



Econ 2302-012IN
Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2024

Instructor Information:

Edson Timana

etimana@com.edu

281-404-2123

Online Office Hours: Friday 2-4pm

Student hours and location: Online

Required Textbook/Materials:

1. Text: N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics 9e, Cengage Learning.

Note that access to MindTap from Cengage will automatically come with the complete e-book, so this is your only required purchase. Mindtap access fee is included in your course fees, so all course materials are available for you on day one and there is no need to pay extra. The physical textbook is not required but can be purchased via Cengage.

Course Description:

The course is intended to provide students with an understanding of the economics behind individual and firm behavior. Specifically, how individuals, households and different types of firms make decision in the face of scarcity. Students are introduced to the basic models of market structure and how firms behave under these different structures. Students will acquire an understanding of concepts such as market supply and demand, firms' profit maximization behavior under different circumstances, and a wide range of economic policy issues and how they impact the interaction between firms and individuals.

Course requirements and Detailed Grading Formula:

| Assignments | Weight | Comments |
|--------------------|--------|--|
| Homework | 10% | You are required to read your textbook. You have unlimited attempts on the homework, the highest grade will be taken for each homework assignment. |
| Writing Assignment | 25% | |
| Unit Exams | 24% | • No tests will be dropped for any reason |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must finish each test before the specified date and time • Each Unit contains between 20 to 30 multiple-choice questions • You will have 60 minutes to complete each Unit Exam. |
| Final Exam | 5% | |
| Discussions | 25% | You will receive a score of 0-100 on your response, depending on the depth and value that you bring to the online discussion (0 being the worst and 100 being the best). |
| Syllabus Quiz | 2% | |
| Course Progress Quiz | 2% | |
| Exit Quiz | 2% | |
| Course Evaluation | 5% | |

Grade = .10(Homework Average) + .25(Writing Assignment) + .24(Unit Exams) + .05(Final Exam) + .25(Discussions) + .02(Syllabus Quiz) + .02(Course Progress Quiz) + .02(Exit Quiz) + .05(Course Evaluation)

You can use the weights above to calculate your current/projected final grade.

Grading Scale:

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|--------|---|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| <60 | F |

Writing Assignment:

You must try to convince the reader of any topic in economics using principles of Macroeconomics to substantiate your thesis.

Examples of previous topics:

“End the Fed”, "Deflation is coming", “Inflation Will End the US economy”, “The Phillips Curve is Nonexistent”, “The oil oligopoly”.

- The paper must be submitted in a Microsoft word format
- No late submissions will be accepted for any reason, including technical, personal, or other
- After you submit the paper, you must make sure it's not a

corrupt file

- Your paper must be your original work. If it is not, you will automatically fail the assignment.
- You may not submit work you have presented in other courses (I will use software to test the originality of your paper). If you do, you will automatically fail the assignment
- The paper must contain between 800 - 1200 words
- The paper must be in [MLA](#) Format.
- You must include at least 2 charts found in the [FRED](#) database to substantiate your economic argument.
- You must include at least five sources in a works cited page
- Paper grades will only appear the due date
- Double space your paper
- Include your graphs (not links to your graphs) in your paper
- Highlight each textbook vocabulary word you use on your paper
- You may not use quotes, instead, paraphrase
- FRED does not count as one of your five required sources

Student Success Tips:

Economics is a science. Learning economic theories requires one to apply the theories to the real world by thinking critically. Therefore, economics draws on both analytical abilities and evaluative skills. To master this subject, you need to make a consistent and organized effort. Memorization alone doesn't work in learning the "economic way of thinking". Remember, learning economics is by practicing economics, learning to work with graphs and striving for understanding. Cramming for exams usually results in a poor grade. An online economics course is highly intensive and challenging. It requires significant study time every day. If you are having trouble, ask for help. The time to earn a higher grade is before the final, not after.

To keep up with the course coverage and learn the material well, you are expected to:

- 'Attend' class regularly by reading the new postings on the discussion board and participate in the class discussion.
- Read the assigned reading for each chapter.
- Since you have unlimited attempts on the homework, make sure you complete them multiple times until you are comfortable with the terms and concepts.

