

**SYLLABUS**  
**ECON 130**  
**MICROECONOMIC PRINCIPLES**  
Fall 2004

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**Required and Recommended Texts:** **Principles of Microeconomics** by John B. Taylor and **Principles of Microeconomics Study Guide** by David H. Papell, John Solow and Wm. Stewart Mounts, Jr. Make sure you get the **4th Edition**. The textbook and the study guide will be sold as a package.

**Course Description:** Economics is the study of the use of scarce resources to satisfy unlimited human wants. In Microeconomics, we study how these scarce resources are allocated within the market (or price) system. Within this system, we consider the actions and the interactions of three economic agents: 1) the consumers, 2) the firms and 3) the government. In this course, students will be introduced to simple, abstract models of behavior of the three economics agents. Using these models, we will analyze the outcomes when these agents interact in the marketplace. Later in the semester, we will relax some of the restrictive assumptions of the idealized models and develop models that reflect the real world better. Mathematical skills beyond simple algebra and graphical analysis are not required in this course. This course meets the diversification requirement (DS) of Gen Ed requirements for social sciences.

**Objectives:** By the end of the semester, students are expected to learn the following: 1) the language of Microeconomics, 2) the basic methodology and models used in this area and their application to real-world situations, and 3) by using these models, the ability to analyze hypothetical and/or real-world situations that occur in the international economy.

**Exams and Grading Policy:** There will be **9 quizzes, two midterms, and a final exam** for this course. Your final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

**Quizzes:** Nine unannounced quizzes will be given in class during the semester. Each quiz will be about 5-10 minutes in length and will very short multiple choice questions. The top five scores will be taken and will count for 20% of your grade. These quizzes are designed to reward those who regularly attend class and do their work. **Therefore, no make-up quiz will be given under any circumstance.** Any missed quiz will be given a grade of zero. Plan accordingly.

**Midterms and Final:** Since I do not want to penalize you for doing badly on any one midterm, I will calculate your exam grade using two different ways and take the better grade of the two. Method One: Both midterms will count for 25% of your final grade and the final will count for 30% of your final grade. Method Two: The better of the two midterms will count for 35% of your grade and the final will count for 45%. I will take whichever of the two that will give you a higher grade as your final grade. The following grades are possible for this course: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D and F.

**Homework:** Homework will be given out in class on Fridays and will be due the following Friday. They will not count for your final grade. They are meant as a guideline on how well you understand the material presented in class and in the textbook. Therefore, while not doing your homework will not penalize you directly, it has been my experience that students who make a conscientious effort to do all the assigned work do better on exams.

**Rules and Regulations: Make-up Exams:** As stated before, no make-up quiz will be given for any reason. Please note ahead the scheduled dates of the midterm and the final and make sure you can attend the exams. Unless you have a very good reason for missing the exams, no make-up exam will be given. The only acceptable reason for missing an exam is your own illness or other crucial emergencies. If this applies, please make a xeroxed copy of the "Report of Absence from Exam" form attached at the end of this syllabus and fill it in and return it to me. You must also have a signed excuse from your physician in case of illness stating the nature of your illness (a statement saying that you weren't feeling too well is NOT enough). Your petition will be considered, and I will get back to you. If I accept your petition, a make-up exam will be administered. Please note that the make-up exam may be entirely different from the original exam. **NOTE: "I /my parents/relatives bought a plane ticket before the date of the final is NOT a valid excuse"** unless you bought the ticket before you registered for this class. You know the date of the final so don't buy the ticket for plane that flies out before the final!! Please bring **pencils, erasers and a calculator** to the exam, as we will be using a scantron sheet for parts of the exam. The machine will only read pencils, no pens! **Failure to follow procedures will result in a penalty on your grade, so please listen to all instructions.**

**Attendance:** While attendance is not mandatory, your grades will suffer if you miss the quizzes. Some topics not covered in the textbook will be introduced in lectures and you will be held responsible for them on exams. Moreover, experience tells me that students who miss class regularly do not perform well on exams. Lastly, students are responsible for being aware of any and all announcements that are made in class.

**Academic Honesty:** Simply put, cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating on any quiz, midterm or final will be given a grade of zero for that exam, and will be reported to the University for any other disciplinary action.

**Some Suggestions:** Please try to do all your readings as scheduled. I understand that this is not always possible for a variety of reasons, but falling too far behind in the readings is not a very good practice. In this class, each new section will build upon the concepts learned in the earlier sections, and you will not be able to understand the current lectures unless you understood the previous lectures. You must take notes in class to succeed in this class. You are also encouraged to form study groups and go over the lectures, homeworks, notes, etc. The only time you are not allowed to cooperate is on exams. Otherwise, you should try to exchange ideas with your fellow students. I am open to suggestions. If you have any complaint about the way the lectures are organized, please tell me. I will do my best to accommodate your suggestions. Participation in class is encouraged. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. Sometimes, you may feel unsure about asking a question. Here's my opinion on that--in the majority of cases, if you feel unsure about a topic, most of the other students feel the same way and someone has to convey this feeling to me. I can't read minds, so you must take the initiative to let me know when you are confused. Remember, even if your question isn't the smartest one ever asked, at least you will know the right answer by asking the question. If you don't ask the question and take the doubt with you at exam time, that could hurt you. And, by all means, make use of the office hours that we have posted. You are paying for this class, and you should therefore make use of all available help. Under no circumstance should you stay confused. As I have stated before, each concept in this class builds on the previous concepts, so if you are confused, it won't get better later on unless you resolve your problems as soon as possible.

**Disability:** If you have a disability and need special consideration, please contact me to discuss your needs.

When the assigned chapter number is followed with an alphabet (e.g 2A), it means that you should also read the advanced topic for that chapter, located at the end of that chapter. For example, 2A means that you should read the appendix for chapter 2 at the end of chapter 2.

Aug. 23	Introduction to Economics	Ch. 1, 2, 2A
Aug. 30	The Market Economy, Supply & Demand, Price and Quantity	Ch. 3
Sept. 6	Elasticity (No class on Monday)	Ch. 4
Sept. 13	Consumers and Demand	Ch. 5,5A
Sept. 20	Firms and Supply	Ch. 6
Sept. 27	Catch-up, Review and Summary	
<b>FIRST MIDTERM: FRI. Oct. 1st</b>		
Oct. 4	Market Revisited and Efficiency	Ch. 7
Oct. 11	Costs and Firm Changes over Time	Ch. 8 (8A-optional)
Oct. 18	The Rise and Fall of Industries	Ch. 9
Oct. 25	Monopoly	Ch. 10
Nov. 1	Catch-up, Review and Summary	
<b>SECOND MIDTERM: Fri. Nov. 5th</b>		
Nov. 8	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Ch. 11
Nov. 15	Public Goods and Externalities--Market Failures	Ch. 15
Nov. 22	Gains from Trade and Trade Barriers (No class on Friday)	Ch. 17,18
Nov. 29	Antitrust Policy and Regulation	Ch. 12
Dec. 6	Catch-up, Review and Summary	
<b>FINAL EXAM: MON. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 9:45-11:45 am</b>		

