

Syllabus for ECON 2010-090 Fall 2014
Principles of Microeconomics

Instructor: Corina Besliu

Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00 – 14:00, 209 OSH

Email: corina.besliu@utah.edu

All questions regarding the course content, quizzes, midterm, final scores, etc. should be sent directly to the instructor. Whenever sending a question please type in “Econ 2010-090” into the subject box and be specific about the question you are asking. For example, if you have a question about quiz no.7, question no. 11, make sure that you state enough information so that your question is clear, Econ 2010-090, Quiz#7-11. This will allow the response to be much more efficient and minimize the chance that your email will end up in spam.

Credits: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: an elementary understanding of algebra and geometry

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of microeconomic theory. The goal is to develop students’ ability to analyze social phenomena from an economic perspective. Furthermore it provides conceptual foundation for those majoring in business. This course is a prerequisite for some upper level courses in economics. A part of the course emphasizes analytical tools, which are developed further in upper-level courses of economics. Although the course focuses on understanding the conceptual and analytical foundations of economics, upon completion of this course, students should be able to use the basic tools of economics to understand a wide range of worldwide events as described in business magazines and newspapers.

Requirements: This class can be "attended" from wherever there is Internet connection. With exceptions of midterm and final exams, all assignments are completed remotely. Students must take the midterm and final exams at an approved testing center.

Coursework: The course consists of thirteen Learning Modules, each of which is associated with required readings from the textbook. You shall take thirteen quizzes based upon the required readings associated with each module. All quizzes are taken online. You are also required to take a midterm exam and a final exam, both of which will be proctored.

Required Text: Econ: Micro 3 by William A. McEachern, Southwestern-Cengage Learning, 2012. ISBN-10: 1-111-82593-9. ISBN-13: 978-1-111-82224-8.

* This year, the publisher presents a new edition (3rd). But, there are little differences between the previous and the new edition. So you might have no problem in using the 1st and 2nd editions in this course if you want to use it. However be aware that there are some differences in historical data the author makes reference to. See the information about the previous

editions bellow. You can purchase only the new edition from the University bookstore.

Econ: Micro 2 by William A. McEachern, 2nd edition, Southwestern-Cengage Learning, 2010. ISBN-10: 1439039968. ISBN-13: 9781439039960.

Grading Policy: Grades will be based upon three components: the thirteen quizzes, the midterm and the final exam. Each component is weighted as follows:

13 Quizzes (20 questions each)	30%
Midterm Exam (40 questions each)	35%
Final Exam (40 questions each)	35%

A	Excellent	94% and above	4.0 GPA
A-	Excellent	90% to 93%	3.7 GPA
B+	Very Good	87% to 89%	3.3 GPA
B	Very Good	83% to 86%	3.0 GPA
B-	Very Good	80% to 82%	2.7 GPA
C+	Good	77% to 79%	2.3 GPA
C	Good	73% to 76%	2.0 GPA
C-	Good	70% to 72%	1.7 GPA
D+	Satisfactory	65% to 69%	1.3 GPA
D	Satisfactory	60% to 64%	1.0 GPA
D-	Satisfactory	55% to 59%	0.7 GPA

Assignments (How to Complete the Course): The course will be structured in Canvas. The largest portion of the content is located under the "Course Content" link on the course homepage. To take advantage of the materials and perform well in this class, you should internalize the following course elements:

- 1. Checking the calendar:** By checking the calendar, you can find a study schedule for the class and the dates when assignments are due. The amount of material covered each week is roughly comparable, so that you can allocate time evenly to all of the Learning Modules. The calendar also lists the dates for the midterm and the final exam. Any changes to this calendar will be posted in the 'Announcements' section.
- 2. Completing Lesson:** By clicking on the "Modules" link on the homepage students will find a set of 13 lessons, some of which may not be available until we reach them on syllabus. There are four parts to each lesson that students will need to complete.

(1) Textbook Readings: Students should read the textbook chapters that correspond to the particular Learning Module to be covered. Some modules cover multiple chapters; therefore please check corresponding textbook chapters in each module. The textbook is the main source of information for this course. All the questions contained in quizzes, midterm, and final are based on material contained in the textbook. Yet, for most students, the Learning Modules, practice quizzes, and videos will be very useful in reinforcing one's knowledge.

