

Economics 2304: Microeconomics Principles Fall 2006 (Section: 04751)

Course Syllabus

Time: TTH 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Location: Agnes Arnold Hall, Room 106 (AH-106)
Instructor: Tanya Molodtsova
Office Hours: TTH 10.00 - 11.30am or by appointment
Office: McElhinney Hall, room 250
Tel: (713) 743-3816
Email: tvmolodt@mail.uh.edu
Web-page: <http://uh.edu/~tvmolodt>

Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Math 1310 (or a higher Math), or consent of instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that you have the necessary prerequisite.

Learning Outcomes: Students will understand basic microeconomic terms, concepts and methodology and demonstrate the ability to apply them to the fundamental economic question of allocating scarce resources. Students will understand market failure and externalities as well as the effects of government intervention in such markets. Students will be able to apply economic reasoning to better understand real world policy issues, such as tax system design, poverty, and discrimination

Required Text: N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Macroeconomics (4th edition) integrated with Aplia. This is an online integrated product available at www.aplia.com.

Required supplements: paid subscription to www.aplia.com (*Aplia*)

There are no make-up exams, so it is important that you do not miss either one. Midterm exams will be held in the ordinary classroom during the ordinary class time on the designated date. The lowest midterm grade will be dropped. Departmental exam will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.; room number will be announced by instructor. You must complete weekly assignments online (typically, the due date is each Saturday 11:45pm) and, in addition, you are responsible for all lecture materials and reading assignments.

NO MAKE UP EXAMS. Any missed exam will receive a grade of zero. There are no exceptions. You are expected to show up to the exams (and class) on time.

CLASS INFORMATION: THE SYLLABUS IS PRELIMINARY AND IS THE SUBJECT OF CHANGE. If you miss a class, you are expected to get material from another student in the course. If you work and your job is such that you are unable to attend lectures, then you should not be enrolled in this course. I will not give any information over the phone or email that you would have known had you attended class or read the web page information.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (total 15%): There will be home assignments every week. During this course, to complete certain assignments, you will be required to access a new website dedicated to students and professors of economics. To access the website, you need to register for an account with *Aplia* at <http://econ.aplia.com>. At the end of this syllabus I have provided you with an instruction sheet as well as a course key so that you can register. Please, register on the website as soon as possible. There is a grace period for payment. During this grace period you WILL BE allowed to complete all assignments even if you have not paid yet. If you don't pay by the deadline, however, you will then be locked out of the website.

Homeworks will count for 15% of your final grade. Some of the homework assignments are for practice only and will not count towards your homework grade. **Generally, graded assignments are due every Saturday by 11:45 p.m.** I advise you NOT wait until Saturday to start these assignments! Please note that these due dates are strict and NO exceptions can be made. Because of this lack of flexibility each student is allowed four free passes. This will help account for computer and other problems that may prohibit you from completing an assignment.

No more than four homework grades will be dropped **for any reason**, so be sure you are aware of all due dates and start assignments early! Assignments and quizzes may be added later, so be sure to check often!

GRADES: GRADES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE. Do not contact me after the final semester grades have been posted asking me to change your grade for any reason. [Of course, if you believe your grade was posted erroneously by all means DO contact me.] In addition, **there is NO extra credit for this course. Don't ask.**

EXAMS AND GRADING POLICY: There will be 3 MIDTERM EXAMS that will cover the relevant sections of the class. The lowest of your three midterm exam scores will be dropped; the other two will count for 30% each (**total 60%**). The tentative dates for exams are listed in the course outline on the attached page. If the date of exam is going to change I will announce it in advance. It is your responsibility to make sure there are no schedule conflicts with other classes you enrolled in. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Homework assignments	15%
Exam I	30%
Exam II	30%
Final Exam	25%

Grade scale:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

*note that grades may be curved so that the class distribution is normalized (the familiar “Bell curve”). So, on midterm scores you should consider your percentage grade as your “worst case scenario”. It is possible for there to be no curve.

