

SYLLABUS

Economics 303, Section 004 --- Intermediate Microeconomics Class Number 10286 Spring 2011

Instructor-----**Dr. Taylor Cox (Phone: 362-0487)**
email: westland100@cableone.net
Class Time-----**TuTh, 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.**
Location-----**Business Building, Room 221**
Office Hours-----**To be discussed the first day of class**

Required Text----- **Pindyck and Rubinfeld. 2009.**
Microeconomics, 7th Edition &
MyEconLab Student Access Code Card
(The use of this study tool will be discussed in class)
Pearson Higher Education.

COURSE DESCRIPTION--ECON 303 is the microeconomics half of the intermediate economic theory sequence. The material in this course assumes a good grasp of the skills and economic concepts from ECON 202 and deepens and broadens this knowledge. Please note that basic literacy with mathematics is required to be successful in this class. This course will 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. In addition we will look at the important role that market structure and the price mechanism play in scarce resource allocation, output composition, and income distribution. In addition to discussing economic theory we will try to relate these theories to what we see in the real world around us using empirical examples

COURSE REQUIREMENTS -- Your total grade will be based upon the following:

Homework	20%
Short Paper	20%
1 st Midterm exam	17.5%
2 nd Midterm Exam	17.5%
Final Exam	25%

- Homework may be completed with 1-2 other students, if desired. Under certain circumstances, **and** with the approval of the instructor, homework may be handed in late without penalty. Homework handed in late without prior approval, or beyond the approved extension will be subject to a grade reduction, and may not be accepted beyond two weeks.
- Four "Short Papers" will be required for this course, on the real-world application of the following concepts: Elasticity, the Production Function, Game Theory, and Net Present Value. A short paper is one that gets to the point, and should not be longer than 1-2 pages (single-spaced). A guideline sheet will be provided that should greatly simplify the way the papers are presented.

- The exams, which will test your knowledge and application of Key Terms and Concepts (a handout will be available identifying these), will be conducted during class-time. The midterm exams will consist of 40 questions each. The final exam will consist of 40 questions over the last chapters, and 20 questions over select previous principles and concepts. I will provide guidance as to which concepts to review. Beware--these have proven to be more difficult than you might think. Students who have done well on the exams have studied the assigned chapters, especially the terminology, tables and graphs exhibits in each chapter. Subjects that are emphasized in class are those most likely to be covered in the exams.
- Students will be graded as follows: 94-100% = A, 90-93% = A-, 87-89% = B+, 83-86% = B, 80-83% = B-, 77-79% = C+, 73-76% = C, 70-73% = C-, 67-69% = D+, 63-66% = D, 60-63% = D-, Below 60% = F.
NOTE: In borderline cases, attendance and active class participation may boost your grade up to a higher level.

Expectations:

- Attend class, be responsible for getting notes from others for any classes that you miss
- Provide advance notice of absences when possible
- Come to class prepared to participate in discussions of readings or assignments
- Seek help when needed
- Turn off cell phones during class and treat your classmates with respect

Academic dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism and other misconduct will not be tolerated. (Refer to <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. (Refer to http://drc.boisestate.edu/FAQ/index.cfm?subsection_id=46)

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

ECON 303 students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of fundamental microeconomic concepts such as opportunity cost, marginalism, the role of incentives, and the operation of markets. ECON 303 students will be able to effectively apply quantitative reasoning skills to interpret economic information contained in statistical relationships, data, and graphs, and will be able to apply economic concepts to business and policy issues.