(2) *Lecture Notes*: Student should read the lecture notes found under the Learning Module. The content material is subdivided into smaller topics to help you organize the chapter material. The lecture notes are basically summaries of the material being covered in the text and they serve as a good orientation, a different rendition of the material, and a good review. However on some lessons, I present in these notes some complementary material beyond the textbook. For instance, the textbook Ch. 6 does not cover the concept of budget constraint, which is a very important concept to understand consumer behaviors, thus on lesson #6 lecture notes, I give you some explanation of budget constraint. The practice and actual timed quiz may cover some extended concepts, which are covered in the lecture notes although the textbook does not explain them directly.

(3) *Practice Quizzes*: Students should take assigned practice quizzes associated with the lesson. Practice quizzes are very similar to the graded quizzes that students will take. It is highly recommended that you take the practice quiz before taking the actual quiz, since it will give you a good idea as to whether the material is fully understood or requires more review. By completing the practice quiz, you will immediately receive a result. Practice quizzes are not recorded and you can take them as often as you like.

(4) *Actual Timed Quizzes*: Students should take 13 timed quizzes in order to complete the lesson. These will compose 30% of the student's total score. Note that the actual quiz is more difficult than the practice quiz.

- Most quizzes are timed for 60 minutes and the student will be required to answer 20 questions. A few quizzes corresponding to multiple chapters have more than 20 questions and are timed for 80 minutes. Do not open the quiz before you plan on taking it! Once you begin a quiz, the timer starts and you will be unable to stop it. Make sure you are ready to take the quiz and you have a stable Internet connection before you start it.
- A few questions in practice or actual quizzes are about concepts which are not covered in the textbook. These questions are covered in the lecture notes. So when you see any questions in a practice quiz, which is not covered in the textbook, please check the corresponding lecture notes.
- Actual quizzes are not closed-book tests. If you want to take them as open-book tests, then you can do so. They are also not proctored and you could call a resource. Be aware however that heavy reliance on book or other aids may affect your performance on the more heavily weighted exams where no aids (other than a calculator) are allowed.
- All quizzes must be completed by 11:59pm (MDT) of the specified due dates. You can take the quizzes earlier than the deadline. But, once the deadline passes you will not be able to access the quiz.

(5) *Optional Video*: Most lessons will have links to videos. These videos are taken from the University of Utah's Principles of Economics TV courses and they are not required for the course. However, they give you more exposure to material relevant to particular lessons. If you watch them after reading the course materials, they will serve to highlight the most important elements of the module and develop a deeper knowledge of economics.

3. Midterm and Final Exams: Students will take a midterm and a final exam, both of which will be proctored. Both the midterm and final exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions. The exams are NOT open book tests. No materials are allowed except a calculator. Students must register online to take the midterm and final exams. The instructions for registering are given below. The midterm and final must be taken on the dates listed in the calendar found on the U-online homepage. Exceptions are allowed only with the permission of the instructor. The U-online office requires at least 2 weeks prior notice for special exam arrangements. Therefore students who need to take the exam before the scheduled dates must discuss with the instructor at least 2 weeks before the date he/she wants to take the exam. Someone who wants to take the exam after the scheduled dates must discuss with the instructor at least 2 weeks before the scheduled exam dates. (Taking the final exam after the scheduled exam dates will not be possible!) Depending on the reasons of the request, the instructor will decide whether an exception is allowed or not. Incomplete Grade will not be allowed.

*** Midterm Exam Dates:** 7th week (10/6 - Monday, 10/7 - Tuesday, 10/08 - Wednesday) (*note: this is a tentative schedule)
Range: Lesson #1 ~ Lesson # 7.

*** Final Exam Dates:** 17th week (12/15 - Monday, 12/16 – Tuesday, 12/17 - Wednesday, 12/18 - Thursday) (tentative)
Range: Lesson #8 ~ Lesson # 17.

