

ECONOMICS 1A PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

Exams– There will be two midterms and a final exam:

MIDTERM #1: Thursday April 23

MIDTERM #2: Thursday May 21

FINAL EXAM: Saturday June 6, 10:30am-12:30pm

The final exam is comprehensive. All three exams are required. They will consist of multiple choice and written problems. Bring a Scantron to each exam.

Course Grade– The final grade will be determined by the three exams and the homework assignments with weighting as follows:

Midterm #1 20%

Midterm #2 20%

Homework 20%

Final Exam 40%

Lecture Time/Place– Tuesday, Thursday 1:40-3:00p, Hunt 100

Instructor Office Hours– Tuesday 3:30-4:30, Thursday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment in Room 1152 of the Social Science and Humanities (SSH) Building. I can be reached at hwhoynes@ucdavis.edu.

Section Meetings– Section meetings are a critical part of the course. You should regularly attend the section for which you are registered. Section meetings will review graded homework, discuss problem areas, and answer student questions.

Course Web Site– The course web page is available at <https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu>. You will find class information and announcements, syllabus, lecture and reading schedule, handouts and lecture notes, and exam solutions. Check it often for all updates and current information.

Required Textbook– Krugman and Wells, *Microeconomics*, Second Edition.

Homeworks– Economics is best learned through practice. The course will include 30 required homeworks (in determining your homework grade, we will drop the lowest 5 scoring homeworks). All homeworks will be done on the web using www.aplia.com. Students are REQUIRED to subscribe to the ECN1A Aplia course. There are several options to getting Aplia:

- Purchase an Aplia Access Card and a physical book together as a bundle at the bookstore
- Purchase the digital Textbook with Aplia Access from Aplia's website for \$70
- If you bought the text from some other source, you need to pay an additional \$70 to register for the required Aplia site. (This also gets you the digital text)

Please see “Aplia Course Key” handout for more information. The first graded homework is due Friday April 3, so register today and get started!

Accommodations for documented disabilities–Must be arranged with Professor Hoynes no later than Fri April 17. On or before that date an agreement must be signed detailing when and where each exam will be taken, and specifying what additional accommodations (if any) are required.

COURSE OUTLINE

The basic idea of microeconomics is to explain and analyze the motivations and consequences of decisions made by individuals and firms. The theories and assumptions discussed in this class are sometimes controversial, and even occasionally unreasonable, but they are always intended to provide guidance to observers and policymakers about important economic questions.

My interest in economics is motivated by an interest in helping to formulate better economic policies by various levels of government. My research is on programs for the low income population such as welfare and the EITC. This connection to government and public policy will be a theme in this course and a structure for learning and motivating the material.

I. Introduction (Chapters 1-2, Appendix to Ch 2)

- How do economists conceptualize the way individuals make decisions?
- How do individuals interact through markets?
- How does the economy work as a whole?
- What does it mean to "think like an economist"?
- In what sense is economics a "science"?

II. Supply and Demand: How Markets Work (Chapters 3-6)

- What is a market? What do we mean by supply and demand?
- How can we characterize how supply and demand respond to price?
- How, why, and to what effect does government intervene in the marketplace?
- What does it mean to say that markets are "efficient"?
- How might taxes interfere with market efficiency?
- How might policy makers react to this situation?

III. Economics of taxation (Chapter 7)

- If government must raise revenue, what principles should guide the choice of taxes?
- How high should taxes be?

IV. The Economics of the Public Sector (Chapters 17-19)

- How can the government improve on market allocations?
- What happens when market actions (such as pollution) harm the economy?
- Examples of market failure: externalities, public goods

V. Behind the Supply and Demand Curves (Chapters 9, 12)

- Where does the demand curve come from?
- How should we think about a firm's costs?

VI. Firm Behavior and the Organization of Industry (Chapters 13-14)

- How does a firm decide what to produce, and how much?
- How might monopoly compromise the workings of the market?

ECONOMICS 1A: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
PROFESSOR HILARY HOYNES, SPRING 2009

COURSE SCHEDULE, ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

Note: This is subject to change. Check schedule often.

Last Updated March 25, 2009

WEEK 1		
3/30	MONDAY	
3/31	TUESDAY	LECTURE #1 Ch. 1 First Principles
4/1	WEDNESDAY	
4/2	THURSDAY	LECTURE #2 Ch. 2 Tradeoffs and Trade Appendix to Chapter 2
4/3	FRIDAY	Aplia HW Due: Introduction to Using Aplia Problem Sets Aplia HW Due : Math and Graphing Assessment with Tutorials
WEEK 2		
4/6	MONDAY	
4/7	TUESDAY	LECTURE #3 Ch 3 Supply and Demand
4/8	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 1 Aplia HW Due: Ch 2
4/9	THURSDAY	LECTURE #4 Ch 3 Supply and Demand (cont) Ch 4 Consumer and Producer Surplus
4/10	FRIDAY	
WEEK 3		
4/13	MONDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 3
4/14	TUESDAY	LECTURE #5 Ch 4 Consumer and Producer Surplus (cont)
4/15	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 4

4/16	THURSDAY	LECTURE #6 Ch 5 The Market Strikes Back
4/17	FRIDAY	
WEEK 4		
4/20	MONDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 5
4/21	TUESDAY	LECTURE #7 Ch 6 Elasticities
4/22	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 6
4/23	THURSDAY	LECTURE #8 MIDTERM EXAM (CH 1-6)
4/24	FRIDAY	
WEEK 5		
4/27	MONDAY	
4/28	TUESDAY	LECTURE #9 Ch 7 Taxes
4/29	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW due: Ch 7
4/30	THURSDAY	LECTURE #10 Ch 9 Making Decisions
5/1	FRIDAY	
WEEK 6		
5/4	MONDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 9
5/5	TUESDAY	LECTURE #11 NO CLASS TODAY
5/6	WEDNESDAY	
5/7	THURSDAY	LECTURE #12 Ch 17 Externalities
5/8	FRIDAY	
WEEK 7		
5/11	MONDAY	
5/12	TUESDAY	LECTURE #13 Ch 17 Externalities (cont)
5/13	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 17

5/14	THURSDAY	LECTURE #14 Ch 18 Public Goods and Common Resources
5/15	FRIDAY	
WEEK 8		
5/17	MONDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 18
5/18	TUESDAY	LECTURE #15 Ch 19 The Economics of the Welfare State
5/19	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 19
5/20	THURSDAY	LECTURE #16 MIDTERM (CH 7,9 17-19)
5/21	FRIDAY	
WEEK 9		
5/25	MONDAY	
5/26	TUESDAY	LECTURE #17 Ch 12 Behind the Supply Curve
5/27	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 12
5/28	THURSDAY	LECTURE #18 Ch 13 Perfect Competition and the Supply Curve
5/29	FRIDAY	
WEEK 10		
6/1	MONDAY	
6/2	TUESDAY	LECTURE #19 Ch 13 Perfect Competition and the Supply Curve (cont)
6/3	WEDNESDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 13
6/4	THURSDAY	LECTURE #20 Ch 14 Monopoly
6/5	FRIDAY	Aplia HW Due: Ch 14

SATURDAY June 6	FINAL EXAM (in our regular classroom) Comprehensive exam. Covers Ch 1-6, 7, 9, 12-14, 17-19 10:30am-12:30pm
----------------------------------	--

