

Fall 2009
Dept. Economics
Boise State University

ECON 202

Principles of Microeconomics *Section 004 and Section 005*

Professor: Dr. Siân Mooney
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Class times: Section 004 T, Th 7:40am – 8:55am (3 credit course)

Section 005 T, Th 9:15am – 10:30am (3 credit course)

Class location: Business Building, Room B101

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:30am-11:30am.

Text: Tucker, I.B. Microeconomics for Today (6th Edition). South-Western Cengage Learning. *Plus Aplia registration.*

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this class. However, a good grasp of basic mathematics and graphical literacy is expected and will be useful for doing well.

Course description and goals

ECON 202 is the microeconomics half of the principles economic theory sequence. Microeconomics considers how scarce resources can be allocated efficiently between competing wants in society.

The objective of this course is to provide an understanding of how separate and varied economic entities such as consumers and producers influence and fit together into the overall economic system. Economic incentives affect all of us from the individual to the largest corporations.

ECON 202 provides an introduction to microeconomic analysis and covers topics such as supply and demand, basic market structures, and the operation of the price system. We will look at the important role that market structure plays in allocating scarce resources between market participants and determining market price. In addition this class may touch on topics such as international economics, development economics, environmental economics and other topics as time allows.

Class goals are to:

- i) develop the ability to apply economic reasoning to personal and business decisions and understand how economic concepts affect the management and allocation of public and private resources among competing uses.
- ii) learn practical tools to examine and solve some decision making problems – for example use diagrams to express economic relationships and predict the consequences of changes in economic variables;
- iii) develop ability to apply economic concepts to real world situations;
- iv) become comfortable with the meaning and relevance of economic concepts such as opportunity cost; self interest (incentives); supply and demand; market structure and its influence on price; marginal analysis and externalities and property rights among other concepts.

Required Text

Tucker, I.B. Microeconomics for Today (6th Edition). South-Western Cengage Learning. **Plus Aplia registration.**

There are two different ways to purchase the textbook and Aplia.

1. You can either purchase a hardcopy of the book at the bookstore (and access to the Aplia web site) or
2. you can purchase a web copy of the book (and/or a hard copy) through the Aplia web site.
Detailed instructions are included at the end of this syllabus.

Additional useful materials

1. There are many practice questions and excellent tutorials on the Aplia web site www.aplia.com
2. There are other helpful materials and practice questions also available on the “Student companion” web site produced by Cengage publishers www.cengage.com

Reading

We will try to cover several chapters in Tucker – but will not have enough time to cover all of them. The total number of chapters will be determined by how much progress we make each day in class. Reading assignments will be made on a weekly basis depending on our progress. Additional readings may be supplied in class to illustrate relevant examples

Problem sets

There will be **frequent** short problem sets designed to help you master the concepts and tools that we cover in class. Most of these problem sets will utilize the web interface of “Aplia” i.e. problem sets will be submitted over the web (most of the time). All problem sets must be completed prior to the cut off time noted on Aplia. One advantage of Aplia is that you can do the assignments and submit them any time before the cutoff date and from the comfort of your own home (or anywhere there is internet access). Because Aplia is web driven – assignment times are **hard deadlines** i.e. if you submit your assignment after the cut off time you will receive a zero.

Other assignments

Assignments other than those on Aplia may be set from time to time e.g. reading articles or other publications.

Grading and Assessment

Your final grade is based on:

Examinations:

Two (2) mid-term exams worth 25% each (dates will be announced at least a week before each exam and will be dependent on our progress through the material).

One (1) final exam worth 25%.

Exams will be multiple choice. No materials are permitted on the desks during exams except the exam papers and a pencil.

Problem sets:

These will be set each week. I will drop your lowest problem set score and the remaining problem sets will together account for 25% of your grade. It is important to put in a good effort on these problem sets. They are a significant part of your grade. A good grade on problem sets can make all the difference between doing well (and passing this class) and doing poorly (and not passing this class).

Class Policy

No late assignments or exams will be accepted. No make up assignments or exams will be given. **There is no extra credit.** If you miss an exam please come and see me as soon as possible.

Final grades will be assigned based on the following score breakdown:

A+	97-100%
A	93-96%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	59% and below

Responsibilities and Conduct

To do well in the course I suggest the following strategies.

1. **Read the text** and work your way through the online lecture for each chapter before the material is covered in class.
2. **Do the practice problem sets** online through Aplia and additional questions at the back of each chapter you are assigned to read.
3. **Participate** in class discussions and activities
4. **Come and see me** as soon as you have any difficulties or any questions about the material covered in the class. Much of the material builds on what has gone before so getting your questions answered will help you later on in the course.

My expectations of you

- *attend class and be responsible for obtaining notes and other materials from any classes that you miss*
- provide advance notice of absences when possible
- come to class prepared i.e. prepared to participate in discussions of readings or assignments
- *come and see me* when you have difficulties with class material, or wish to discuss class topics in more detail
- turn off cell phones during class and treat your classmates with respect

What you can expect from me

- assessment of your progress in mastering the subject mater and prompt grading of materials
- preparation of materials relevant to the subject, willingness to answer questions and clarify
- ethical, fair treatment – if you feel this is not happening please come and present your case
- provide materials and an environment that facilitates learning

Academic dishonesty

Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of misconduct will not be tolerated. You can work together on homework assignments and problem sets, however each of you must submit your own work. Submitting someone else's work as your own, or letting someone else submit your work as theirs constitutes cheating.

If you are unsure what constitutes academic dishonesty take a look at page 13 on the following web link:
<http://registrar.boisestate.edu/Catalogs/03-04UndergradCatalog/Chapter2.pdf>

Disabilities

If any student has a disability that requires special accommodation in class, for assignments, exams or any other task please come and see me by the second week of class. For information regarding disabilities and accommodations that the University can make for you see
http://drc.boisestate.edu/FAQ/index.cfm?subsection_id=46



Student Registration and Payment Instructions

Course Name: Microeconomics, (Tucker) 6e, Fall 09

Start Date: 08/24/2009

Instructor: Sian Mooney

Course Key: 8PEA-MF45-U294

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
 - In most cases, you can save money if you buy Aplia and your textbook together. See payment options below.
 - You will have access to a digital version of your textbook using Aplia.
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Registration

If you have never used Aplia before...

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Click the New Student link and enter your Course Key: **8PEA-MF45-U294**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.

If you have used Aplia before...

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **8PEA-MF45-U294**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enter Course Key button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.

** You will have different payment options after you register for your course. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 09/13/2009.*

Payment

Option 1: Digital Textbook with Aplia Access

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course from Aplia's website for \$80.00 USD.
- **From Bookstore:** Purchase an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore.

Option 2: Physical Textbook with Aplia Access (also includes digital textbook)

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course for \$80.00 USD and a physical book for \$45.00 USD from Aplia's website.
- **From Bookstore:** Purchase an Aplia Access Card and a physical book together as a bundle from your campus bookstore.

** If you purchased an Aplia Access Card from a bookstore, enter the Access Card's payment code on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.*

** You will have access to your digital textbook up until the end of this course.*