



ECON 2010-090 (Principles of Microeconomics)-Online
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2019

Instructor: Ngwinui Belinda Azenui

Email: Ngwinui198@gmail.com or via Canvas

Office Hours: By appointment only, email communications preferred

Office space: Gardner Building, 4th Floor, Desk Section 2

Required Materials

- **eTextbook:** McConnell, Brue, Flynn, McConnell Economics 21e, ©2018, including online Connect-Plus access, McGraw-Hill.
Note: You DO NOT have to purchase access to Connect and the e-textbook. When you sign up for this section of the course, you're automatically charged a fee that covers the online access to Connect with eTextbook.
- Economic journals, blogs and newspapers such as the New York Times, the Financial Times or the Wall Street Journal that focus on microeconomic issues. I will post the links of interesting journals, blogs and articles on lecture PowerPoints as I find relevant.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the main microeconomic principles/theories and focuses on helping students understand the working of markets of a modern economy as well as the decision-making process by consumers and producers. The goal is for students to learn how to analytically think about microeconomic issues. Therefore, some knowledge of basic algebra and calculus as well as graphs will be necessary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective is for you to:

- Realize the implications of basic economic concepts
- Understand the basics the demand and supply model and their elasticities
- Explain major microeconomic concepts such as utility, scarcity, efficiency, externalities, consumer and producer surpluses, etc.
- Understand the optimality of different types of market structures and know their differences.
- Understand the basics of economic resources and public finance.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

This course will be taught strictly online using Smartbook(eBook), LearnSmart, PowerPoints, and Narrated PowerPoints. There are **NO** video lectures from the instructor of this course. The only audio lectures available are narrated PowerPoints from the publisher of the textbook. If you learn better from an instructor's lectures, please consider taking one of the ECON 2010 in-class sections.

I will create a discussion page in Canvas where students can ask questions, debate relevant points and enlarge their worldview. I will participate in the discussions. Interaction between students, especially in group studies is highly encouraged to create a dynamic learning experience. I believe students have to be engaged and play an active role in the learning process, so make effective use of your peers by asking questions on the discussion page and responding to other students' questions. I will make extensive reference to current microeconomic issues faced in the U.S. economy and global economy at large, especially on PowerPoints.

COURSE WORKLOAD

This class stresses understanding of detailed, even mathematical, issues. It takes many hours, working problem after problem after problem, in order for most students to realize what all the implications of the basic concepts are. Once you do that, you'll realize that all you have to learn are the basic principles, because you can construct an answer to any question just from those. Reading and listening to lectures about economic theory are useful, but you do not learn economic theory unless you can open a set of problems and work them—eventually, all by yourself. Go over the assignment problems for each chapter as many times as necessary for you to understand the implications of basic concepts.

It is your responsibility to stay up to date with reading, studying, assignments, quizzes and exams. You will extensively use online resources to submit all assignment and quizzes: McGraw-Hill Connect and Canvas are the primary homework and testing site. The course workload is organized in the "Modules" tab in Canvas. Registering for this class gives you access to the site. You can access Connect from Canvas to get to your ongoing assignments (it is an integrated system). All assignments and quizzes will be taken and submitted online via Connect. Assignments have **unlimited** attempts and **no time limit** while the quizzes have **only one** attempt and **time limit**. The midterm and the final exam will be taken at or proctored by the UOnline Center. Each student can only take the midterm and final exam once. LearnSmart homework is optional but highly recommended to all students.

Because of the availability of unlimited attempts on assignments, there is no need for additional "study guides" for this class. There will be **no study guides**. The best way to study for the midterm and final exam is to go over the assignment and quiz problems.

We will cover most chapters in the McConnell, Brue, and Flynn textbook, I will skip few chapters and will not include those in Canvas. You are expected to read the chapters and do the related assignments and quizzes associated to each chapter. There will always be an assignment and/or quiz due on Sundays at 11:59pm; keep up with due dates.

