Syllabus for ECON 130(1)—12 January 2010—Subject to Revision
Principles of Microeconomics
Mon./Wed./Fri. 10:30 – 11:20 AM
Room: Spalding 155

http://mankiw.swlearning.com
http://laulima.hawaii.edu
http://www.aplia.com

Instructor: Professor Sumner La Croix
Graduate Assistant: Sandy Hung
Office Hours: Monday 1-2 pm
Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11 am
Wednesday 9-10 am
Wednesday 2-3 pm
And by appointment
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The syllabus, class announcements, handouts, powerpoint presentations, and other course material are posted at http://laulima.hawaii.edu as they become available.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines how resources are allocated through market and non-market mechanisms. We provide students with economic concepts and models and show how to use them to analyze real-world questions. 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 high school mathematics.

Our goals for students in this course include, but are not limited to:

- Achieving **basic economic literacy**, i.e., each student is able to clearly explain core microeconomic terms, concepts and theories;
- Fostering **critical thinking** by demonstrating the ability to apply microeconomic reasoning to contemporary social issues and policy problems;
- Applying **quantitative reasoning** using appropriate equations and graphs to illustrate theoretical and policy problems;
- Developing the expertise needed to effectively **communicate your reasoning** to others in writing;
- And providing a critical understanding of **international trade and competition**.
PREREQUISITES: High school mathematics. No calculus required.

TEXTBOOK: JUST ONE BOOK!!


GRADE DETERMINATION

Letter grades are assigned using the University of Hawaii plus/minus grading system. I do not assign grades of D-, D+, or C-. Grades assigned may include: F, D, C, C+, B-, B, B+, A-, A, and A+.

Grades are determined on the basis of the following components.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam #1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam #2</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE EXAMINATIONS

All examinations will consist of multiple choice questions and short essay questions. Examinations are closed-note, closed-book. No caps, dictionaries, hats, cell phones, ipods, backpacks, or calculators. Come with #2 pencils and official UH picture ID.

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 material learned earlier in the course.

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. If a make-up examination is warranted, its format may differ from the examination administered in class and will be administered at the convenience of the instructor and teaching assistant.

Review Session for Midterm One: Thursday, February 11, 5-6 pm; room TBA.
Midterm One: Friday, February 12 in class.
Review Session for Midterm Two: Wednesday, March 17, 5-6 pm; room TBA.
Midterm Two: Friday, March 19 in class.
Last Econ 130 Class: Wednesday, May 5
Review for Final Exam: Friday, May 7, 1-2 pm; place TBA.
Final Exam: Friday, May 14 from 9:45–11:45 am in our usual classroom.

Check out http://mankiw.swlearning.com for materials that can help you study for all three exams. Check out the tutorial quizzes, the flash cards, and the key term reviews!!

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is required. Students unable to attend ALL 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. All violators will be reported to the UH administration for review. Students can miss FOUR classes without penalty. Each subsequent class missed results in a 1% loss in the maximum 15% of the grade that can be earned from class attendance. Attendance will not be taken at the first three classes (January 11, 13, and 15).

REVIEW SESSIONS AND TUTORING

Every week (starting January 22) a highly qualified volunteer tutor, Cheryl Fraine, will lead a review session of the week’s material. The review is scheduled for Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30; on February 11 (the day before the first midterm) and on March 18 (the day before the second midterm), the review will focus on preparing students for the midterm exam. The room for the review sessions will be announced in class.


APLIA HOMEWORK: REGISTRATION AND USE

Aplia assignments are due on Thursday at 9 pm. There are a few exceptions to the Thursday due date. Check the Aplia website each week for the due date. The teaching assistant will review some of the assigned Aplia problems during the Friday class.

3. Purchase Options for Aplia and the Mankiw Textbook

- In this course, you will use the Mankiw textbook and the Aplia website.
- You can buy them as a bundle or separately.
- You have three purchase options for the Aplia problem sets and Mankiw textbook (see below).
- Don't buy anything until you understand your alternatives.
Three Purchase Options

Option A: Buy Aplia Directly With an Electronic Book
- Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on our website for $80.00. The website includes:
  - Access to an online copy of your textbook.
  - Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.
  - Access to the electronic copy of the textbook expires at end of semester.

Option B: Buy Aplia Directly and Buy a Used Textbook On-Line
- This is Option A ($80.00 for Aplia and electronic book) coupled with your own purchase of a used/new book from an on-line merchant.

Option C: Purchase a New Book Bundled with Aplia at UH-Manoa Bookstore
- UH Bookstore has a new book and Aplia (bundled together) available for $175.35. The bundle contains an Aplia Access Card with a Payment Code that you can enter on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.

Summary: You have options that range from $80 to $175.35. Choose carefully!!!

Aplia Registration Instructions

If you have never used Aplia before...
2. Click the New Student link and enter your Course Key: 5GHK-62A5-XQRL. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.

If you have used Aplia before...
2. Sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: 5GHK-62A5-XQRL. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enter Course Key button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.
   - If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 01/31/2010.
   - If you might drop this course, do not pay for Aplia until you make up your mind!!

Aplia assignments: 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. All Aplia assignments and due dates are displayed on the Aplia website (www.aplia.com).

**Disclaimer:** Professor La Croix does not receive (and never has received) ANY monetary or in-kind benefits from requiring Aplia assignments.

Having trouble getting started? Drop by the teaching assistant’s office during her office hours and get a jump start—or at least a hint!!

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES COMPUTER LABS**

You will need a computer to complete assigned Aplia problem sets. Don’t have a computer? Use the College of Social Sciences computer labs!

Mac Labs

- Crawford 114 | Mac lab.
- Crawford 212 | Mac lab.
- Crawford 220 | Mac lab.
- Saunders 342 | PC lab.

Lab users are required to log in with their UH email address (without the @hawaii.edu) as their username and their UH ID number as their password. See the example below of a student ID card. The numbers in the box are your UH ID number and your password.

Once you're entered into the system, the computer will ask you to change your password.
IN-CLASS EXERCISES

We will devote all or part of 4-5 classes to in-class exercises. The exercises are fun. They are not graded. You will learn economics by participating in them!! You must come to class and participate actively in the exercises to receive the daily attendance credit.

Topics include:

- Trade
- Voluntary provision of public goods
- Externalities
- Diminishing returns
- Prisoner’s dilemma (game theory)

CLASS LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE (subject to change)

We will also distribute on-line short readings.

I. January 11 – February 12, 2009

  Mankiw, Chapters 1-6.
  First Midterm, Wednesday, February 12 in class.

II. February 17 – March 19, 2009

  Mankiw, Chapters 7-11.
  Second Midterm, Friday, March 19 in class.

III. March 29 – May 5, 2009

  Mankiw, Chapters 13-18.
  Final Exam on May 14, 2009 from 9:45-11:45 am in usual classroom. You must take the final exam on the assigned date. No exceptions.

There are classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from January 11 through May 5, 2009 except on Monday, January 18 (Martin Luther King Day), Monday, February 15 (Presidents Day), March 22-26 (Spring Break), and Friday, April 2 (Good Friday).

ENJOY THE COURSE!! OUR GOALS ARE TO LEARN ECONOMICS; TO APPLY ECONOMICS TO REAL-WORLD SITUATIONS; AND TO HAVE SOME FUN!!