

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA
Department of Economics
Spring 2006 Semester

ECON 130 (Section 005)
Principles of Microeconomics
Tues/Thurs 10:30 – 11:45 AM
BUSAD A101

<http://myuhportal.hawaii.edu>

<http://econ.aplia.com>

Aplia™ Course Key: 3GVG-ZFYK-V7DQ

<http://mankiw.swlearning.com>

Instructor: Professor Sumner La Croix
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30-10 AM
Wednesday 9-10:30 AM
And by appointment
Office: Saunders Hall 515A
Phone: 956-7061
E-mail: lacroix@hawaii.edu

T.A.: Amonthep “Beet” Chawla
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 - Noon
Thursday 8:30-10 AM
And by Appointment
Office: Saunders Hall 539
Phone: 956-8639
E-mail: amonthep@hawaii.edu

The syllabus, class announcements, handouts, and other course material are posted on the Economics 130(5) homepage at <http://myuhportal.hawaii.edu>.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines how resources are allocated through market mechanisms. Students are trained to think like economists and analyze markets and other economic phenomenon with economic models. Topics include: supply and demand analysis; theory of consumer demand; theory of the firm including production and costs, perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition and oligopoly; and public policy analysis of various issues including, but not limited to, excise taxation, externalities and market structure. The analytical skills required for successful completion of this course are elementary mathematical and graphical ability.

PREREQUISITES: None

TEXT (required):

Gregory N. Mankiw, *Principles of Microeconomics*, 3rd edition, Thomson South-Western, 2004.

APLIA™ ONLINE HOMEWORK (required): <http://econ.aplia.com>

COMPUTER LAB SCHEDULE: In order to facilitate timely completion of online homework assignments, seats in computer labs have been reserved at the times and locations listed below.

Wednesday, 11-12 AM in PC Lab Saunders Hall 635

Thursday, 8:30-10 AM PC Lab Saunders Hall 342

The Teaching Assistant will be in the PC labs at these times to provide help with the practice exercises and with using Aplia. E-mail the T.A. if you need to schedule help with Aplia outside these times.

APLIA™ : REGISTRATION AND USE

Step 1: Register for Your Aplia Course

First Time Aplia Users:

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>
2. On the Sign In page, click the Go button next to "Test Your System Configuration"; this takes just a few seconds and provides detailed information on how to update your system if necessary
3. Head back to the Sign In page and click the "Register Here" link
4. Fill out the form and click Continue. (You will need your UH Student ID Number and Course Section Number)
5. Enter your course key: 3GVG-ZFYK-V7DQ

Returning Aplia Users:

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com> and sign in using your usual e-mail and password
2. Enter your course key: 3GVG-ZFYK-V7DQ. If you are having problems with registration or sign in, you can always e-mail Aplia by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper-right corner of any page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com.

Step 2: Choose Your Payment Option (You have until 01/13/2006 to pay for your course and decide which option to choose). You have three payment options: two options provide you with a physical textbook and Aplia; the other with an online version of the textbook. Whether you buy an online or a physical textbook is up to you.

Do you want to buy a physical textbook?

If No, simply pay for your Aplia course (\$60):

- Instructions on the Aplia website walk you through the payment process. There are several ways to pay. You can pay online with credit, debit, or electronic check. Aplia also accepts money orders mailed to: Aplia, Inc., 931 Terminal Way, San Carlos, CA 94070.

If Yes, choose from these two options:

1. Buy your physical textbook through Aplia (\$60 for Aplia, plus \$50 for the physical textbook and \$5 in shipping and handling)

• *First*, purchase your Aplia course. Instructions on the Aplia website walk you through the payment process. You can pay online with credit, debit, or electronic check. Aplia also accepts money orders mailed to:

Aplia, Inc., 931 Terminal Way, San Carlos, CA 94070.

• *Next*, purchase your physical textbook from Aplia. After you pay for your Aplia course you can order a textbook through Aplia. Just sign into your Aplia course, click on the Bookstore link on your Home page, and follow the prompts to place your order. You can view Aplia's refund policy on textbooks in Aplia's Terms and Conditions of Use at <http://econ.aplia.com/af/support/terms.jsp>.

OR

2. Buy your physical textbook from the UH Bookstore (\$93.00).

• Textbooks from the UH Bookstore come bundled with an Aplia Payment Code and the study guide. We are not using the study guide, but this package is available now from UH bookstore. Use the payment code to pay for your Aplia course online. The Aplia Payment Code covers a portion of or all of your Aplia course fee. Aplia does not refund courses paid for with an Aplia Payment Code. If you are considering dropping this course, you may wish to wait before opening your shrink pack. Please consult with the bookstore about their return policies.

Grace Period for Payment: You may register and use the Aplia website until January 30, 2006 without paying the fee. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you decide to stay in the course. You need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site.