Late Work, Make-Up:

All assigned course work is due on the date designated on the course calendar. Since assignments are accessible in advance of their due date late assignments will not be accepted. Technology problems on the day the assignment is due (computer, internet etc.) will not be a valid excuse since access is available before the due date. Start and complete your assignments early.

Optional Extra Credit Assignments:

Each extra credit assignment is worth 5% on your final course grade. You have a total of three extra credit assignments. For example:

Final Course Average = 70% + 15% = 85%

Make-Up Policy

There is no make-up assignment or exam.

Attendance Policy:

The flexibility of an online class is not to be confused with "independent study". Students are expected to "attend" classes regularly. Online students are expected to log on at least four times a week. Your attendance and participation in class discussion is crucial to your learning the materials successfully.

Attendance is recorded based on being present in class and/or submitting an assigned academic related activity.

Communicating with your instructor: All electronic communication with the instructor outside of D2L must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. For online students, all communication MUST be through D2L "Message (Email)" during the semester. I generally respond to course messages (course emails) within 24 hours, holidays and weekends being exceptions.

Core Objectives:

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

Empirical and Quantitative skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

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Table Mapping SLO'S, Core Objectives and Assignments

| Student Learner Outcome | Connects to Core Objective | Assessed via this Assignment |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Explain the role of scarcity, specialization, opportunity cost, and cost/benefit analysis in economic decision making. | Critical Thinking /Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 2. Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in both market supply and demand curves on equilibrium price and output. | Critical Thinking /Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 3. Define and measure national income and rates of unemployment and inflation. | Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 4. Identify the phases of the business cycle and the problems caused by cyclical fluctuations in the market economy. | Critical Thinking /Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 5. Define money and the money supply; describe the process of money creation by the banking system and the role of the central bank. | Critical Thinking /Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 6. Construct the aggregate demand and aggregate supply model of the macro economy and use it to illustrate macroeconomic problems and potential | Critical Thinking | Exam |

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| monetary and fiscal policy solutions. | | |
| 7. Explain the mechanics and institutions of international trade and their impact on the macro economy. | Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 8. Define economic growth and identify sources of economic growth. | Critical Thinking /Empirical and Quantitative Skills | Exam |
| 9. (CS1) Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication. | Communication Skills (CS1) | Essay |
| 10. (SR) Demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. | Social Responsibility | Essay |

Academic Dishonesty:

Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action.

Student Concerns:

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409-333-8107 (swakao@com.edu).

Course outline:

Tentative Course Calendar

| Unit | Topics | Open Date | Due by 11:59 pm | Graded By |
|------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Syllabus Quiz | January 16 th | January 18 th | January 19 th |
| 1 | Discussion – Introductions | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| | Ten Principles of Economics | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| | Thinking Like an Economist | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| | Interdependence and the Gains from Trade | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| | Discussion – Financial Times Article #1 | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| | The market forces of Supply and Demand | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| | Unit Exam #1 | January 16 th | February 23 rd | February 26 th |
| 2 | Discussion – Financial Times Article #2 | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | Application: International Trade | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | Discussion – Financial Times Article #3 | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | Elasticity and Its Application | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | The Theory of Consumer Choice | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | The Costs of Production | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | Paper | January 16 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | Unit Exam #2 | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| | Course Progress Quiz | February 24 th | March 29 th | April 1 st |
| 3 | Discussion – Financial Times Article #4 | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Firms in Competitive Markets | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Monopoly | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Monopolistic Competition | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Discussion – What’s your Opinion of the economy now? | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Oligopoly | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Unit Final Exam #3 | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Exit Quiz | March 30 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Optional Extra Credit Assignment #1 | January 16 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Optional Extra Credit Assignment #2 | January 16 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Optional Extra Credit Assignment #3 | January 16 th | May 3 rd | May 6 th |
| | Final Exam (Cumulative) | May 4 th | May 6 th | May 7 th |

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor’s professional judgment of the quality of the student’s work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered

through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.