

Honors Principles of Microeconomics (EC-H101-A)

Tues/Thurs 11:30am-12:45pm, Sawyer 135

FINAL EXAM Monday April 30th 3:20-5:10pm

Dr. Benjamin Powell

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Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 2:30-4pm or by appointment (Weds is a good day for an appointment)

Course Description: **Introduction to the organization and operation of a market economy with a focus on how it allocates scarce resources; the analysis of consumer demand and profit-maximizing behavior of business; examination of pricing and output decisions under conditions of competition, monopoly and imperfect competition in a global marketplace. Analysis of markets for labor and capital. Policy issues include price ceilings and floors, competition and monopoly. Required of all majors in Economics. Normally offered every semester.**

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: **4**

You are expected to do a minimum of 9 hours of work outside of classroom instruction time for this course. This time will consist of reading, studying, and doing practice problems.

Learning Objectives:

- To define the science of economics.
- To explain how economists go about their work as social scientists
- To explain the economic way of thinking
- To understand the determinants of supply and demand for goods and services and explain why prices change.
- To understand how you change your consumption of goods when prices change.
- To analyze the effects of price controls, tax burdens, and government subsidies.
- To understand the costs of production of goods and services in the short run and long run.
- To learn how a firm decides to set price and output under different market structures.
- To understand the determinants of the supply and demand for resources and how a firm can gain or lose competitive advantage in the global market place.
- To explain comparative advantage and explain why all countries can gain from international trade.

My goal for you in this course is to help you begin to “think like an economist.” Economic theory provides a set of glasses which we can use to analyze problems in business, public policy and everyday life. Economics is the study of choice under conditions of scarcity. Economics is not just about stock markets or business, though it includes them. There is an economic way of analyzing just about all aspects of life, from stock markets to sports to marriage and everything in between. The great economic problem is how to arrange our limited resources to satisfy as many of our infinite wants as possible without leaving higher valued wants unsatisfied. In this course you will be introduced to the general principles of microeconomics and the tools economists use to analyze the world.

This is an honors section. We will be covering all of the material traditionally taught in the normal principles of microeconomics course but we will be covering it in greater depth. We’ll also cover applied material traditionally not covered where you can use the tools you have been learning to apply the economic toolkit to concrete problems facing society. Honors tests will also include essays and graphs and you will have an additional writing assignment.

Book:

Economics 8th edition by Michael Parkin

Grading:

Quizzes	20% (10% each)
Exam 1 & 2	40% (20% each)
Final Exam	25%
Book Report	15% (on a popular economics book, list of choices to be provided)

Your final exam will be comprehensive.

Academic Integrity

Any student caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing will receive a grade of “0” on the assignment. I also reserve the right to report the offending student to the Dean of Students. Consult your student handbook for further information.

Tentative Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan. 17 & 19	Intro The Economic Problem	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
Jan. 24 & 26	Demand and Supply	Ch. 3
Jan. 31 & Feb 2	D&S Cont. Elasticity	Ch. 3
Feb. 7 & 9	<u>Quiz Feb 7th</u> Elasticity Cont.	Ch. 4
Feb. 14 & 16	Markets in Action	Ch. 6
Feb. 21 & 23	<u>Exam 1 Feb 21st</u> Policy Applications of S&D	Handouts
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1	Efficiency & Equity	Ch. 5
March 6 & 8	Global Markets in Action Organizing Production <u>Quiz March 8th</u>	Ch. 7 Ch. 9
<i>Spring Break</i>		
March 20 & 22	Output and Costs	Ch.10
March 27 & 29	Perfect Competition	Ch. 11
April 3 & 5	<u>Exam 2 April 3rd</u> Monopoly	Ch. 12
April 10 & 13	Monopoly Cont. Oligopoly	Ch. 12 Ch. 13
April 17 & 19	Regulation and Anti-Trust Historical Applications of Anti-Trust	Ch. 14 Handouts
April 24 & 26	Public Goods, Externality, and Political Economy	Ch. 16 & 17

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