Overall 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 decision making problems
- iii) develop the 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

Specific Learning Goals

- **Scarcity.** The student should be able to state the implications of the fact that the resources, from which the goods and services we want are produced, are limited. Among these implications is the fact that individuals and societies are forced to make choices.
- **Opportunity Cost.** The student should be able to identify the real costs associated with the resource allocation choices we make and explain how such costs affect the choices made by individuals, organizations, and governments.
- **Marginalism and Benefit/Cost Analysis.** The student should be able to use the benefit/cost framework to make decisions, especially decisions at the margin.
- **Self-Interest as the Driving Force.** The student should be able to explain the important role of self-interest as a force which directs resources to their highest and best use. This self-interest can be manifested as the individual attempts to maximize utility as businesses maximize profit.
- **Benefits from Voluntary Exchange.** The student should be able to explain why both parties benefit from an exchange which was voluntarily entered into and why that principle applies to countries as well as to individuals.
- **Markets and Prices.** Student should be able to explain how markets facilitate exchange and trade by establishing prices that serve as signals to buyers and sellers of resources, goods, and services. The student should be able to predict the consequences of price changes on resource allocation and consumer and business behavior. The student should be able to explain the causes of market failures.
- **Supply and Demand.** The student should be able to 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". The student should be able to use the concept of elasticity of demand and supply to predict market outcomes.
- **Competition.** The student should be able to explain the notion that competition and its importance in the efficient functioning of markets and prices. The student will also be able to determine what happens when markets are characterized by less-than-perfect competition.
- **The Principles of Comparative Advantage and Specialization.** The student will appreciate the economic benefits derived from adherence to the principles of comparative advantage, specialization, and trade.
- **Ethical Issues in Microeconomics.** The student should be able to identify the ethical issues that arise when evaluating market outcomes and public policies relating to markets.
- **Skills in Using Diagrams to Express Relationships.** The student will be able to 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 to relevant variables.

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE		BSU--ECON 303--Sec 004--Spring 2011 TuTh 9:15-10:30 am Business Bldg #221			
Date	Topic	Supplemental Material (Course Documents-BB)*	Date	Short Paper Due Dates	Assignment Due Dates
01/18/11	Introduction, Ch. 1 Preliminaries		01/18/11		
01/20/11	Ch. 2 Basics of Supply and Demand		01/20/11		
01/25/11	Ch. 3 Consumer Behavior		01/25/11		
01/27/11			01/27/11		
02/01/11	Ch. 4 Individual and Market Demand		02/01/11		
02/03/11			02/03/11		
02/08/11			02/08/11	Elasticity	
02/10/11	Ch. 5 Uncertainty and Consumer Behavior	Elasticity formulas	02/10/11		
02/15/11			02/15/11		
02/17/11	1ST MIDTERM EXAM: Ch. 1-5		02/17/11		Homework Set #1
02/22/11	Ch. 6 Production		02/22/11		
02/24/11			02/24/11		
03/01/11	Ch. 7 The Cost of Production		03/01/11		
03/03/11	Ch. 8 Profit Maximization and Competitive Supply		03/03/11		
03/08/11			03/08/11	Production Function	
03/10/11	Ch. 9 The Analysis of Competitive Markets	Market structures	03/10/11		
03/15/11			03/15/11		
03/17/11	Ch. 10 Market Power: Monopoly and Monopsony		03/17/11		
03/22/11			03/22/11		
03/24/11	Ch. 11 Pricing with Market Power		03/24/11		
04/05/11	2nd MIDTERM EXAM: Ch. 6-11		04/05/11		Homework Set #2
04/07/11	Ch. 12 Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly		04/07/11		
04/12/11	Ch. 13 Game Theory and Competitive Strategy		04/12/11		
04/14/11	Ch. 14 Markets for Factor Inputs		04/14/11		
04/19/11			04/19/11		
04/21/11	Ch. 15 Investment, Time, and Capital Markets		04/21/11		
04/26/11			04/26/11	Game Theory	
04/28/11	Ch. 16 General Equilibrium and Economic Efficiency		04/28/11		
05/03/11	Ch. 17 Markets with Asymmetric Information		05/03/11		
05/05/11	Ch. 18 Externalities and Public Goods		05/05/11		
05/12/11	FINAL EXAM: Ch. 28-33; Wrap-up (8:00 -10:00 am)		05/12/11	Net Present Value	Homework Set #3
		* In the Supplemental Links file, there may be references to material covering several topics, as well as those for the specific topics listed above			