Intro. to Microeconomics

21 : 220 : 101 : 01 : 22231

Rutgers University - Newark | Spring 2019

Instructor: Rubaa Saleh
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Office Hours: Mon. 8-9 AM or by appointment

Classroom Location: Boyden 413
Class Meeting Times: Mon., Thurs. 1:00 – 2:20 PM
Office: Hill Hall, Rm 804

Course Description and Goals

Economics is the study of scarce resources among competing ends. A more modern approach to economics seeks to preserve the social and ecological foundations of the society and world we live in when deciding what resources to utilize and when. The end goal of economics is the welfare of people and the sustainability of the planet that houses them.

Macroeconomics is the branch of economics concerned with the overall ups and downs in the economy: the bigger picture. Microeconomics studies the decisions of individuals, businesses, and industries. We will first study the basic concepts that are present in both macroeconomics and microeconomics, and then delve into the study of microeconomics.

By the end of this course, you will: have an understanding of basic economic concepts of supply and demand; how price controls and price changes affect the economy; understand the effect of taxes on the market; how innovation, productivity, and costs affect businesses; learn about the different types of market structures, and much more. Ultimately, you will make learn to make better decisions.

Recommended Texts (choose one)

- You may also use the 3rd edition of the aforementioned text.

- You may also use the 5th edition of the aforementioned text.

Chiang, Eric P. Microeconomics: Principles for a Changing World. 4th edition (or previous editions)

Supplementary Material

1. The Wall Street Journal (free for Rutgers students)
2. The Economist
3. Money magazine
4. Marketplace with Kai Ryssdal, radio, podcast
5. NPR's Planet Money podcast
6. Freakonomics Radio (WNYC: Sat. @ 4 PM)

Grade Distribution

Exams (3) 70% (23.33 % each)  Homework/Classwork  20%
Short Quizzes (3 total) 10% (3.33 % each)

A = 89.5-100  B+ = 84.5-89.49  B = 79.5-84.49
C+ = 74.5-79.49  C = 69.5-74.49  D = 59.5-69.49  F = 0-59.49

Updated Feb. 25, 2019
For more information on final grades, visit: <http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/final-grades>

The midterm 2 and the final are not cumulative. If you miss either of the first two exams for a valid reason, you will have the option to take a cumulative (or semi-cumulative final.) Valid reasons include religious holidays, illness, and death in the family. When possible, documentation must be provided.

Homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard and will be due a week after the assignment is posted. Late homework is not accepted and classwork cannot be made up without a valid excuse. Please notify me as soon as possible if you have a valid excuse. Your two lowest homework/classwork grades will be dropped.

Other Course Expectations:
- When e-mailing me, please use your Rutgers e-mail address so I can verify your identity especially when asking about grades. (Read up on The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA].)
- Please set your phone to silent or vibrate, or turn it off.

**Course Outline**

The outline below is tentative. If there are any changes, you will be notified in class and via BlackBoard.

Jan. 24, 28  Basic Economic Principals
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 1** First Principles
**Chapter 2** Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade

Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 1** The Big Ideas and
**Chapter 2** The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage

*Jan. 29*  Last day to drop without a “W” on your transcript.

Jan. 31, Feb. 4  Supply and Demand
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 3** Supply and Demand
**Chapter 4** Consumer and Producer Surplus

Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 3** Supply and Demand
**Chapter 4** Equilibrium

Feb. 7, 11  Markets and Government
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 5** Price Controls and Quotas
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 8** Price Ceilings and Floors

Feb. 14  Quiz 1 (Krugman Chapters 4-5; Cowan/Tabarrok Chapters 4, 8)

Updated Feb. 25, 2019
Feb. 14, 18  Elasticity
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 6** Elasticity
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 5** Elasticity and Its Applications

Feb. 25  **Midterm 1**

Feb. 28, Mar 4  Taxes
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 7** Taxes
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 6** Taxes and Subsidies

Mar. 7, 11  Supply and Demand on the International Scale (International Trade)
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 8** International Trade
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 9** International Trade

Mar. 14  Quiz 2  *(Krugman Chapters 7-8; Cowan, Tabarrok Chapters 6, 9)*

Mar. 14, 25  Production and Costs
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 9** Decision Making by Individuals and Firms *(Select parts of chapter.)*
**Chapter 11** Behind the Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 11** Costs and Profit Maximization Under Competition

Mar. 18, 20  *No Class - Spring Break*

Mar. 28, Apr. 1  Competition
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 12** Perfect Competition and the Supply Curve
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 11** Costs and Profit Maximization Under Competition

Review for Midterm 2

*Apr. 1*  Last day to withdraw from the course. To see how withdrawing from any course affects your financial aid, visit: <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/eligibility/enrollment-requirements/>

Apr. 4  *Midterm 2*

Apr. 8, 11  Monopoly
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 13** Monopoly
Cowan, Tabarrok: **Chapter 13** Monopoly

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Apr. 15, 18  Oligopoly and Game Theory  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 14 Oligopoly  
Cowan, Tabarrok: Chapter 15 Oligopoly and Game Theory

Apr. 22  Quiz 3 (Krugman Chapters 13-14; Cowan, Tabarrok Chapters 13, 15)

Apr. 25, 29  Monopolistic Competition  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 15 Monopolistic Competition and Product Differentiation  
Cowan, Tabarrok: Chapter 17 Monopolistic Competition and Advertising

May 2  Managing Incentives  
Cowan, Tabarrok: Chapter 22 Managing Incentives

May 6  Review

Last Day of Class

Final Exam  Monday, May 14, 2019  
11:45 AM  
Boyden 413

Spring 2019 Final Exam Schedule  
https://tls.newark.rutgers.edu/academic-scheduling/academic-scheduling-resources/final-exam-schedule-spring-2019

Final exam conflicts? Contact the dean of students at least two weeks before the first final exam day.

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