

SYLLABUS

Econ 2010-001

Principles of Microeconomics

With discussion sections Econ 2010-002, Econ 2010-003, Econ 2010-004, Econ 2010-005

Course Information

Instructor: Catherine Ruetschlin

Department: Economics

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Office Hours: Drop-in office hours are available via zoom each Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm. See the Contact Me page in Canvas for more information. You can also email me via the Canvas Inbox or at the email above to set up an appointment for a virtual meeting using zoom or ConexED outside of these hours.

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Course Description

Course Summary

Principles of Microeconomics presents the fundamental tools of analysis for understanding economic decision making among individuals, firms, and organizations, whose collective decisions determine how resources are allocated in a capitalist economy. Students will engage with the basic analytic tools of modeling and critical thinking. The tools presented include supply and



demand analysis, theories of consumer and producer behavior, analysis of competition and market power, and their application to social welfare and public policy.

Econ 2010 is a 3-credit introductory course designated Social/Behavioral Science Exploration. The course does not assume any prior training in the field of economics and requires only basic algebra skills.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the role of markets in modern society
- Build and manipulate the basic microeconomic model of supply and demand
- Apply and interpret the economic logic of basic models of international trade, environmental resource management, and other contemporary public policy issues
- Identify the properties of competitive markets and those with market power

Required Materials

Goodwin, Neva, Jonathan M. Harris, Julie A. Nelson, Pratistha Joshi Rajkarnikar, Brian Roach, and Mariano Torras. *Microeconomics in Context, Fourth Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2019.


The textbook is available through the University's inclusive access program which offers discounted text access for those students who are willing to use a digital textbook through the Canvas course site. You may opt in to or out of inclusive access using the 'bookshelf' tab in the Canvas course page menu on screen left and using the instructions available in the file titled 'Access the textbook.' You may also opt out at the link <https://portal.verba.io/utah/login>.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Econ 2010-001 is offered as an interactive video class (IVC). The IVC format includes both live video conferencing and pre-recorded presentation.

The course is organized into weekly modules with materials presented in real-time through Zoom video conferencing during the scheduled class time 9:10 am to 10:20 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Live-streamed class sessions will be supplemented with pre-recorded videos during some weeks. The modules page on Canvas will help you see the material organized by week and the associated assignments.

Each module of this course includes reading, lecture, interactive question and answer, one quiz, and one application problem. Students are expected to have read the assigned text before the Tuesday/Thursday video conferences, and to come with comments or questions related to the



material. Your participation in live class sessions is encouraged.

Friday discussion sessions are live, interactive, and required. In these discussions your Teaching Assistants will demonstrate the numerical or graphical applications that appear on application problems. Attending Friday discussion sessions will provide you with the tools you need for success in this course.

Use the [modules](#) tab on Canvas to view the course calendar and access the course content including links, lectures, and assignments. Each module is presented in the Module Overview and Instructions page showing the objectives and organization for the week, links to live sessions and associated assignments, and housing the recorded lecture material.

Effective communication is essential to our progress this semester and you are encouraged to contact the instructor via email or Canvas, to set up in-person or virtual appointments to discuss any questions, and to reach out when the content or delivery is not working for you. Your instructor is a human being who is invested in your intellectual progress.

Canvas Time Zone Information

To ensure you are viewing due dates and times correctly, as well as events in the calendar, set your student Canvas time zone to your current location by following this [guide](#).

If you do not change your time zone, all due dates and times listed in Canvas default to Mountain Time.

Content written by instructors, such as office hours written in the syllabus, are in Mountain Time, unless stated otherwise.

Online Course Expectations

While all of the academic expectations of this online course are equivalent to those in the traditional course section, there are a number of additional expectations that students should be aware of when participating in the course online.

Instructor Expectations

Your course instructor is an expert in the topics you will learn about this semester. Your instructor is your mentor and facilitator of the classroom experience, aided by graduate teaching assistants, and is committed to the following expectations for this course:

- The instructor will design the course to include lectures, readings materials, and assignments that will challenge students and will provide them with opportunities to learn and practice course content.

