

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Information

Instructor: Rondi A. Schei

Course: EC 201- Principles of Microeconomics

Term: Winter 2015

Highly Recommended: College Algebra

Credits: 4

DESCRIPTION

This course delves into how households, businesses, and government choose to use their resources, what goods and services to provide, and how to produce those goods and services. It is important to note that microeconomics is mathematical and relies on many graphical representations to explain theories. In addition, the subject matter can seem counterintuitive, complex, and abstract at times. However, this course will allow you to become a more informed critical thinker. You will learn how to apply basic economic theory to a variety of economic issues through a variety of case studies that evaluate the pros and cons to current economic problems. See the Course Objectives for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: via D2L is preferred

Alternative email:

rschei@pdx.edu

Office location: CH 287L

Office Hours:

- Tuesdays by appointment between 1 & 3pm
- Open Office Thursdays between 1 & 3pm
- Virtual Office Hours by appointment



EMAIL EXPECTATIONS:

- Include **EC201** in the title of your email.
- I will respond to all emails sent Monday through Friday within 48 hours.
- Email sent after 3 pm on Friday will be responded to on the following Monday.
- If you have a question on an assignment, please post it with an appropriate title to the Q/A forum on D2L. *Questions posted here will be answered over the weekends.*

Course Materials

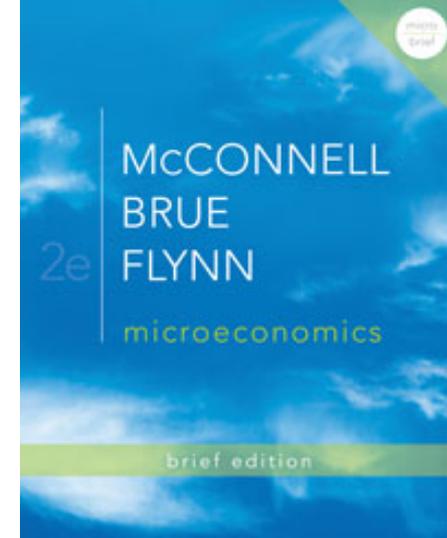
REQUIRED

- McConnell, Brue, Flynn. 2012. Microeconomics Brief 2e. McGraw-Hill.
- Additional Readings provided on D2L.
- Desire2Learn
- [Firefox](#) or Safari Web Browser
- [Microsoft Word](#), [Excel](#), [PowerPoint](#) or equivalent and ability to save as PDF.
- Calculator

ADDITIONAL STUDY AIDS

These are all *freely available* to you in the study aids section of each module.

- Textbook Ancillaries
 - Interactive Graphs
 - Worked Problems
 - Origin of the Idea
- Self-Quizzes: Multiple Choice and True False
- Khan Academy Videos
- Paul Solmon Videos



Getting Started

Highly Recommended: Upload a picture or avatar to your profile. This will help create a sense of place and community in our virtual classroom!

There are three tasks that must be completed before you gain access to course content.

- **Post an introduction** to the discussion forum and reply to **one** other student.
- **Complete the Course Information Quiz with a 100%**
 - This is to ensure you have a good understanding of the information put forth in this syllabus and other course requirements and etiquette. You have an unlimited number of attempts.
- **Complete an Economic Math Skills Quiz with an 85% or better.**
 - The purpose of this task is to ensure you are proficient in the math necessary to be successful in this course. You have unlimited number of attempts on this quiz. After each attempt, there is a feedback that tells you which tutorials to visit for the problems you may have missed.

Instructional Approach

Economics is not an easy subject to understand. It can often seem theoretically counter-intuitive and the mathematical applications complicated. To mitigate this, you will notice that I take a step-wise approach in the way I present the material. Each week represents a distinct module and a self-contained unit. This means that all activities for each weekly module must be completed by the end of the “course week”. For this course, the beginning of the week is Monday and the end of the week is Sunday.

