

# Course Syllabus

## Course Information:

Principles of Microeconomics, ECON 202, Section 5550  
Wednesday, 5:30 – 8:30 PM, Gowen Field

## Contact Information:

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## Required Text:

*Foundations of Microeconomics* by Robin Bade and Michael Parkin (ISBN 0-321-36503-8, Pearson Addison Wesley 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2007).

Other readings or sources will be provided in Course Information on Blackboard

## Technical Equipment and Skills:

- A computer running any of these [certified or compatible operating systems](#).
- Access to the Internet through a high speed network connection or a broadband Internet Service Provider.
- One of the Web browsers listed in this matrix of [certified or compatible browsers](#).
- **NOTE:** If you don't have the items described above at home, you can use a computer in an on-campus lab.
- An e-mail account and the ability to send and receive e-mail and e-mail file attachments. The default e-mail account used by Blackboard is your Boise State e-mail account. You cannot change to another account in Blackboard; however, you can have mail sent to your Boise State account forwarded to another account, such as a Hotmail.com or Yahoo.com account.
- The ability to use a browser to navigate the Web, the ability to navigate among multiple open windows, and the ability to open, close, and save files and attachments.
- A Blackboard User Account. If you register for a course that uses Blackboard, a Boise State Blackboard Administrator will automatically create your account. Your username will be your BroncoWeb login ID. Your password will be your BroncoWeb password.
- Any additional requirements as requested and specified by the course instructor, such as access to Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Acrobat Reader, Real Player, or other specialized hardware or software.

**Course Description:**

Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 202), is one of the two-course sequence of introductory economics courses. In ECON 202 we will define economics, explore the underlying fundamentals common to all economic systems, and develop and examine a basic framework for analysis of the overall economic interactions that take place in our economy. In the first weeks of the course we will examine the problems caused by scarcity, how prices in our economy act effectively to allocate scarce resources between all participants in our economy. Building on these fundamentals, we will then explore economic decision making by the smallest of economic units, the individual, household, or firm. We will discover how these small economic units make “good” or rational economic decisions. Study will then focus on the differing market structures that operate in our economy.

**Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to give the student the basis to understand how firms and households respond to changes in price of goods and services, differing economic conditions, or other factors that influence behavior using the principles of supply and demand. The student, using the concepts learned, will be able to orally and graphically describe the cause and effect of a change in one or more economic conditions on markets, households and firms.

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to define, describe and apply the following concepts in writing and orally:

- Opportunity Cost
- Marginal Analysis
- Benefit and Cost Analysis
- Scarcity
- Self Interest
- Benefits from Voluntary Exchange
- Markets and Prices
- Supply and Demand
- Elasticity
- Competition
- Comparative Advantage and Specialization

**Teaching Philosophy:**

This is primarily a in class lecture course supplemented with online applications. You will read selections from the textbook, also material provided to you online, participate in classroom discussions, take online quizzes and tests as well as homework assignments.

In most instances, the reading assignment will be the focus of our discussions and other activities. If you have questions about what you've read, please ask them; chances are, other students will have the same questions. I've created a discussion forum specifically for you to use to ask questions about assignments and readings.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

You are expected you to visit the course site each day; making Blackboard your home page in your Web browser will help you to remember to visit the site. It is also expect you to participate in all activities, including the ungraded discussions; failure to do so will place you in academic jeopardy.

Though you may miss an activity, you must stay current with the class. At the very least this means that you are responsible for any assignments arising from the activity. More broadly, it means that you must somehow become knowledgeable about the content and discussion of the activity. Quizzes cannot be made up; with few exceptions, most other activities cannot be made up.

### **Grading Method and Scale:**

There will be four exams, worth a total of 250 points and a number of quizzes worth 100 points. The overall semester grade will be based upon the sum of the grades received on the exams and quizzes compared to the maximum of 350 points possible during the semester. Letter grades will be based upon the "Traditional" 90+% of the total points equals an "A"; 80 – 89% equals a "B"; 70 – 79% equals a "C"; 60 – 69% equals a "D"; <60% equals an "F". There will be a number of homework assignments that will receive minimal credit that will also be counted as extra credit if completed but no credit assigned if not completed. All homework assignments will be turned by Friday of the week it is assigned to receive any credit. All quizzes and exams, including a comprehensive final, will be on **blackboard**. Quizzes and exams will open on Saturday at 6:00 AM and close on Sunday at 11:30 PM (see course schedule for dates). **There will be no exceptions.**

### **Resources for Students:**

See the main Boise State web site ([www.boisestate.edu](http://www.boisestate.edu)) for contents regarding academic resources, library resources, administrative resources, opportunities for students, and other useful information.

