

FALL 2010
Econ 202: Principles of Microeconomics

Section 007 T Th 10:40 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. B102B
Section 008 T Th 12: 15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ILC303

Instructor: Dr. Samia Islam
Office: B311, COBE
Phone: 426-1042
E-mail: samiaislam@boisestate.edu
Office Hours: T Th 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Otherwise, by appointment.

This syllabus is two sections of my Ec202 Course Sections 007 and 008. Please pay careful attention to the exam dates and APLIA registration instructions relevant for your section.

This syllabus is subject to minor changes and revisions before the start of Fall 2010 semester. A final version will be available for download from my Blackboard course website prior to Aug 23.

I. Materials:

1: Textbook (required):

Microeconomics: 2/E
Authors: Krugman and Wells,
Publisher: Worth Publishers; 2nd edition (September 25, 2008)
Paperback: 608 pages
ISBN-10: 0716771594; ISBN-13: 978-0716771593

Students are free to purchase this textbook new (\$123 at Amazon, book only) or used from any source of their choosing, including the BSU book store. Students can also opt for the text that APLIA website will bundle along with APLIA online access for a discounted price (\$132 includes book and APLIA). The basic APLIA access fee (\$80) includes the e-text. If you are comfortable with e-texts, you don't even have to buy a hardcopy textbook.

See page 6 for details on APLIA fee structure and registration instructions.

I am not particular about where students buy their book or in what form (hardcopy or e-text), as long as they have a copy to supplement my class lectures.

2. APLIA (required): Students will also need to purchase access and register on APLIA (www.aplia.com). APLIA will be used for weekly homework assignments as well as a study tool to prepare for in-class exams. APLIA access includes online textbook chapters (e-text).

Students will need to have a credit card in order to purchase APLIA access.

Course key required to register on APLIA: **KWQR-47WZ-565H**

Supplemental readings will be assigned during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

II. Learning Goals for Principles of Microeconomics

Develop students' ability for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – two of COBE core goals. A student who has completed the economics principles sequence should know the following concepts:

Scarcity: Resources, from which the goods and services we want are produced, are limited, and consequently we must make choices.

Opportunity Cost: Identify the real costs associated with the resource allocation choices we make and as individuals, organizations, and governments.

Marginal Analysis: Optimal decisions are more likely to result when costs and benefits of a choice are clearly understood and when decisions are made in increments (i.e., at the *margin*).

Markets and Prices: Explain how markets facilitate voluntary exchange and trade by establishing prices which serve as signals to buyers and sellers. Recognize individuals attempt to maximize utility and as businesses maximize profit. Predict the consequences of price changes on resource allocation and consumer and business behavior. Explore causes of market failures.

Supply and Demand: Use supply and demand curves to explain how markets answer the basic questions of "what to produce", "how to produce" and "who gets what is produced." Understand and apply the concept of elasticity of demand and supply.

Competition: Importance of competition in the efficient functioning of markets and prices. Determine what happens when markets are characterized by less-than-perfect competition.

Comparative Advantage: Principles of comparative advantage, specialization, and trade.

Ethical Issues: Identify the ethical issues which arise when evaluating market outcomes and public policies relating to markets.

Skill in Using Diagrams to Express Relationships: Use supply and demand diagrams, cost and revenue curves, time series graphs, and other diagrams to express economic relationships and to predict the consequences of changes in relevant variables.

III. Student Responsibilities:

- Register on APLIA. Instructions are included on the last page of this syllabus. **Complete the first assignment by August 25.** This assignment is designed as a self-test so that you know which math concepts you need to brush up on to be comfortable with the level of this class.
- Attend every class meeting.
- Read the assigned chapters before class and come prepared to discuss the topics in class. This practice will familiarize you with Micro theories and concepts.
- Be aware of all announcements made in class about test dates, assignment due dates, course content, test content and other course information. Some of this information may also be available on Blackboard. It is important that you check Blackboard on a daily basis.
- If you can't make it to class, make sure you arrange to obtain the information you missed from a classmate. In this regard, get acquainted with class mates. This will also enable you to form study groups.
- The material in ECON 202 is challenging and builds on itself, so be sure to address difficulties or any questions about the material covered in the class immediately so that you don't fall behind. My office hours are noted on page 1 of syllabus.

IV. Communication Norms for Class and Correspondence

There are some behaviors that I will not tolerate in the classroom, including - but not limited to - texting, talking and/or any inattentive conduct while I am lecturing, being disrespectful to either me and/or your classmates, and all other similarly disruptive behavior.

Turn off cell phones during class or set it to silent mode. If you have to receive a call, you need to leave the class room.

Email norms for this class:

Texting language and acronyms are not acceptable. Email messages need to be necessary, respectful (beginning with a proper address, such as "Prof. Islam or Dr. Islam"), concise, and clear. For most of your course-related questions refer to syllabus first before emailing me.

V. Course Outline

Week 1:	Ch 1 - Intro Ch 2 - Economic Models
Week 2:	Ch 3 - Supply and Demand
Week 3:	Ch 4 - Consumer and Producer surplus
Week 4:	Review and Exam 1
Week 5:	Ch 5 - The Market Strikes Back
Week 6:	Ch 6 - Elasticity
Week 7:	Ch 7 - Taxes
Week 8:	Review and Exam 2
Week 9:	Ch 9 - Making Decisions
Week 10:	Ch 10 - Rational Consumer
Week 11:	Ch 12 - Behind the Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs
Week 12:	Review and Exam 3
Week 13:	Ch 13 - Perfect Competition and Supply Curve
Week 14:	Thanksgiving break
Week 15:	Ch 14 - Monopoly
Week 16:	Ch 17 - Externalities, and Ch 18 - Public Goods (Time permitting)
Week 17:	Review and Exam 4

VI. Assessment Policy

Your progress toward achieving the course goals will be assessed using scores from 3 out of 4 non-cumulative exams, and homework assignments. *If you are satisfied with your scores/performance in the first three exams, you can OPT OUT of the last one.*

Exams: Each exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blanks, true-false type questions that are based on the material discussed/covered in class lectures, textbook chapter content, homework assignments, and assigned readings.