You will find that I have included many activities in this course. I want you to *learn* basic microeconomic theory rather than momentarily memorize the material for an exam. You will see that my exams are not weighted as heavily as the activities. Learning a new subject takes practice and all the activities in this course build upon one another. Each module is ordered deliberately. I recommend going through the weekly course content in order and as the course progresses, you will begin to notice consistent patterns in how we approach economic problems.

WEEKLY STRUCTURE

As mentioned above, I recommend going through the course content in the order it is presented. The order of tasks for this course is as follows:

1. Read through the assigned readings on the course schedule for the week.
2. Write a brief reading reflection (graded).
3. Watch the Lecture Presentation

- You may wish to take notes using the provided presentation outlines. The outlines contain the entirety of my lecture. The "catch" is that you must fill in the missing definitions, terms, data, and graphs.
4. Do the worksheet for the week and submit an attempt.
 - These are required. They must be completed before you are given access to the Challenge Questions.
 - To access the detailed answer key to the worksheet, you must obtain at least a 60%.
 5. Do the Challenge Questions (graded).
 6. Do the Quiz for the week (graded).

Professional Competence

Economics provides yet another lens from which to view the world around us. You will see how the knowledge gained in the course is directly applicable to everyday life. The economic theories and concepts taught in this course will provide you with a toolkit for decision-making at the personal, academic, and professional levels. While there is knowledge to be gained from this course, there is a set of necessary skills and attitudes that will ensure your success.

College is a "job." The requirements for being successful in your career are the same as those for being a student. Many of you have chosen to attend college to gain the knowledge to improve your career prospects. Investments require proper management. College is your investment and you are its manager. Each course you take is part of your "investment portfolio." It is your responsibility to ensure that the rewards from your investment outweigh all the associated costs. The responsibilities listed below are required for success in this course.

- Be able to manage your time. Note assignment due dates on your personal calendar.
- Login regularly to the online classroom for course materials, updates, schedule updates, and general information.
- Understand the requirements found on this syllabus. This is your "job description." By taking this class you are agreeing to the terms.
- Check the schedule frequently. This is your "job task list." It is your responsibility to know the readings and assignments due dates.
- Check your email daily. "I did not check my email" is NOT an excuse. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they stay up to date in the class and that the professor can reach them.
- For each credit hour a student should expect to spend at least 2 hours per week studying. Therefore, with the **4 hours** of "instruction" (lectures, videos, worksheets) for a 10-week course plus *at least 8 hours* per week reading and doing assignments, you should spend at least **12 hours a week** on this course.
- Do the worksheets for each chapter.
- Complete all assignments.

Grading Criteria

The grading criteria for this course is based on a **weighted** grading scheme.

Assessments	Percent
Reflections	15

Challenge Questions	25
Analysis Essays	20
Weekly Quizzes	10
Exam I	15
Exam II	15

A weighted grading scheme scales your accumulated scores to 100 points. **Reflections** are worth 15%, so that is 15 points out of 100, **Challenge Questions** are worth 25%, so that is 25 points out of 100, **Essays** are worth 20%, so that is also 20 points out of 100. **Quizzes** are worth 10%, or 10 points out of 100 and **Exams** are worth 15%, so that is 15 points out of 100 for both exams. Your overall grade is calculated by finding your average percentage for each category, multiply that by the number of possible points for that category, and then sum up all the "earned" points.

Example:

Assume that you obtain the following average percentages for each category: Reflections = 90%, Challenge Questions = 85%, Essays = 75%, Quizzes = 75%, Exam I = 80%, and Exam II = 70%.

- Final Score = $(0.90 \times 15 \text{ points}) + (0.85 \times 25 \text{ points}) + (0.80 \times 20 \text{ points}) + (0.75 \times 10 \text{ points}) + (0.80 \times 15 \text{ points}) + (0.70 \times 15 \text{ points})$
- Final Score = $13.5 + 21.25 + 16 + 7.5 + 12 + 10.5 = 80.75$
- You receive $80.75 \div 100 = 80.75\%$, which is a B.