Aplia assignments: Most assignments come in pairs of practice problem sets and graded problem sets. Practice problem sets give you immediate feedback and an explanation of the correct answer. They do not count toward your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you feel confident about the material, you can go directly to the graded set and refer to the practice set only if you want some help. The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date passes. Once the due date passes, Aplia records your grade and you can no longer change your answers or complete the assignment. In other words, Aplia assignments must be done by the due date. The software does not understand excuses. Do your assignments early to keep last minute emergencies from getting in your way. After the due date, Aplia displays the correct answers and explanations for graded problems.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING APLIA™

What is an Aplia Payment Code and how can I get one?

The Aplia Payment Code is just another way to pay your Aplia course fee. You can find it bundled with your text. Your Aplia Payment Code is different from your Aplia Course Key. The course key allows us to identify your economics class and professor; the payment code tells us that you prepaid your entire Aplia course fee when you purchased the code. An Aplia Payment Code follows the format of xxxxx-xxx-xxxx-xxx and is printed on a separate card included with your textbook.

What if I purchase a payment code after paying for Aplia with my credit/debit card or electronic check?

Aplia can refund your payment. To speed up the refund process, sign into your Aplia course and go to the My Account tab. Click on My Courses, and enter your payment code. You will then receive an automatic refund.

Under what circumstances can I get a refund?

You are entitled to a refund if you submit a refund request to Aplia during the original grace period for payment. The grace period for your course expires on January 31, 2006. No refunds will be granted after this date. Requests for refunds must be submitted by email or letter and received by Aplia within the stipulated time period. Contact support@aplia.com or write to Aplia Inc., 931 Terminal Way, San Carlos, California 94070 USA, to request a refund. Note: No refunds are issued for courses paid for with an Aplia Payment Code under any circumstances.

How do I access my textbook on the Aplia website?

A digital version of your textbook is available in your Aplia course. You can access textbook chapters on the Home page or through your weekly assignments.

Disclaimer: Professor La Croix does not receive (and never has received) any monetary benefit from requiring Aplia assignments.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

Letter grades are assigned using the University of Hawaii plus/minus grading system. Grades are determined on the basis of the following components.

Class Attendance	15%
Aplia™ Online Homework	15%
Mid-term exam #1 (02/14/2005)	20%
Mid-term exam #2 (03/23/2005)	20%
<u>Final exam (05/9/2006)</u>	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Information about Examinations

Examinations will consist of multiple choice questions and—at the instructor’s discretion—short essay questions. Examinations are closed-note, closed-book.

Please bring official University of Hawaii picture identification on examination days.

Please bring several sharpened number two pencils. Calculators are permitted.

The final examination is cumulative, with extra emphasis on topics covered since the second midterm. Midterm examinations are not cumulative but questions may require application of knowledge from prior topics.

Dictionaries are not permitted.

Attendance at all examinations is mandatory. No make-up examinations will be offered except for University-sanctioned excuses. If you do miss an examination, be sure to e-mail the instructor and explain why you missed the examination. Students with an unexcused absence will receive zero (0) points and a “F” letter grade on that examination. Students who miss any of the above scheduled examinations are advised to withdraw from the course at their earliest opportunity.

Class attendance

Class attendance is required. Students unable to attend the course lectures as scheduled should withdraw immediately. Attendance will be measured through a sign-in system. Students unable to attend the entire lecture should not sign-in. Because attendance will count toward course credit, abuse of the sign-in system will be treated as academic dishonesty. Students can miss two classes without penalty. Each subsequent class missed results in a 1.0 loss in the maximum 15% that can be earned from class attendance.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE—SUBJECT TO REVISION

Tuesday, January 10	Ch 1
Thursday, January 12	Ch 2
Tuesday, January 17	Ch 3
Thursday, January 19	Ch 4
Tuesday, January 24	Ch 5
Thursday, January 26	Ch 5
Tuesday, January 31	Ch 6
Thursday, February 2	Ch 6

Professor Sumner La Croix, Economics 130(5), Spring 2006 Semester

Tuesday, February 7	Ch 7
Thursday, February 9	Ch 8
Tuesday, February 14	Midterm #1 Examination in Classroom
Thursday, February 16	Ch 9
Tuesday, February 21	Ch 10
Thursday, February 23	Ch 10
Tuesday, February 28	Ch 11
Thursday, March 2	Ch 11
Tuesday, March 7	Ch 12
Thursday, March 9	Ch 13
Tuesday, March 14	Ch 13
Thursday, March 16	Ch 14
Tuesday, March 21	Ch 14
Thursday, March 23	Midterm #2 Examination in Classroom
Spring Break from March 27-31!!!	
Tuesday, April 4	Ch 15
Thursday, April 6	Ch 15
Tuesday, April 11	Ch 16
Thursday, April 13	Ch 16
Tuesday, April 18	Ch 17
Thursday, April 20	Ch 17
Tuesday, April 25	Ch 18
Thursday, April 27	Ch 18
Tuesday, May 2	Ch 19
Friday, May 4	TA Review (Time and Location TBA)

FINAL EXAM

Tuesday, May 9, 2006.

9:45-11:45 AM—Exam begins earlier than the usual class time!

BUSAD A101—Our usual classroom.