

John Carroll University
Department of Economics and Finance
EC 201
Principles Economics 1
Summer 2013 - Section 51 – Online Class

Instructor & Class

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Office/class TBA
Hours TBA

Materials

Required – N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics, 6th ed., published by South-Western, 2008. You are required to purchase Aplia access (see below for how to access your Aplia Course). You are also required to use your JCU blackboard account daily. This class is taught on line. You must get a skype id and add me as your contact on skype. MY SKYPE ID IS SIMRANKAHAI. If you need help with technology, please call 216 397 3005. We will also use Webex to interact with me. The instructions and invitation for webex meeting will be emailed to you in advance. Please check your email daily. You must also acknowledge my emails. You must check your blackboard daily. Assignments are listed on syllabi and new ones are posted on blackboard announcements and documents.

Course Description

In this class, we will expose students to the applications of economic theory and methodology. The focus will be on the following topics.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Introduction to Nature and Method of Economics❖ The Fundamental Economic Problem❖ Capitalism and Circular flow model❖ Interdependence and the Gains from Trade❖ The Market Forces of Demand and Supply❖ Elasticity and Its Application❖ Supply, Demand and Govt. Policies❖ Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Market | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ International Trade❖ The Costs of Production❖ Firms in Competitive Markets❖ Monopoly❖ Monopolistic Competition❖ The Market for Factors of Production❖ The Pricing and Employment of Resources❖ The Distribution of Income |
|--|--|

- ❖ This course consists of on line tutorials, discussion boards, on line daily assignments from Monday – Thursday, midterm exam and final exam. Assignments are technically due by 11 pm but you are asked to turn in by 10 pm or before to avoid the possibility of power/computer/internet connection failure at the last hour.
- ❖ This course will serve as a foundation for other courses that students will take in economics. Skills that students learn in applications of microeconomic theory will add significant value to their knowledge, prepare them for more advanced classes in economics and other liberal arts and business classes.

❖ **How to access your Aplia course – Course Key: XCKW-P8P5-AWBR**

❖ Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in to a single site to access your Cengage materials and courses.

❖ Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/>

❖ **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (**XCKW-P8P5-AWBR**) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button.

If you don't have an account, click the *Create a New Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: **XCKW-P8P5-AWBR**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

❖ **Payment**



Online: After registering, you can buy access to Aplia from myhome.cengagebrain.com.

❖ **Bookstore:** Purchase access to Aplia from your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

❖ After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 05/20/2013.

❖ **PLATFORMS**

❖ The Aplia system supports only computers running Microsoft Windows or Apple Macintosh operating systems. While computers running Linux and Sun operating systems may also be able to use the system with no problems, Aplia does not currently support alternative platforms.

❖ Windows: Aplia supports the following versions of Windows: XP, Vista, Windows 7

❖ Macintosh: Aplia supports the following versions of Macintosh: OS X versions 10.4 and later

❖ **BROWSERS**

○ Internet Explorer: Versions 7.0 and later are supported

○ Firefox: Versions 3.0 and later are supported

○ Chrome: Versions 3.0 and later are supported

○ Safari: Versions 4.0 and later are supported

❖ **Macintosh**

○ Safari: Versions 4.0 and later are supported

○ Firefox: Versions 3.0 and later are supported

❖ **Javascript**

○ Aplia requires that users have Javascript enabled on their system to access the site. Additionally, pop-ups must be allowed for access to the full functionality of the site.

