

Spring 2011  
Economics 303  
Intermediate Microeconomics  
T Th 1:40–2:55pm

**Dr. Samia Islam**  
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Office Hours: T Th 3:00 – 4:00 pm, or by appointment

**I. Required Textbook:**

- a. *Microeconomics*, sixth edition, by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld (Pearson Prentice Hall).

Students are free to purchase this textbook new or used from any source of their choosing, including the BSU book store. They can also opt for any e-text that APLIA website might bundle along with APLIA online access (please check available options on APLIA website). I am not particular about where students buy their book, as long as they have access to a hardcopy text to read and review.

- b. APLIA (required): Students will also need to purchase access (\$40.00 for the semester) and register on APLIA ([www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com)). APLIA will be used for weekly homework assignments as well as a study tool to prepare for exams. Students will need to have a credit card in order to purchase APLIA access. Course key required to register on APLIA: **9JBS-9V5H-EZCW**

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

PREREQ: Principles of Microeconomics (EC202)

**2. Course Description:**

This course will explore the decision making of economic agents (consumers and firms). It will also examine how different market mechanisms operate to allocate resources. The material in this course will build upon and broaden the skills and economic concepts that were learned in ECON 202. It is a 300-level course and therefore, it will be demanding. Knowledge of basic math functions (e.g., solving equations, calculating slope, etc.) is essential for success in this class. We will begin by studying the theories of the consumer and the producer. Next we will combine both in the study of individual markets, including perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly, etc. Following this study of individual markets, we will discuss how all markets interact in the economy and emphasize the efficiency properties of the competitive system. In the final section of the course, we will analyze some topics that have come to play a more centralized role in microeconomic theory, such as game theory and strategic decision-making under uncertainty. The applied nature of the course will prepare students for more advanced studies in economics, as well as in managerial and public policy decision making.

### 3. Lectures & Readings:

I use powerpoint for my class lectures but good class notes are absolutely essential to do well in this course. The concepts, theory, and explanations of the topics covered in the lectures will require regular class attendance and participation.

The total number of chapters will be determined by the progress we make each day in class, but I intend to cover chapters 2-4, 6-10, 12-13, and 18 from the textbook. Chapter 1 is a recap of Econ202, and you are required to read it on your own. Reading assignments, either from the textbook or other sources, will be made on an as-needed basis. You are expected to read each chapter before we cover it in class.

### 4. Homework Assignments:

Weekly homework assignments on APLIA are designed to help you master the concepts and tools that we cover in class. These problem sets will be assigned using the online supplement, APLIA. All students must be registered on APLIA by the first day of class. Assignment due dates are non-negotiable.

### 5. Assessment & Class Policy:

Your progress toward achieving the above goals will be assessed using scores from 3 out of 4 non-cumulative exams, and homework assignments. Homework assignments will account for 25% of your final grade. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions that are based on material discussed/covered in class lectures, homework assignments and any 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 first three exams will be dropped. You are required to take Exam 4.

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, including the last one. Please refrain from emailing me, asking about when exam grades will be available.

### 6. Your Responsibilities and My Expectations of You:

- Attend every class meeting.
- Read the assigned chapters before class and come prepared to discuss the topics in class.
- Be aware of test dates, assignment due dates, course syllabus, test dates and all other course information. All of this information is available on Blackboard (and syllabus).
- 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.
- Register on APLIA (Instructions are included on the last page of this document). Work on the homework assignments and submit them on time. These assignments will help you understand the material and do well on the exams.
- Clarify any confusion you have on the class material by asking questions in class and/or during my office hours. The material in ECON 303 builds on itself, so be

sure to address any difficulties or any questions about the material covered in the class immediately, so that you don't fall behind.

- Turn off cell phones during class or set it to silent mode. If you have to receive a call, you will leave the class room.
- There are some disruptive behaviors that I will not tolerate in the classroom. Some of those include talking among yourselves while I am lecturing and being rude to your classmates and/or myself.

## 7. 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.

Cell phones must be turned off during class or set it to silent mode. If it rings, you will have to leave the class room.

### Email norms for this class:

Email messages need to be necessary, respectful (beginning with a proper address, such as “Prof. Islam or Dr. Islam”), concise, and clear. Texting language and acronyms in emails are not acceptable. For most course-related questions refer to syllabus first before emailing me. If you do not get an email response from me, it is likely that your email message did not meet the above guidelines.

## 8. Grading Weights

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Exam #3	25%
Homework	25%
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	100%

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

## 9. 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	59.49 or less
C+	76.5 - 79.49		

## 10. 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 which can be found at: <http://www.boisestate.edu/osrr/>

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

**11. 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.

**12. Course Outline:** (Subject to change)

- Week 1: Chapter 1 Preliminaries (read on your own)
- Week 2 -3: Chapter 2 The Basics of Supply and Demand  
Chapter 3 Consumer Behavior
- Week 4: Review & Exam 1
- Week 5: Chapter 4 Individual and Market Demand
- Week 6: Chapter 6 Production
- Week 7: Chapter 7 The Cost of Production
- Week 8: Review & Exam 2
- Week 9: Chapter 8 Profit Maximization and Competitive Supply
- Week 10: Chapter 9 The Analysis of Competitive Markets
- Week 11: Spring Break
- Week 12: Chapter 10 Monopoly
- Week 13: Review & Exam 3
- Week 14: Chapter 12 Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly
- Week 15: Chapter 13 Game theory and Competitive Strategy
- Week 16: Chapter 18 externalities and Public Goods (time permitting)
- Week 17: Exam 4

**13. Exam Dates**

<b>Exam 1</b>	Thursday, February 10, 2011
<b>Exam 2</b>	Thursday, March 10, 2010
<b>Exam 3</b>	Thursday, April 14, 2010
<b>Exam 4 (Finals week)</b>	Thursday, May 12, 1:00 – 2:15 P.M.

**14. Some other Important Dates and Deadlines**

Monday, Jan 24	Last day for faculty initiated drops for non-attendance
Monday, Jan 31	Last day to register; add class, etc.
Monday, Feb 28	Last day to drop class or withdraw completely
Mar 28- Apr 3	Spring Vacation

**15. Using Blackboard**

I will be using Blackboard (BB) for this course. This will be my primary means of “out of class” communication with you. Below are descriptions of the main functions that we’ll be using:

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

I'll use the email function of BB to notify you of any sudden changes (e.g., class cancellation). It is imperative that you keep your email addresses up-to-date AND check BB everyday. For technical difficulties with the BB website, **email: blackboard@boisestate.edu; or call (208) 426-2583 (8-5 Mon-Fri); Room: SM 201.**

## How to access your APLIA course

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Islam, Microeconomics 6e (P&R) Winter 2011

**Instructor:** Samia Islam  
**Start Date:** 01/10/2011  
**Course Key:** 9JBS-9V5H-EZCW

### Registration

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com/>
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** Go to your My Courses page, and click the *Enroll in a New Course* button.  
**If you don't have an account,** click the *Create a New Account* button, and choose *Student Account*.
3. Enter your Course Key when prompted: **9JBS-9V5H-EZCW**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions to access your course.

### Payment

**Online:** Purchase access to your course from the Aplia website for US\$40.00.

**Bookstore:** Purchase access to Aplia from your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 01/30/2011.