- Though this online course includes pre-recorded lectures, it is not a class that is run “automatically” by technology. The instructor and teaching assistants will interact with the class via announcements, virtual office hours, emails/the Canvas Inbox, feedback on assignments, and comments on lecture bulletin boards, among other methods.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will respond to emails in a timely fashion. “Timely” in this instance means within 48 hours, not including weekends and holidays.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will be available for individual consultation via virtual office hours, email, or phone. Students will not be required to come to campus in order to meet with the instructor or teaching assistants.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will provide feedback on the assignments in a timely manner.
- The instructor will follow all official University of Utah policies regarding conduct in the classroom, incompletes, and accommodations. Accommodations will be considered on an individual basis and only with required documentation.

Student Expectations

Though the online format allows students greater flexibility to complete their work, this course does have a structure and timeline, including due dates for course assignments. As such, the following is expected of all students in this class:

- Students will log in to the course a minimum of 3 times per week.
- Students may be expected to work with classmates; however, students are not expected to interact with their classmates in person. A good alternative to meeting in person would be online video conferencing, which allows students to find a time to meet that works best for their schedule. Depending on the assignment, students can also choose to interact with their classmates with whatever technology they are most comfortable with (Groupme, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, etc).
- To do well in online courses, students must be self-motivated, organized, and willing to stay on top of their schedule. Students should take control of their learning while in this course.
- Students will regularly check course announcements. The Announcements area is the instructor’s official means of communication when distributing information to the entire class.
- Students will update their Canvas settings to ensure they receive timely notifications from the course.
- If students have any questions, are struggling with course materials, or need further assistance from their instructor, they will take the initiative to contact their instructor via the Inbox feature in Canvas or via email.
- Email isn’t perfect; sometimes, messages sent to instructors are lost before they are read. If you do not hear back from your instructor 3 days after sending a message, please contact your instructor again.
- Students will engage with the course, students, and the instructor in a respectful and professional manner at all times.

Netiquette

Students are expected to follow the core rules of netiquette at all times while participating in the class, interacting with other students, and communicating with the course instructor and teaching assistants.

Evaluation and Grading

Semester Grading Scheme

Weekly quizzes, completed on Canvas before class each Tuesday: 25%

Weekly application problems: 25%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Assignments: quiz and application problems

Assignments in this course include application problems that provide practice with technical relationships and weekly quizzes over assigned reading to be completed on Canvas. All assignments are intended to help you master the material, prepare for exams, and improve the quality of in-class discussions.

Any assignment in this course may include a combination of multiple choice, short answer/essay questions, and analytical/graphical analysis. All graded assignments must be written in complete sentences. Assignments are due before class begins on the date assigned via Canvas.

Please note: application problems and exams will often be posted under the 'quiz' function on Canvas. This designation does not change the assignment category of the applications or exams – quiz is simply the only modality on Canvas that allows for electronic grading.

- **Quizzes** will be made available on Canvas after class on Thursdays and will close before the start of class the following Tuesday. The quiz will test your understanding of the material covered over the previous week, and often require you to identify key concepts from the reading for the following week. These weekly quizzes usually consist of 10 multiple choice questions.
- **Application Problems** will be available most weeks to correspond to the material covered during that week's lectures. These problems require application of theory to specific examples as well as quantitative interpretations of the principles. Application problems for all modules before the midterm must be completed before the week of the midterm exam. Application problems for all modules after the midterm must be completed before the week of the final exam. You are encouraged to complete these problems on a weekly basis.

Application problems may be multiple choice, numerical answer, short answer, or graphical questions that require you to draw and upload your work.

Exams The midterm exam will be held on Thursday, March 4th at 9:10 am. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, May 5th. Each exam will include 60 multiple choice questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

Exams will not be proctored and can be taken from your home computer using the resources available to you including the textbook, power point slides, video lectures, and your notes. All students must complete the exam independently – no collaboration is allowed during the exam period.

Exams will be timed - once you have opened the exam page you will have 80 minutes to complete the test. You must study for the exam in order to complete it in the time available.

University of Utah Grading Scale

A	100%–94%	A-	93.9%–90%		
B+	89.9%–87%	B	86.9%–84%	B-	83.9%–80%
C+	79.9%–77%	C	76.9–74%	C-	73.9%–70%
D+	69.9%–67%	D	66.9%–64%	D-	63.9%–60%
E	59.9%–0%				

Course Policies

Late Assignments and Exams

The due dates on quizzes and application problems are intended to help you stay on track in the course and identify questions about the core concepts before the class moves on. Please note due dates and work each week to keep up with the course.