- ❖ **JCU Computer help is available from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM M-F over the phone at 216 397 3005.**

Course Goals & Objectives

The following goals and objectives are set for this class:

- ❖ Expose many microeconomic concepts and theories. Specifically, this course analyzes the behavior of individual entities such as markets, firms, and households. It evaluates the extent to which various market structures (e.g. pure competition, oligopoly, etc.) function in the interest of social welfare
- ❖ Explore a multitude of applications of Microeconomics theory and methodology to decision-making problems faced by private, public and not for-profit institutions
- ❖ Teaches students the tools of microeconomics, which can be used to allocate scarce resources efficiently, to plan corporate strategy and to execute effective tactics
- ❖ Finally, it points out how economic forces affect organizations and describes the economic consequences of economic behavior

Evaluation

Exams will be given during the term as per the attached schedule. **The final exam will be comprehensive in nature.** Exams will contain both multiple-choice and essay questions. Tentatively, students' course grades will be determined as stated below. *Remember, every component of the course is mandatory and no student will be allowed to opt out of any part. Failure to adequately complete any component of the course will result in a failing grade for the course.*

Relative Weights		Grade Assignment			
		≥ 94%	A	73.5% - < 77%	C
Midterm Exam	15%	90% - < 94%	A-	70% - < 73.5%	C-
		87% - < 90%	B+	67% - < 70%	D+
Final Exam	25%	83.5% - < 87%	B	60% - < 67%	D
Assignments and Participations	60%	80% - < 83.5%	B-	< 60%	F
		77% - < 80%	C+		

Fine Print: Remember, I do not give grades, you earn them

Responsibilities: The Fine Print - Please read them carefully and make sure you understand them. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

- ❖ Regular **assignments completion** is expected of all students. If a student misses several assignments for any reason, s/he should consider withdrawing from the course.
- ❖ During class discussions forums, you will often find that you do not agree with the views and opinions of your classmates and instructor. Yet, you will treat everyone with respect and regard.
- ❖ Students are responsible for all reading and assignments posted on blackboard and Aplia . Each assignment will include material from the assigned text chapters, articles, and other relevant material. It is your responsibility to study the required material for the exams.
- ❖ Please remember that I do not give grades; you earn them! All things being equal, how much effort you put into studying for an exam and working on assignments will determine your grade, not whether I curve or not! Consequently, your grade in the course is determined entirely by how you perform in exams and assignments, not on any judgment on my part! I cannot, and will not, accept responsibility for inadequate performance on your part in any component of the course.

- ❖ Please note that my class notes and PowerPoint slides are posted on Blackboard for all chapters covered in the assignments.
- ❖ John Carroll University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with disabilities can succeed. In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to receive accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and should have equal access to learning. Please contact the SSD coordinator, Brandi Rizzo, at (216) 397-4967 or come to the office located in room 7A, in the Garden Level of the Administration Building. After your eligibility for accommodations is determined, you will be given a letter which, when presented to instructors, will help them know best how to assist you. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register at your earliest convenience.
- ❖ You can expect the instructor to:
 - Treat you fairly and respectfully
 - Do the best to help you achieve the course-related learning objectives efficiently and effectively
 - Provide you with adequate notice of any schedule or assignment changes
 - Respond to your relevant calls or e-mails within a reasonable period of time
 - Return your assignments, with feedback when appropriate, within a reasonable period of time.

Tentative Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of topics, required assignments and exam dates. Any changes will be announced on blackboard.

All class notes are posted on Blackboard. **Midterm Exam will be on blackboard at 10:00 – 11:50 AM on May 30th 2013. Final Exam will be on blackboard at 10:00 - 11:50 AM on June 14th 2013.** The exams will be under assignment tab. These are timed exams. You will be given a password for the exam before the test.

I will be available on blackboard virtual classroom or Webex media during assigned times throughout the semester. Please attend these classes on line. Though attendance is not required on virtual classroom or Webex, you are required to participate in discussion forum on blackboard. During the virtual classroom or Webex, you are able to ask me questions on the materials posted on blackboard and or Aplaia.

REMEMBER! THESE ARE DUE DATES! YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THEM BEFORE THAT. YOU SHOULD WORK ON THESE ASSIGNMENTS WELL BEFORE THE DEADLINES SO THAT YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS ON WEBEX/SKYPE SESSIONS. YOU ARE ABLE TO WORK ON ANY ASSIGNMENT AHEAD OF TIME. YOU SHOULD AVOID WORKING ON THE ASSIGNMENT LAST MINUTE TO INSURE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS BEFORE DEADLINES.