### **Essential Policy Information:**

Revisions to the Syllabus and Schedule:

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and schedule at any time. Revisions will be documented in an announcement on the Blackboard course site.

Disability Services:

Any student who feels that he or she may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You will also need to contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (208-426-1583, Administration Building, Room 114) to meet with a specialist and coordinate reasonable accommodations for any documented disability.

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism occurs when a person passes in another person's work as his or her own or borrows directly from another's work without documentation. It doesn't matter if the work is that of a published author, an unpublished co-worker, or another student. Plagiarism also occurs when a person passes off another person's ideas as his or her own; merely casting another writer's ideas

in different words doesn't free one from the obligation to document one's source. Finally, plagiarism occurs when graphic images are borrowed without attribution.

A student who plagiarizes will be excluded from the course, will receive a final grade of F, and may be referred to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) for disciplinary action.

Other penalties may include academic probation, suspension, or expulsion from school. With this in mind, keep all preliminary work you do for each assignment. For instance, you should print hard copies of each draft or make separate electronic files. Should you turn in an assignment that appears to me to have been plagiarized, you will want to be able to show evidence of your work: notes, outlines, drafts, and other such material. If you are unable to do so, then we have a serious problem.

If you have any questions about plagiarism, talk to me. You can also find further clarification in *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*; the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*; the [Boise State Student Code of Conduct](#); the [Student Conduct Program](#); and the [Student Online Privacy Notice](#).

Privacy Notice:

Please take a few minutes to read the [Student Online Privacy Notice](#), which describes in general terms your rights and responsibilities while participating in an Internet-enhanced course, and discusses such topics as e-mail, personal disclosures, data retained about students, acceptable use, online behavior, academic dishonesty, and publication and distribution of student work. <http://itc.boisestate.edu/BbSupport/BbDocs/general/PrivacyNotice.htm> .

## Course Outline

Fall Semester 2009

ECON 202, Section 5550

"The course instructor reserves the right to amend this schedule. Students will be notified of a change via an announcement on the course site."

<b>Module/Activity</b>	<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Module 1</b> Overview of Course Getting Started US and Global Economies	1 – Aug 24-30	Introduction to Econ 202 Chapter 1 & 2	Readings Group Discussion	Introductory Quiz
The Economic Problem Demand and Supply	2 – Aug 31-Sept 6	Chapter 3 & 4	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	<b>Exam</b>
<b>Module 2</b> Efficiency and Fairness in Markets	3 – Sept 7-13	Chapter 6	Readings Group Discussion	Quiz
Government Influences of Markets Taxes	4 – Sept 14-20	Chapter 7 & 8	Readings Group Discussion	Quiz
Externalities	5 – Sept 21-27	Chapter 9	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	Quiz
Public Goods and the Tax System	6 – Sept 28-Oct 4	Chapter 10	Readings Group Discussion	<b>Exam</b>
<b>Module 3</b> Production and Cost	7 – Oct 5-11	Chapter 12	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	Quiz
Demand and Supply in Factor Markets	8 – Oct 12-18	Chapter 18	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	Quiz
Perfect Competition	9 – Oct 19-25	Chapter 13	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	Quiz
Monopoly Monopolistic Competition	10 – Oct 26-Nov 1	Chapter 14 & 15	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	Quiz
Oligopoly Regulation and Antitrust Law	11 – Nov 2-8	Chapter 16 & 17	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	<b>Exam</b>
<b>Module 4</b> Elasticity of Demand and Supply	12 – Nov 9-15	Chapter 5	Readings Group Discussion <i>Homework</i>	Quiz
Consumer Choice and Demand	13 – Nov 16-22	Chapter 11	Readings Group Discussion	Quiz
<b>No Class</b>	<b>14 – Nov 23-29</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>		
Inequality and Redistribution	15 – Nov 30-Dec 6	Chapter 19	Readings Group Discussion	Quiz
International Trade	16 – Dec 7-13	Chapter 20	Readings Group Discussion	Dead Week
Finals Week	17 – Dec 14-20			<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>