructions are on the last page.

<b>Grading</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>(pts.)</b>
Aplia on-line assignments (5 of 6)	20%	(120)
Midterm exams (2 exams, 20% for each)	40%	(240)
Final exam	40%	(240)
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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.)

### On-line math assessment (Required but not graded)

An on-line math assessment assignment will be due by the end of the second week of class. It is administered through the same website as the problem sets. **It is required but will not be graded.**

### Problem assignments (20% of course grade)

Problem sets will be available after the material has been presented in lecture. All problem sets will be entered and graded through Aplia. The final due date for all the assignments will be Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 p.m., the day after the final exam. Each Aplia assignment can be take up to three times with only the highest score entered.

### Attendance/participation/evaluation (**up to 5% extra credit**)

In-class polls will be taken in each lecture. The polls will be administered through an online service called Poll Everywhere through texting on cell phones or laptops or tablet computers. The service is free to students but registration is required. More details in class.

### 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, before and after class or during office-hours is the best way to touch base with me. However, I do periodically check my email and will be happy to answer questions as long as they don't require too much explanation. However, if you send me an email within 24 hours of any exam or assignment deadline, I may not be able 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/Spring2014\\_Econ310.html](http://faculty.csuci.edu/william.koch/Spring2014_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: Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Midterm Exam II: Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Final Exam: Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 1 – 3:00 p.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	1/21		– Introduction and Math review	Chapters 1 , 2
2	1/28	– HW1 and on-line Math Assessment	– Utility and Choice – Demand Curves	Chapter 2, 3
3	2/4		– Market Demand, Elasticity – Production	Chapters 3, 6
4	2/11	– HW2	– Production	Chapters 6
5	2/18	<b>Midterm I (2/20)</b>		
6	2/25		– Costs	Chapter 7
7	3/4	– HW3	– Profit Maximization and Supply	Chapter 8
8	3/11		– Perfect Competition	Chapter 9
9	3/18	– HW4	– General Equilibrium	Chapter 10
	3/25	<b><i>Spring Break</i></b>		
10	4/1	<b>MidTerm II (4/3)</b>	– General Equilibrium	Chapter 10
11	4/8		– Monopoly – Imperfect Competition	Chapters 11, 12
12	4/15	– HW5	– Game Theory	Chapter 5
13	4/22		– Uncertainty and information	Chapter 4
14	4/29	– HW6	– Asymmetric Information Externalities and Public Goods	Chapters 15, 16,
15	5/6		– Behavioral Economics	Chapter 17
16		<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 13 1:00 – 3:00 PM</b>	

(Revised January 15, 2014)