Aplia Assignments, Video Tutorials and readings 05.16.13

11:00PM Introduction to Using Aplia

This assignment shows students how to use online problems in Aplia and includes a tutorial for ApliaText. It includes a description of practice, graded-at-deadline, and Grade It Now problems. Problem Set 48/Graded

Reading assignment 11:00PM Ten Principles of Economics - Online Chapter
Chapter 1 Reading

Reading Assignment 11:00PM Thinking Like an Economist - Online Chapter
Chapter 2 Reading

Practice Assignment - Habit or Prices?

Addresses the importance of price and opportunity cost vs. habit in explaining why Americans prefer traditional, top-loading washing machines to the new, front-loading machines popular in Europe. News Analysis 3/Practice

Practice Assignment - Winners and Losers from Trade

Notes that increasing textile imports from Pakistan could increase the standard of living in both countries while rewarding Pakistan for its cooperation in the war on terrorism. So why did the United States allow only a token increase in imports from Pakistan? This news analysis discusses the net gains from trade, the fact that trade harms some parties even as it benefits others, and the political pressures that would-be losers exert in an effort to thwart expanded trade. News Analysis 6/Practice

05.17.13

11:00PM Ten Principles of Economics Chapter 1

This problem set covers the 10 principles that are essential to the understanding of economics. Students will learn about basic concepts, such as opportunity cost, decision making at the margin, how trade can benefit everyone, and the short-run tradeoff between inflation and unemployment. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 24/Graded

11:00PM Thinking Like an Economist Chapter 2

This problem set covers economic models such as the circular-flow diagram, production possibilities frontiers, (increasing) opportunity costs, division between microeconomics and macroeconomics, normative and positive statements, and why economists disagree. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 30/Graded

05.18.13

11:00PM Interdependence and the Gains from Trade - Online Chapter
Chapter 3 Reading

11:00PM Interdependence and the Gains from Trade
Chapter 3

This problem set covers production possibilities frontiers; opportunity cost, absolute and comparative advantages, specialization of production, and gains from trade. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 43/Graded

05.19.13

11:00PM Math and Graphing Assessment with Tutorials

This problem set assesses students' knowledge of graphs, slope, area and units, numeric calculations, and equations. Includes animated tutorials on each of these topics for students who need to refresh their skills. Problem Set 89/Graded

05.23.13

11:00PM The Market Forces of Supply and Demand - Online Chapter
Chapter 4 Reading

11:00PM The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
Chapter 4

This problem set covers both movement along and shifting of demand and supply curves, individual and market demand, and equilibrium determination of market-clearing price and quantity. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 50/Graded

11:00PM Hurricane Katrina and Gas Prices

Analyzes how a fear of shortages can lead to a run on a commodity by shifting the demand curve to the right. News Analysis 8/Practice

11:00PM When It Comes to Buying Textbooks, Students Do Their Homework

In the market for textbooks, students' consumer sovereignty is a bit stronger than it appears at first glance. This news analysis covers student sensitivity to price, publishing date, and resale value in the market for required textbooks. News Analysis 7/Practice

11:00PM News Analysis: Will Higher Fuel Efficiency Reduce Gasoline Consumption?

This news analysis explores the relationship between fuel efficiency standards and gasoline consumption. Students discover that the impact of fuel efficiency on gasoline consumption depends on the price elasticity of demand for miles of driving per month. Problem Set 17/Practice

05.24.13

11:00PM Elasticity and Its Application - Online Chapter
Chapter 5 Reading

11:00PM Elasticity and Its Application
Chapter 5

This problem set covers calculations of percentage changes in prices and quantities. It reviews price, cross-price, and income elasticities of demand, as well as supply elasticities. The set also examines how price elasticity of demand is linked to total sales revenue. All calculations use the midpoint formula for elasticity. Elasticity of demand is treated as a positive number. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 55/Graded

05.25.13

11:00PM Supply, Demand, and Government Policies - Online Chapter
Chapter 6 Reading

