Syllabus
ECON 1201 Principles of Microeconomics
May Term 2016

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Principles of Microeconomics
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None. Not open for credit to students who have passed ECON 1200.
Instructor: Richard N. Langlois
E-mail: richard.langlois@uconn.edu
Phone: (860) 486-3472
Office Hours: by appointment, in person in Storrs or by phone or Skype.

Course Materials

Students are required to subscribe to the MindTap online resources and homework system. This online system includes an e-text version of Principles of Microeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw, Cengage Learning, 7th Edition, 2015.

You will access MindTap through HuskyCT. The first time you click on MindTap content in the Learning Modules, you will be asked to register. Just follow the prompts. Here are instructions in case you need them.

After registering for your course, you will need to pay for access using one of the options below:

Online: You can pay online using a credit or debit card or PayPal.

Bookstore: You can purchase an access card from the UConn Co-op. You can buy a card in person, in either Stamford or Storrs, or have the access card shipped to you via the Co-op's Textbooks to Go service. (For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our Enrolled Students page.) You can also buy an access card bundled with a paperback version of the textbook if you want to have a physical book in addition to the e-text. (The e-text expires after the semester, but the paper book is forever.)

Free Trial: If you are unable to pay at the start of the semester, you can choose to access MindTap for a few days for a free trial. After the free-trial ends you will be required to pay for access. Please note: At the end of the free trial period, your course access will be suspended until your payment has been
made. All your scores and course activity will be saved and will be available to you after you pay for access.

Course Description

This is a one-semester course in microeconomics. It provides a basic introduction to how a multitude of individual decisions come together in a market to allocate resources. (This is as opposed to macroeconomics -- ECON 1202 -- which studies large-scale economy-wide phenomena like economic growth, recessions, and the money supply.) The central tool of microeconomics is supply-and-demand analysis, which we will investigate in detail and apply to a variety of social issues, including price controls, taxation, and environmental policy.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Define basic economic terms.
- Solve graphical and numerical economic problems.
- Understand the economy as a “spontaneous order” – the unintended consequences of individual action within the constraints of social institutions.
- Understand the concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost.
- Master the apparatus of supply-and-demand analysis and apply it to a wide variety of topics, including taxes, monopolies, and environmental issues.
- Explain the basic theoretical underpinnings of supply and demand.

Course Structure and Grading

Course Structure

There are two important facts about this course: it is a compressed (three-week) intensive course and it is a self-paced course.

Compressed three-week intensive course.

Because this course takes place over only three weeks, you essentially need to devote three full work weeks -- 30 to 40 hours a week -- to the course. Let's do the math. During a regular 15-week semester (counting the exam week), class meets three hours a week for a total of 45 hours. Professors believe that students should spend three hours outside of class -- reading the book, doing homework, etc. -- for every in-class hour. Let's say you spend only half that time -- 1.5 additional hours for every hour in class, or 67.5 hours total outside of class. That comes to 112.5 hours total devoted to one single course in the regular 15-week semester. We have to do everything in three weeks. So that's 112.5 divided by 3 = 37.5 hours a week -- roughly 9:00 to 5:00, five days a week. If you are willing to put in the time, this class is very doable. But if you
are not prepared to see this course as your full-time job between December 28, 2015 and January 15, 2016, you will not do well. If you are planning to work or travel between December 28, 2015 and January 15, 2016, don't take this class.

**Self-paced course.**

Of course, since this is an online class, you don't literally have to work 9:00-5:00 (although that works for some people): you can work whenever you want and at (almost) whatever pace you want, so long as you finish all the material by the end of the semester. There will be two internal deadlines to ensure that you don't leave everything to the last minute. But nothing will stop you from doing things early, and you can proceed through the course as fast as you want.

**Workflow and Grading.**

The course is organized into three sections called (appropriately enough) **Weeks**. Click on the "learning modules" link on the left menu of HuskyCT. You will have to finish the material in **Week1** by the end of the day on May 14; the material in **Week2** by the end of the day on May 21; and the material in **Week3** by the end of the course on May 27. But all the material from all three weeks will be accessible from day one, and you can move faster than these deadlines if you want.

Within each **Week** will be several **Modules** corresponding to chapters in the textbook. Within each **Module** will be:

- access to the e-text chapter;
- video lectures;
- practice questions and an online homework/quiz using the MindTap platform; and
- some optional (fun) readings and videos.

Each **Week** will consist of five **Modules**. After you have completed the five modules for the Week, you must take the **Week Exam**. Here's how that works. You get three tries at an exam of 50 multiple-choice questions. If you pass the exam -- get a score of 83 or higher -- on the first try, you get an A (95) for the exam. If you pass it -- again, meaning a score of 83 per cent or higher -- on the second try, you get a B (85) for the exam. If you pass it on the third try, you get a C (75) for the exam. If you don't pass even after the third try, you get a D (65), and you have to move on to the next **Week**. HuskyCT will not let you move on to the next **Week** until you have either passed the **Week Exam** for the preceding **Week** or have tried three times.

The MindTap Aplia homeworks are good practice for the **Week Exam**. In addition, each **Week** will have a practice **Week Exam** that you can take as many times as you want before you take the **Week Exam** for a grade.

The three **Week Exams** will each count 30 percent of your grade. The remaining ten per cent of your grade will be your score on all the MindTap Aplia homeworks in the **Modules**. For extra credit, you can participate in the **Discussion Board**: for each substantial post you get an additional one-half of one per cent added to your final grade, up to a maximum of 3 points. The
topic of the **Board** is: economic concepts or homework exam problems I found hard and that I could use some help with. You can either post with a concept or problem with which you want help or you can post with help for another student -- an explanation of the concept or a way to think about the problem that you found helpful. The posts must be thoughtful and substantial to count. (You're free to shoot the breeze, but that won't count.) I will participate in this discussion, but I would rather that the "help" came from fellow students not from me. There is also a separate discussion board called **Ask the Professor**, where you can ask questions not about the material but about the mechanics of the course.

**Course Grading Summary:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MindTap/Aplia homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1 Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>Up to 3 points extra credit on final grade</td>
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Even though this is an online course, I am there to help. I am happy to meet in Storrs or to talk via phone or Skype or Facetime. Just email me to set it up.

**General Course Outline and Due Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Open Date:</th>
<th>Close Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See Learning Modules links in the left menu for complete assignments and course materials.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Chapters 1-5</td>
<td>May 9, 2016</td>
<td>May 14, 2016, 11:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Chapters 7, 8, 6, 10, and 11</td>
<td>May 9, 2016</td>
<td>May 21, 2016, 11:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Chapters 13, 14, 15, 18, and 20</td>
<td>May 9, 2016</td>
<td>May 27, 2016, 11:00 pm</td>
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As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

**Student Code**

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut's Student Code Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research
- Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It
- University of Connecticut Libraries’ Student Instruction (includes research, citing and writing resources)

**Copyright**

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

**Netiquette and Communication**

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, The Core Rules of Netiquette.

**Adding or Dropping a Course**

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:

- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the Student Administration System.
• Non-degree students should refer to [Non-Degree Add/Drop Information](#) located on the registrar’s website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

**Academic Calendar**

The University's [Academic Calendar](#) contains important semester dates.

**Academic Support Resources**

[Technology and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's [Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)](#). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

**Policy against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships**

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community -- students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Refer to the [Policy against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships](#) for more information.
Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. Refer to the Sexual Assault Reporting Policy for more information.

Software Requirements and Technical Help

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.