Important Dates:

Midterm #1: September, 12

Midterm #2: October, 10

Midterm #3: November, 21

Midterm #4: December, 9

Course Outline:

Dates	Topics Covered	Chapters	Notes
08/22	Ten Principles of Economics	1	
08/24	Thinking like an Economist	2	HW: Chapters 2
08/29	Interdependence and Gains from Trade	3	
08/31	The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	4	HW: Chapters 3,4
09/05	Elasticity and Its Application (Part I)	5	
09/07	Elasticity and Its Application (Part II)	5	HW: Chapter 5
September, 12	MIDTERM EXAM #1	Chapters: 1-5	
09/14	Supply, Demand & Government Policies (Part I)	6	
09/15	***** LAST DAY TO FILE FOR FALL GRADUATION *****		
09/18	***** LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT A GRADE *****		
09/19	Supply, Demand & Government Policies (Part II)	6	
09/21	Consumers, Producers & Efficient Markets (Part I)	7	HW: Chapter 6
09/26	Consumers, Producers & Efficient Markets (Part II)	7	
09/28	Application: The Costs of Taxation	8	HW: Chapter 7
10/03	Application: International Trade (Part I)	9	
10/05	Application: International Trade (Part II)	9	HW: Chapters 8,9
October, 10	MIDTERM EXAM #2	Chapters: 6 - 9	
10/12	Externalities	10	HW: Chapter 10
10/17	Public Goods and Common Resources	11	
10/19	The Design of the Tax System	12	HW: Chapters 11,12
10/24	The Costs of Production (Part I)	13	
10/26	The Costs of Production (Part II)	13	HW: Chapter 13
10/31	Firms in Competitive Markets (Part I)	14	
11/01	***** LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE OR WITHDRAW *****		
11/02	Firms in Competitive Markets (Part II)	14	HW: Chapter 14
11/07	Monopoly (Part I)	15	
11/09	Monopoly (Part II)	15	HW: Chapter 15
11/14	Oligopoly	16	
11/16	Monopolistic Competition	17	HW: Chapters 16,17
November, 21	MIDTERM EXAM #3	Chapters: 10 - 17	
11/22 -11/25	***** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY*****		
11/28	The Markets for Factors of Production	18	
11/30	Earnings and Discrimination Income Inequality and Poverty	19&20	HW: Chapters 18-20
12/02	***** LAST DAY OF CLASSES *****		
12/09	***** DEPARTMENTAL FINAL EXAM: CHAPTERS 1-20 *****		

Course Name: Principles of Micro (Mankiw Custom), Fall 2006

Start Date: 08/21/2006

Professor: Tetyana Molodtsova

Course Key: USJU-Z64C-FGVB

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and a website.
 - You will save money if you buy these together.
 - You have 1 purchase option.
 - Don't buy anything until you understand your alternatives.
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Registration

Registration Instructions

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com> .
2. Click the **System Configuration Test** link below the **Sign In** and **Register** sections to make sure you can access all of the features on Aplia's website. This takes just a few seconds and tells you how to update your browser settings if necessary.
3. Return to <http://www.aplia.com> .
 - If you have never used Aplia before, click the **New Student** button to register and follow the registration instructions.
 - If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual e-mail address and password. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the **Enter Course Key** button to enroll in a new Aplia course.
4. During registration, enter your course key: **USJU-Z64C-FGVB**.
5. If you understand your payment options, pay now. Otherwise, postpone your purchase decision by choosing the option to pay later. Your payment grace period ends at midnight on 09/11/2006.

Payment

Pay Aplia Directly

- Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on our website for \$65.00 USD. The website includes:
 - An online copy of your textbook.
 - Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.
- However, if you try using the online textbook and decide you would also like a physical textbook, you can order one from Aplia for \$50.00 USD plus shipping.