11:00PM Supply, Demand, and Government Policies
Chapter 6

This problem set builds skills in understanding the consequences of price ceilings and price floors. It compares equilibrium price and quantity with price and quantity outcomes when controls are binding or non-binding. It also covers the effects of a tax on a market and how elasticities determine tax incidence. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 48/Graded

05.26.13

11:00PM Analyzing Equilibrium Price and Quantity
Discusses and tests understanding of the results from the Equilibrium Price and Quantity experiment. Assign as a graded problem set. Problem Set 12/Practice

05.30.13

11:00PM Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets - Online Chapter
Chapter 7 Reading

11:00PM Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets
Chapter 7

These questions assess students' understanding of consumer and producer surplus and their relationships to the supply and demand curves. Other topics covered include market efficiency and market failure. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 47/Graded

05.31.13

11:00PM Application: International Trade - Online Chapter
Chapter 9 Reading

11:00PM Application: International Trade
Chapter 9

This problem set covers imports, exports, and domestic prices without trade, with free trade, and with trade restrictions. Gains from trade and the surplus effects of tariffs and quotas, and arguments for trade restriction, including jobs, national security, and infant industry arguments are also covered. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 47/Graded

11:00PM Externalities - Online Chapter
Chapter 10 Reading

06.02.13

11:00PM Indonesian President Prescribes a Bitter Pill
Uses the supply and demand model to illustrate the welfare effects of fuel subsidies in Indonesia. News Analysis 10/Graded

06.06.13

11:00PM American Furniture Made in China -- Consumer Bargains vs U.S. Job Losses
Assumes that students understand the concept of consumer surplus. Uses it to calculate the gains to consumers from furniture imports. Also assumes that they know that a less elastic demand curve has a steeper slope. 7/Graded

11:00PM The Costs of Production - Online Chapter
Chapter 13 Reading

06.07.13

11:00PM The Costs of Production
Chapter 13
This problem set covers the theory behind production and cost curves. Students will learn the difference between explicit and implicit costs and between economic and accounting profits. Students will learn how to calculate and graph total, average, variable, fixed, and marginal cost. Students will also learn the geometry behind various cost curves and how they differ based on a firm's technology, scale of production, and short-run and long-run decisions. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 72/Graded

06.08.13

11:00PM Firms in Competitive Markets - Online Chapter
Chapter 14 Reading

06.09.13

11:00PM Analyzing Price Ceilings and Floors
Discusses and assesses understanding of the effect price controls have on equilibrium price and quantity. Problem Set 17/Graded

11:00PM Firms in Competitive Markets
Chapter 14
In this assignment students will learn about the theory of perfect competition. They will derive the short-run individual and industry supply curves. They will also explore a firm's production decisions in the short run and long run. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 101/Graded

06.13.13

11:00PM Monopoly - Online Chapter
Chapter 15 Reading

11:00PM Monopoly
Chapter 15

This assignment covers a market with a monopoly and how it differs from a perfectly competitive market. Students will determine a monopoly's profit-maximizing price and output and the inefficiency, deadweight loss, and cost to society that arise from its production decisions. Students will also identify characteristics of natural monopolies, government regulations for a monopoly, and forms of price discrimination. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 59/Graded

06.14.13

11:00PM Monopolistic Competition - Online Chapter
Chapter 16 Reading

11:00PM Monopolistic Competition
Chapter 16

This problem set covers the meaning of monopolistic competition and how it compares to perfect competition, monopoly, and oligopoly. Students will learn about product differentiation and advertising. Students will also identify how firms in monopolistic competition behave in the short run and long run. This is a Grade It Now problem set. Problem Set 17/Graded.

11:00 PM The Markets for the Factors of Production - Online Chapter
Chapter 18 Reading

This problem set applies the basic principles of supply and demand to markets for the factors of production: land, labor, and capital. We derive the demand for these inputs from firms' production functions and examine how changes in output markets can affect wages and the rental prices of land and capital. This is a Grade It Now problem set.