

## Course Syllabus

### Course Information:

Principles of Microeconomics, ECON 202, Section 4036

### 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 an online course. You will read selections from the textbook and other material provided to you online, participate in online discussions, take online quizzes and tests.

For the most part, you can participate in these activities on your own schedule, right up to the deadline for each activity. You may complete the online activities from wherever you choose -- from home, from work, or from a campus computer lab. However, this course will be conducted on a fixed schedule, meaning that you will be unable to work ahead and complete the course before the semester ends. Instead, I will make available portions of the course on a modular basis, right up to the end of the semester. Modules are designed to cover a span of multiple weeks while individual subject material may only require a few days or a week at most.

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. Failing to participate in a substantial number of activities may mean that you do not pass the course. **Failure to complete the Syllabus Assignment (in the "Assignments" area of the course site) will result in you being administratively withdrawn from the course.**

If you do 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". All quizzes and exams, including a comprehensive final, will be on **blackboard** which will open on Thursday at 6:00 AM and close on Saturday at 11:30 PM (see course schedule for dates). The time and location of the final exam is as yet to be determined. **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>