Preparing for the midterm and final: The midterm will cover the first seven lessons (Lesson #1 - #7). The best method of preparation for the midterm is to reread all chapter summaries in the textbook focusing on the defined terms and the graphs used, retake all of the practice quizzes and know why the correct answers are in fact correct, and review all of the actual quizzes taken. The midterm questions will be very similar to those found in the practice quizzes and actual quizzes, so those are the best sources for studying; same applies to the final. Please be aware that while there are no quizzes on the last two chapters, the final exam will contain questions referring to both Ch. 16 and Ch. 17. Since the final is not comprehensive, the student should spend his or her time after the midterm focusing only on the last six lessons. However, please note that the course builds on previous material, so be prepared to review earlier concepts.

Importance of using Discussion Board: The main advantage of online courses is a certain amount of flexibility of time and space. Their main drawback is however insufficient interaction or communication between the instructor and students or among students. Active use of discussion board can compensate to some extent this weakness. Whenever you have any questions about the course contents or quiz questions, ask them on the discussion board. Other students or the instructor could help you understand. If you want to make a study group, then you may be able to use the discussion board in order to invite members to join.

Week	Lesson	Readings	Topics	Calendar
1 st (8/25~)	1	Ch. 1	Economic Problem and Analysis	8/25 (Mon) - Classes Begin
2 nd (9/01~)	2	Ch. 2	Economic Tools and Economic System	8/31 (Sun) - Deadline for Quizzes #1 & #2
3 rd (9/08~)	3 & 4	Ch. 3 & 4	Microeconomic Decision Makers/ Demand, Supple, and Market	
4 th (9/15~)	5	Ch. 5	Elasticity	9/14 (Sun) - Deadline for Quizzes #3, #4 & #5
5 th (9/22~)	6	Ch. 6	Utility, Consumer Choice, and Demand	
6 th (9/29~)	7	Ch. 7	Production Theory	9/28 (Sun) - Deadline for Quizzes #6 & #7
7 th (10/06~)	Self Review			Midterm Exam (dates mentioned above)
8 th (10/13~)				Fall Break
9 th (10/20~)	8	Ch. 8	Market 1: Perfect Competition	
10 th (10/27~)	9	Ch. 9	Market 2: Monopoly	
11 th (11/03~)	10	Ch. 10	Market 3: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	11/02 (Sun) - Deadline for Quizzes #8, #9 & #10
12 th (11/10~)	11	Ch. 11	Resource Market	
13 th (11/17~)	12	Ch. 12	Labor Market	
14 th (11/24~)	13	Ch. 13	Capital Market	11/23 (Sun) - Deadline for Quizzes #11 & #12
15 th (12/01~)	16	Ch. 16	Public Goods	
16 th (12/08~)	17	Ch. 17	Externalities	12/07 (Sun) - Deadline for Quiz # 13
17 th (12/15~)	Self Review			Final Exam (dates mentioned above)

Registration for the Midterm and Final Examinations: Each student is required to sign up for the both the midterm and the final examination. Students are required to register at least two weeks before the examination dates (!!!), but are encouraged to register as soon as possible. In order to sign up for examination time and location, simply click on the link on the homepage entitled "U-online Exam Registration". Then follow the following instructions:

- 1) Login to the UOnline system with your uNID and Password
- 2) Click on the desired semester link in the User Menu on the left.
- 3) Click on "CLICK HERE For My [Semester Name] Courses" (All of the courses your are enrolled for are listed here.)
- 4) Locate the "+ Sign Up +" button next to the exam listed for a given course.
- 5) Click on the exam locations drop-down menu and select a location (i.e. WEB 103, Bountiful, etc.)
- 6) Click on the "Sign up" button next to the exam time you would like to register. (For Out of Area registrations, click on the "Out of Area Sign Up" button and follow the instructions listed).
- 7) After signing up for an exam, you can view your exam registration details by clicking on the "Show Details" button on the My Classes page.

*Disclaimers * "The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations." (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/) * It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. * Classroom equivalency: Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code. Specifically: - Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting. - Off-color language and photos are never appropriate. - Using angry or abusive language is called "flaming", is not acceptable, and will be dealt with according to the Student Code. - Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points !!!! and question marks ??????. - Course e-mails, e-journals, and other online course communications are part of the classroom and as such, are University property and subject to GRAMA regulations and the Student Code. Privacy regarding these communications between correspondents must not be assumed and should be mutually agreed upon in advance, in writing.*

The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.