NOTE: This course requires basic knowledge in mathematics and algebra. All assignments, quizzes and exams contain problems that students will have to solve. If you are unfamiliar with studying in an online setting and self-learning from reading, I will suggest you take the in-class section for Principles of Microeconomics.

Grade breakdown is as follows (with weights in percentages):

Midterm and Final Exam at UOnline Center	40%
Timed Quizzes	35%
Chapter Assignments	25%
LearnSmart	0%

GRADING POLICY

Grades will follow the university's grading scale (in percentage): 93+ A, 90-92 A-, 87-89 B+, 83-86 B, 80-82 B-, 75-79 C+, 70-74 C, 65-69 C-, 63-64 D+, 57-62 D, 50-56 D-, <50 E

There are no curves for this course, but there will be extra credit open to all students.

The main extra credit assignment will be available toward the end of the semester.

Late Assignments and Exam Policy:

All work due will be posted in advance. For quizzes and assignments that will be submitted via Canvas-Connect, the system is set up in such a way that you lost a certain percentage of points earned for each day submitted after the due date. In other words, late assignments and quizzes will be accepted with a penalty. To successfully pass the class, you must be on top of due dates, all of which are posted in Canvas and I will try to send out reminders when assignments and quizzes are due. Something will always be due each week. You must schedule your midterm and final exam through the schedule exam tab in canvas and within the exam time frame listed in the course schedule.

Make-up assignments and quizzes will be given at the discretion of the instructor and only for very serious and verifiable medical reasons. If you cannot submit an assignment or quiz on time, notify the instructor in advance.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Content</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Week 1: Aug 19 – Aug 25	Syllabus and Introduction, get familiar with Connect Limits, Alternatives, and Choices	Chapter 1

Week 2: Aug 26 – Sep 1	The Market System and the Circular Flow Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)	Chapter 2
Week 3: Sep 2 – Sep 8	Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium	Chapter 3
Week 4: Sep 9 – Sep 15	Elasticity Quiz 2 (Chapters 3 & 6)	Chapter 6
Week 5: Sep 16 – Sep 22	Market Failures: Public Goods and Externalities Government's Role and Government Failure	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Week 6: Sep 23 – Sep 29	Utility Maximization Quiz 3 (Chapters 4, 5 & 7) Schedule (or sign up for) the Midterm Exam in Canvas	Chapter 7
Week 7: Sep 30 – Oct 6	PROCTORED MIDTERM EXAM at UOnline Center (Chapters 1 to 7)	
Week 8: Oct 6 – Oct 13	FALL BREAK	
Week 9: Oct 14 – Oct 20	Businesses and the Costs of Production Pure Competition in the Short Run	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Week 10: Oct 21 – Oct 27	Pure Competition in the Long Run Quiz 4 (Chapters 9, 10 & 11)	Chapter 11
Week 11: Oct 28 – Nov 3	Pure Monopoly Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Week 12: Nov 4 – Nov 10	Oligopoly and Strategic Behavior Quiz 5 (Chapters 12, 13 & 14)	Chapter 14
Week 13: Nov 11 – Nov 17	The Demand for Resources	Chapter 16
Week 14: Nov 18 – Nov 24	Wage Determination Quiz 6 (Chapters 16 & 17)	Chapter 17

Week 15: Nov 25 – Dec 1	Rent, Interest, and Profit Natural Resources and Energy Economics	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
Week 16: Dec 2 – Dec 8	Public Finance: Expenditure and Taxes Quiz 7 (Chapters 18, 19 & 20) Schedule (or sign up for) the Final Exam in Canvas	Chapter 20
Final Week: Dec 9 – Dec 13	PROCTORED FINAL EXAM at UOnline Center (Chapters 9 to 20)	

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- 1. *The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** 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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
- 2. *University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.
- 3. *Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
- 4. *Wellness Statement:*** Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact

the Center for Student Wellness - www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776.

5. ***“Academic misconduct”*** includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct. You can find the University of Utah's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities here: <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>