Exams must be taken on the scheduled dates. There are no makeup exams, and no late assignments will be accepted. The lowest score from the four exams will be dropped. For exam dates, see section IX below.

A 4.0 grading scale will be used for this class, consistent with Boise State University's grading policy (see section 9 below for details).

Grades will be posted within 5 working days of an exam. Please refrain from emailing me asking about when exam grades will be available.

Assignments: Homework assignments will account for 25% of your final grade. We will use an Online supplement for our textbook available from APLIA (see last page for instructions on how to register and use). **Homework submission deadlines are non-negotiable.**

The APLIA COURSE KEY required to register on aplia.com is **KWQR-47WZ-565H**.

All students must be registered on APLIA prior to the first day of Fall 2010 classes.

Extra-Credit - Optional Writing Assignment: You can submit an **optional** writing assignment that fits the guidelines provided below, to earn upto 5 extra credit points in this course. Your deadline to turn write-up in is **Thursday, December 2, 2010**. The article will conform to the following guidelines:

- Select and write on a current news item of interest that you think relates to the theories we cover in class.

- Provide an analysis of how you think the news item is connected to theoretical concept(s) covered in class.
- In your analysis, go beyond just presenting a summary of the news/theory. I want your insights into the issue, i.e., how you see microeconomic theoretical underpinnings behind the news event.
- Limit your write-up to a maximum of 2 pages, using double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font.
- Follow one established style on citation and referencing, including citing electronic sources (e.g., Internet sites). I don't have a preference for any one style, so long as you are consistent.
- Include a bibliography.
- Enclose a print-out or photocopy of the news item with your write-up.

VII. Grading Weights

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Exam #3	25%
Assignments	25%

	100%

Grading policies and exam grades are final and not subject to negotiation.

VIII. Grading Scale

A+	96.5 and above	C	72.5 - 76.49
A	92.5 - 96.49	C-	69.5 - 72.49
A-	89.5 - 92.49	D+	66.5 - 69.49
B+	86.5 - 89.49	D	62.5 - 66.49
B	82.5 - 86.49	D-	59.5 - 62.49
B-	79.5 - 82.49	F	below 59.5
C+	76.5 - 79.49		

IX. Exam Schedule (Exam duration is 1 hour)

Section 007: T Th 10:40 – 11: 55 am class

Exam 1	Thursday, September 16, 2010
Exam 2	Thursday, October 14, 2010
Exam 3	Thursday, November 11, 2010
Exam 4	Tuesday, Dec 14, 2010, 10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Section 008: T Th 12: 15 pm – 1: 30 pm class

Exam 1	Thursday, September 16, 2010
Exam 2	Thursday, October 14, 2010
Exam 3	Thursday, November 11, 2010
Exam 4	Tuesday, Dec 14, 2010, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

X. Some other Important Dates and Deadlines

Monday, August 23, 2010	First day of Classes
Friday, August 27	Last day for faculty initiated drops for non-attendance
Friday, September 3	Last day to register; add class, etc.

Monday, September 6	Labor day holiday
Friday, October 1	Last day to drop class or withdraw completely
Mon – Sun, Nov 22 - 28	Thanksgiving Vacation
Friday, Dec 10	End of class instruction

XI. Academic Integrity

I will follow the rules as set forth in the Code of Conduct for Boise State University. Refer to Boise State’s Student Code of Conduct for definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty as well as policies and procedures for handling such cases. Student Code of Conduct is found at: <http://www2.boisestate.edu/studentconduct>

This policy is applicable to all of your classes and dealings with this University. Any student found plagiarizing, cheating or fabricating any assignment will receive an automatic “F” for the course and be dismissed from class immediately.

XII. 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. Information regarding disabilities and accommodations that the University can make for you are available at the Boise State University website.

XIII. Using Blackboard

Blackboard will be my primary means of “out of class” communication with you. I will post announcements, assignments, and other important information relevant to this course on Blackboard.

Important: Every time you log in, check the ANNOUNCEMENTS and COURSE DOCUMENTS folders!

Announcements: Check the ‘Announcements’ folder **daily** for important information pertaining to the class. Make sure you check both “View Today” and “View Last 7 Days.”

Course Documents: This is where I will upload a copy of the syllabus, and other relevant documents when and if the need arises.

I’ll use the email function of Blackboard 6 to notify you of any sudden changes (e.g., class cancellation). Keep your email addresses as listed with Blackboard and Broncoweb up-to-date. It is highly recommended that you log on to Blackboard this week and familiarize yourself. Blackboard Assistance -- Email: blackboard@boisestate.edu; Phone: 426-2583 (8 am -5 pm; Mon – Fri) Office: SM 201



Student Registration and Payment Instructions

Course Name: Islam, Microeconomics 2e (Krugman) Fall 2010

Start Date: 08/23/2010

Instructor: Samia Islam

Course Key: KWQR-47WZ-565H

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 **Create a New Account** link and choose **Student Account**. You will then enter your course key: **KWQR-47WZ-565H**. 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: **KWQR-47WZ-565H**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enroll in a New Course button at the top of your My Courses page 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 09/12/2010.*

Payment

Option 1: Digital Textbook with Aplia Access

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course from Aplia's website for \$80.00 USD.

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 \$52.00 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.*