Assignments and Exams

- **Late Assignments will not be accepted. Instead:**
 - Your lowest/missing Reading Reflection is dropped.
 - Your lowest/missing Challenge Question is dropped.
 - Your two lowest/missing Quizzes are dropped.

REFLECTIONS

Before viewing any lectures, I feel that it is very important to have read the textbook. Doing so will help you to better understand the contents of the lecture and solidify concepts. The reading reflections are meant to provoke reflection on inquiry on a concept of two from the readings. Your initial post must fully address the discussion prompt and you must also reply to two other students to receive full credit. Each initial post = 5 points and each reply = 2.5 points, for a total of 10 points.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

The challenge questions are taken from the end of chapter problems in your textbook. There will be 3 to 4 multi-part problems on each question set. These will integrate economic concepts with mathematical calculations and/or graphical representations.

The challenge questions will also be located under the D2L Quiz tool. They are under the category "Challenge Questions." While you will have unlimited access to the question sets up until the due date,

you only have 2 submission attempts available. After your first attempt, you will be able to view the questions answered incorrectly and obtain feedback on how to approach the missed problem. If you wish to improve your score, you may do a second attempt. The recorded grade will be the average of the two attempts.

Unfortunately D2L does not tell you exactly which parts you missed. It will only tell you that you got the questions 50% right or 80% right. So, to mitigate this, you can choose to submit your first attempt prior to 12pm on Saturday. I will go in and leave individual feedback as to which part or "blank" you may have missed in the afternoon on Saturday. Any first attempts submitted after I have reviewed the quizzes will not get this additional feedback. However, you will still get feedback on how to approach the problem you missed.

ANALYSIS ESSAYS

You will write two essays and they will be due during each "Exam Week." These essays will require external research and require you to analyze a current event or real world scenario using economic theory and concepts. They will also require you to provide economic models to illustrate your analysis. A detailed description of the assignment and a grading rubric will be made available to you, so that you are clear on the requirements.

WEEKLY QUIZZES

Quizzes will cover *concepts and definitions* found in the readings and lecture for the week. The quizzes are located under the quiz tool on D2L and consist of 15 multiple choice questions. They are timed at 25 minutes. You will have three available attempts and the highest score is recorded. However, the quizzes are randomized, so you will not get the exact same quiz twice.

EXAMS

Exams will be available from Thursday at 12pm until Sunday at 11pm of the "Exam Week." Since the exam window is over the course of several days, **no make-up exams will be allowed.**

There will be two exams. Exam I will cover Chapters 1 to 5 and Chapter 12. Exam II will cover Chapters 6 to 11. Each exam contributes 15% towards your final grade. These exams will be timed at 2 hours (120 minutes) and posted under the Quizzes tool on D2L. Each will have three sections consisting of true/false, analytical problems, and long answer questions. These exams are not about testing your ability to recall abstract information. Rather, it is a test of your ability to do what you have already done and should know in a timed environment. The true/false questions will come from the true/false self-quizzes in the study aids modules. The problems are designed to be similar to those found on your worksheets, challenge questions, and lecture notes. As for the short answer, I have provided a list of possible questions that you may find on the exam to help focus your study. My exams are about *what you can do*, not what you can remember.

PSU Policies

Affirmative Action

Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation,

veteran status, or any other basis in law.

Disability Resources at PSU

Students with accommodations approved through the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) are responsible for contacting the faculty member prior to, or during, the first week of term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected and required of students enrolled in this course. Suspected academic dishonesty in this course will be handled according to the procedures set out in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Religious Holy Days

Any student who, because of religious beliefs, is unable to attend classes on a particular day shall be excused from attendance requirements and from any examination or other assignment on that day. The student shall make up the examination or other assignment missed because of the absence within 3 days or a 50% reduction is incurred. *Students must make arrangements with their instructor **prior** to the holy day.*