Late exams will not be accepted without an excuse from the University or a medical professional.

Content Accommodations

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. 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.

Technology Issues and Tech Help

Your instructor invested time before the start of the semester to ensure that the technologies used in this online class will operate smoothly. Nevertheless, technology doesn't always do what we want it to do! As such, this course has the following expectations regarding tech problems:

- Students are **required** to contact the instructor immediately when they notice broken links or inaccessible files in the course. Links and files are assumed to work, unless students indicate otherwise. Points lost on assignments, due to inaccessible links and files, **cannot** be made up if students did not notify the instructor of the problem prior to the assignment due date.
- The instructor is committed to fixing broken links and inaccessible files as soon as possible after being notified by the students. In the case that there will be a significant delay before these items can be fixed, the instructor will post an announcement to let the class know about the problem and to describe any alternate files/links or alternate due dates for assignments, if applicable, that students should be aware of.
- Students are responsible for submitting all assignments and activities by their due dates. In the very rare case that technical problems prevent a student from submitting an assignment, students are required to—
 - Immediately contact their instructor via email or the Canvas **Inbox**, to let them know about the problem and to submit a copy of their assignment as an attachment (where possible).
 - Then, immediately contact the Canvas help desk to troubleshoot and resolve the problem.
 - Submit an email updating the instructor on whether the problem was resolved and of any additional steps the student or instructor needs to take to get the assignment properly submitted to Canvas.
- It is **not** appropriate to send an email to your instructor informing them about tech problems after an assignment due date.
- Students are expected to read all assignment instructions and to submit work in the required file formats. Work submitted as improper file formats will **not** be considered to have been handed in on time. The instructor will only grade work submitted using the proper file format.
- It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the appropriate help desk to troubleshoot and resolve tech problems in the course,

24/7 help is available to all students via the *Help* button in the far-left Canvas menu.

For more detailed information about getting tech help, please review the information on the [Tech Help](#) page of the course.

Institutional Policies

All students and instructors are expected to adhere to the following university policies:

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. 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.

Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

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 (Links to an external site.).

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).

Drop/Withdrawal

Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for the last day to withdraw from term, first and second session classes.

Deadlines for courses with irregular start and end dates policy:

<https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/miscellaneous.php>

Plagiarism/Cheating

It is assumed that all work submitted to your instructor is your own work. When you have used ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, “*includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.*”

For detailed definitions and possible sanctions, see the Student Code:

<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

Wellness Statement

Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems.

For helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Veterans Support Center

The Veterans Support Center is a “one stop shop” for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201.

You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at:

<http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>

LGBT Resource Center

The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 of the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm.

You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu>.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will

support you with your language and writing development.

These resources include:

Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu>)

Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu>)

English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli>)

About the U

As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field.

CSBS Emergency Action Plan

Not every online student comes to campus, but some do. Familiarize yourself with the [CSBS Emergency Action Plan](#) before you come to campus.

Course Outline

The course is organized into 15 week-long modules. To see the module schedule and assignment due dates, students should view the Course Summary section below and the course Modules.

Syllabus Changes

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be posted to Canvas under Announcements.

Course Summary

Approximate Lecture Dates	Topic	Reading (Goodwin, et al)
January 19-21	Orientation, Markets & Society	Chapters 1 & 2
January 26-28	Production Possibilities and International Trade	Chapter 1 Chapter 6
February 2-4	Trade Policy Supply & Demand	Chapter 6 Chapter 3
February 9-11	Supply & Demand Elasticity	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
February 16-18	Elasticity Welfare Analysis	Chapter 4 Chapter 5

February 23-25	Welfare Analysis Taxes & Tax Policy	Chapter 5 Chapter 11
March 2-4	Review/Midterm Exam	
March 9-11	Taxes & Tax Policy	Chapter 11
March 16-18	Externalities and the Environment	Chapter 12
March 23-25	Public Goods	Chapter 13
March 30-April 1	Production Costs	Chapter 15
April 6-8	Perfect Competition	Chapter 16
April 13-15	Monopoly Markets	Chapter 17
April 20-22	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 17
April 27th	Review/Wrap Up	
May 5 th	Final Exam	