

Spring 2011
Dept. Economics
Boise State University

ECON 202

Principles of Microeconomics *Section 002*

Professor: Dr. Zeynep K. Hansen
Office: Business Building, Room 311-K
Phone: 208-426-3314
E-mail: zeynep@boisestate.edu

Class times: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (3 credit course)

Class location: Business Building, Room B105

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Text: Tucker, I.B. Microeconomics for Today (7th 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 of 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, health 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 (7th 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 problem sets 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

How to access your Aplia course

Principles of Microeconomics Spring 2011

Instructor: Zeynep Hansen

Start Date: 01/18/2011

Course Key: HCWQ-RSZM-2RKJ

Registration

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

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/>
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (**HCWQ-RSZM-2RKJ**) 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: **HCWQ-RSZM-2RKJ**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Payment

Online: Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the CengageBrain website for US\$90.00.

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 from the Aplia website at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 02/07/2011.