

Summer 2010  
Dept. Economics  
Boise State University

## **ECON 303 Section 020**

### **Intermediate Microeconomics**

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In general, Dr. Mooney will teach the first half of the course and Dr. Hansen will teach the second half of the course.

**Please read the syllabus carefully.**

**Class times:** M, Tu, W, Th 9:40am –11:30am (3 credit course)  
**Class location:** Business Building, Room 302  
**Office hours:** Immediately after class, or by appointment.  
**Text:** Browning, E. K and M. A. Zupan. 2009. Microeconomics: Theory and Applications (10<sup>th</sup> Edition). John Wiley and Sons, Inc. *Plus Aplia registration.*

**Prerequisites:** ECON 202, Principles of Microeconomics (or equivalent).

### **Course description and goals**

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 will quickly deepen and broaden this knowledge. Please note that basic literacy with mathematics is required to be successful in this class. If you feel your basic math skills need to be improved please contact the mathematics department and see what time the mathematics help lab is available.

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.

In intermediate microeconomics we will take a more in depth look at the operation of the economy from several different perspectives including that of the consumer and the producer. In addition we will look at the important role that market structure plays in allocating scarce resources between market participants and determining market price. 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 such as energy demand, air pollution and many others.

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**

Browning, E. K and M. A. Zupan. 2009. Microeconomics: Theory and Applications (10<sup>th</sup> Edition). John Wiley and Sons, Inc. ***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 through the Aplia web site. ***Detailed instructions are included at the end of this syllabus (Based on previous experience this is the less costly option – but you should compare the prices to be sure).***

### **Additional useful materials**

1. There are many practice questions and excellent tutorials on the Aplia web site [www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com)
2. There are powerpoint presentations and practice questions also available on the “Student companion” web site produced by John Wiley publishers [www.Wiley.com](http://www.Wiley.com)

### **Reading**

We will try to cover several chapters in Browning and Zupan – 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** 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 cut off 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 the week before each exam and will be depended on our progress through the material).

One (1) final exam worth 25%.

#### **Problem sets:**

We will drop your lowest **two** problem set scores 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. Problem sets will 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 contact the professor 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

This is a tough class with a lot of materials. To do well, we 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.
3. **Participate** in class discussions and activities
4. **Come and see your professor** 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.

## Our expectations of you

- attend class and be responsible for assigning other students to get notes for you and pick up 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 your professor* 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 us

- assessment of your progress in mastering the subject matter 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
- availability (drop in or appointment) to discuss class materials
- 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](http://drc.boisestate.edu/FAQ/index.cfm?subsection_id=46)



## Student Registration and Payment Instructions

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**Course Name:** Browning/Zupan Intermed Micro 10e, Sum 2010

**Start Date:** 07/12/2010

**Instructor:** Sian Mooney

**Course Key:** 6QNY-CRTY-HHP4

**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: **6QNY-CRTY-HHP4**. 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: **6QNY-CRTY-HHP4**. 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 07/23/2010.*

### Payment

**Option 1: Digital Textbook with Aplia Access**

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course from Aplia's website for \$85.00 USD.

**Option 2: Physical Textbook with Aplia Access (also includes digital textbook)**

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course for \$85.00 USD and a physical book for \$50.00 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.*