

Principles of Economics (MICRO) Syllabus

ECO 2023, 2019 Summer, June 24 - July 26

Course & Faculty Information

Lecturer: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday (1.8 contact hours each day)

Contact hour: 45 hours

Credit: 3

Office hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course introduces microeconomics to the student by showing how consumers and producers choose to allocate scarce resources to satisfy their unlimited wants. This course emphasizes the nature and functions of product markets, factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Topics include scarcity, demand and supply, equilibrium, opportunity costs, production possibility and indifference curves, specialization, comparative advantage, economic profit, the different types of market structures, and world trade and equilibrium.

Textbook Information

Principles of Microeconomics, Gregory Mankiw, Cengage Learning Publishing, 7th edition. (2015).

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on quizzes, presentation, exams, and attendance.

Quizzes:	Four quizzes	20%
Exams:	Two exams	60%
Presentation:	One presentation	10%
Attendance:	0.5% per day attended	10%
TOTAL		100%

Quizzes:

For this five-week course, there will be four Quizzes. First Quiz will be on the Third day of the

course testing the mathematical skills required for this class. Second Quiz will be on Day 6. Third Quiz will be on Day 11. Fourth Quiz will be on day 21. Each quiz will test students on the material covered after the previous quiz or exam.

Quizzes are worth 20% of your class grade.

Exams:

Exam 1 will be held on the Friday of Week 3 (Day 15 of the course).

Exam 2 will be held on the Friday of Week 5 (Day 25 of the course).

Each Exam is worth 30% of your class grade for a total of 60%.

Presentation:

Students will be required to have a group presentation in class using PowerPoint. Five to eight groups of students (i.e. depending on the class roster) are created by the end of the first week of the course and they will be assigned randomly to compare and contrast the situation of poverty and inequality in two chosen countries. Each group should also provide possible government policies aiming to reduce poverty and inequality in the two countries. Trends of poverty and inequality over time should be highlighted and discussed.

This presentation is due and it is to be presented in class on the day before the last day of class. Each group of students is given 15-20 minutes to present their finding about their class project and answer clarification and other substantive questions from the audience. More information on this will be provided in the class.

The class presentation is worth 10% of the class grade.

Attendance:

Students are awarded **0.5% for each day attended** up to a **maximum of 10%** of your class grade. Attendance also includes the class participation which consists of students' participation to the discussion of the in-class assignments and/or the take home assignments. Attendance scores are not awarded on Exam days.

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

Tentative Course Outline:

Please note that this outline is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course.

Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week 1

Day 1 Review of Mathematical Concepts Required for the Course

Geometry, Order of operations, Balancing equations, The slope of a line ($Y = a + bx$), Algebraic equations, etc.

Day 2 Chapter 1. Ten Principles of Economics

The principles are grouped into three categories: "how people make decisions, how people interact, and how the economy works as a whole."

Day 3 Chapter 2. Thinking Like an Economist

Emphasis: The first two models, Circular-flow and the Production Possibilities Frontier.

Quiz 1 (Only covers mathematical skills required for the course covered on Day 1)

Day 4 Chapter 4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand

Emphasis: An examination of how supply and demand for a good determines both the quantity produced and the price at which the good sells. This model is the foundation of our discussion for the remaining of the text.

Day 5 Chapter 5. Elasticity and Its Applications

Week 2

Day 6 Chapter 6. Supply, Demand, and Government Policies

Emphasis: The supply and demand model is associated with government policies of price ceilings and price floors.

Quiz 2 (Covers Chapters 1, 2, and 4)

Day 7 Chapter 7. Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets

Focus: 1. Tools: (consumer & producer surplus, welfare economics) are used extensively in the real world to assess the costs and benefits of policies and market imperfections. 2. Adam Smith's invisible hand, a.k.a. the principle that markets are usually a good way to organize economic activity.

Day 8 Chapter 8. The Costs of Taxation

Emphasis: The government must raise revenue to pay for the police, the court system, interstate highways, national defense, public education, and so forth. The government must choose which goods to tax and how much to tax each one.

Day 9 Chapter 9. International Trade

Focus:

- Welfare analysis of free trade in a good that a country exports, relative to no trade.
- Welfare analysis of free trade in a good that the country imports, relative to no trade.
- Welfare analysis of a tariff, relative to free trade in a good the country imports.

Day 10 Chapter 10. Externalities

Emphasis: The costs and benefits associated with positive and negative externalities

Week 3

Day 11 Chapter 11. Public Goods and Common Resources

Focus: Public goods and Common resources. Common resources, like public goods are not excludable.

Quiz 3 (Covers Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9)

Day 12 Chapter 13. The Costs of Production

Focus: How much does it cost a firm to produce goods/ services. Students should think of several costs that a real-world firm actually faces and the kinds of decisions that are affected by these costs. Costs affect policies.

Day 13 Chapter 14. Firms in Competitive Markets

Objective: To explore the firm's behavior under Perfect competition. This is the first of the firms that make up the market structure. The model serves as a point of reference.

Day 14 Chapter 15. Monopoly

Emphasis:

The relation between MR and P for a monopolist. Price $P > MR$ Marginal revenue implies that there is market power.

Day 15 Exam 1 (Covers Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15)

Week 4

Day 16 Chapter 16. Monopolistic Competition

Emphasis: The third market structure which is easier for students. The firms are on a typical main street: the coffee shops, donut shops, flower shops, etc. $P > MR$.

Day 17 Chapter 17. Oligopoly

Focus: Industry that is controlled by few firms. The concentration ratio and game theory concepts will be addressed.

Day 18 Chapter 18. The Markets for the Factors of Production

Focus:

This chapter develops the neoclassical theory of income distribution, in which each factor of production earns a price that equals the value of its marginal product

Day 19 Chapter 19. Earnings and Discrimination

Day 20 Chapter 20. Income Inequality and Poverty

Week 5

Day 21 Chapter 21. The Theory of Consumer Choice

Emphasis: This chapter covers topics considered advanced for the typical principles course: budget constraints, indifference curves, household optimization, and the income and substitution effects of price changes.

Quiz 4 (Covers Chapters 16, 17, 18, and 19)

Day 22 Chapter 22. Frontiers of Microeconomics

Objective:

This is the final microeconomics chapter. It introduces students to three relatively new areas of research in microeconomics: asymmetric information, .Political economy, and behavioral economics.

Day 23 Review

Day 24 Presentation

Day 25 Exam 2 (Covers Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

Academic Integrity

As members of the Seminole State College of Florida community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities.

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.