

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics
Course Syllabus and Class Outline
(updated June 20, 2016)

Principles of Micro Economics

Economics 1011.20: Summer 2016

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Office hours: Mondays 11:30am-12:30pm in Monroe 374 and by apt

CLASS CONTACT INFORMATION

Lecture: Mondays - Thursdays @ 12:30 – 2:00pm Monroe 352

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles of microeconomics is a standard first course in microeconomic theory. It covers the behavior of consumers, the behavior of firms, market fundamentals (supply and demand), forms of market organization (monopoly, oligopoly), effects of government policy, and causes of and cures for market imperfections. Microeconomic theory is taught using basic algebraic models and graphs. Students learn to solve various “if ...then” problems, e.g. if the government levies an additional 10% tax on gasoline, what happens to price, output, tax revenue, consumer welfare, and producer welfare?

COURSE PREREQUISITE

High school algebra (Algebra I). The most important elements are plotting relationships on a graph, plotting multidimensional expressions in two dimensions, working with linear equations, calculating and understanding the slope of a line, solving two equations with two unknowns, calculating areas on a graph, understanding ratios and fractions, calculating percentage changes, and determining units of complex expressions.

MAIN TEXT

The primary material covered in the course is presented in outline form in the Lecture Notes Section of Blackboard. These notes present all of the important material but do not include long descriptions or narratives. These are labeled by Lecture number.

Online Source: http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/14/14.01SC/MIT14_01SCF11_rtext.pdf

PROBLEM SETS

Problem Sets are available in the Files section of Blackboard several weeks before the due dates.

GRADING

2 quizzes: 15% each (each quiz is 30 points, scaled based on percentage)

⇒ each quiz accounts for 15 points toward total grade

1 midterm: 30% (50 points total) ⇒ 30 points toward total grade

1 final: 40% (50 points total) (Cumulative) \Rightarrow 40 points toward total grade

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to fulfill the requirements of the Quantitative Reasoning subcomponent of the G-PAC Analysis learning goal. Quantitative reasoning refers to the process of modeling problems of the real world within a formal abstract system, solving those problems using systematic numerical methods of analysis, and interpreting the results. The following table links the course learning objectives to GPAC quantitative reasoning learning outcomes:

GPAC QUANTITATIVE REASONING LEARNING OUTCOMES	ECON 1011 LEARNING OBJECTIVES
1. Represent mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically, and verbally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number concepts (prerequisite) • Two variable graphs (prerequisite) • The slope of a curve (prerequisite) • Areas of a rectangle and a triangle (prerequisite) • Percentage change – general (prerequisite) • Percentage change - midpoint method • Solving for unknowns (prerequisite) • Solving systems of equations (prerequisite) • Elements of game theory
2. Articulate precise mathematical definitions and propositions and draw inferences from them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortages and Surpluses; Consumer & Producer Surplus; Tax Revenue – implications of government intervention on economic welfare • Elasticity – revenue implications of price changes; implications for market definition • Total and Marginal Utility – implications for consumer demand • Revenue and Costs – implications for firm profit maximization; firm supply; and entry/exit decisions • Economic & Accounting Profit – the role and importance of opportunity costs
3. Use algebraic, geometric, or statistical calculations to solve problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solve for equilibrium price and quantity given demand and supply equations • Compute changes in consumer and producer surplus, and calculate the deadweight loss due to price controls, taxes, market power and externalities • Product and cost curves – total, average and marginal • Find a firm’s profit-maximizing price and quantity under different market structures
4. Interpret and explain information represented in mathematical forms (e.g. graphs, equations, diagrams, tables)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graph production possibility frontiers • Graph supply and demand functions and/or schedules

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derive market supply and market demand curves graphically • Identify consumer and producer surplus, deadweight loss (due to price controls, taxes, market power and externalities) and the incidence of a tax on a graph • Solve utility maximization problems graphically • Solve firm profit maximization problems under different market structures graphically
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CLASS POLICIES

Problem sets are not graded but is helpful for quizzes and exams. Answer Keys for the Problem Sets will be posted on blackboard. They will be reviewed during lectures- do not miss class but not mandatory. Students with medical or other serious problems must get permission to relax deadlines for examinations PRIOR to the due date and must provide written evidence. **Grading problems?** Report them **in writing** to me. NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY, THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN THE LAST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER

Attendance is not taken but the demonstrations conducted in class are sometimes not found in the readings and it may be difficult to achieve learning outcomes without regular class attendance. Quizzes or exams may only be excused and the time adjusted only by prior arrangement with the instructor (use e- mail). If you must miss an exam unexpectedly, because of circumstances outside your ability to control, you must contact me as soon as possible. Requests for adjustments to stated exam times and dates requires appropriate documentation to verify the circumstances.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are bound by the GW Code of Academic Integrity which states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students'

personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations and confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals:

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>

SECURITY

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location. For this class, that location is the first floor of Monroe Mall, 2201 G Street NW.

BLACKBOARD

You must use Blackboard regularly to get handouts, notes, readings and answers to problem sets and examinations.