

**Principles of Economics
Economics 11
Department of Economics
Clark University
Spring 2018**

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Lectures: Mon/Thurs: 1:25 – 2:40
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Course Objectives:

This course is designed to further develop the microeconomic concepts of economics introduced in ECON10: the basic economic concepts and elementary analytical tools that economists have developed to study consumers, firms, markets, and their interactions. The objective is to provide students with a basic understanding of how individuals and firms make decisions, how markets function, as well as other topics in microeconomics. A key goal of the course is to apply the theoretical insights of economics as a framework for understanding economic and social outcomes.

Role in the Curriculum:

This is the second core course in economics major (or minor) and is a prerequisite for all 200-level Economics courses. It will help students develop the analytical skills and economic intuition that will help them in future classes.

LEEP Learning Outcomes:

This course fulfills the Formal Analysis component of the Program of Liberal Studies (PLS); you will apply the theoretical insights of economics as a framework for understanding economic and social outcomes.

The course also conforms with two of the LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) learning outcomes. In terms of intellectual and practice skills, we will compare different types of industry organization, and explain why market equilibria might or might not be optimal. As it pertains to the ability to integrate knowledge and skills, students will be able to identify the motivation for public policy and appraise its design and implementation.

Clearly the content of the course includes foundational disciplinary knowledge as well as incorporating rigorous economic analytical tools to further develop intellectual and practical skills in critical thinking, evaluation of evidence, written and oral communication and quantitative literacy.

Course Prerequisite:

ECON10 (or placement out of ECON10 through AP or similar credit).

Text and other Resources:

Required: Mankiw, N.G. (2017) *MindTap Economics, 1 term (6 months) Instant Access for Mankiw's Principles of Microeconomics*, 8th Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage

MindTap is an online portal that we will be using to perform a chunk of our coursework and is required. This also allows you to get instant feedback on the questions, as well as study guides for chapters. Further, it will provide you with a digital copy of the textbook. A free trial is available until February 5th, after this entering a purchased access code (like from the book store), will be necessary.

ISBN: 9781337096560

Format of Course:

The course will meet twice a week and the class will consist of lecture and problem solving designed around readings and course objectives. Students are expected to read the relevant material before class. **Attendance is mandatory**, and will be a part of your overall grade. Students are responsible for all material covered in classes in which they are absent and for all announcements.

Discussion Sessions

Each week your TA will be having two non-mandatory weekly TA discussion sessions. These sessions are designed for you to have additional practice or get help with the Problem Sets. To provide you with a chance to get help practicing each topic, I have compiled a list of voluntary questions that will be gone over in these sessions. You do not have to do them but are encouraged to go to the discussion sessions with the questions attempted. A schedule of which chapters will be covered each week will be provided once a room is selected.

Grading:

The final letter grade for this course will be based upon the performance in attendance (5%), MindTap assignments (20% total), problem sets (30% total), two in-class exams (10% each), and the project (10%) and a cumulative final (15%). *Class participation will be a **major** consideration for deciding borderline grades, it is important not to just show up but to be actively engaged.*

Final grades will be assigned as follows: A+ (98-100); A (94-97); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D (60-69). This course does not offer extra credit.

Exams:

There will be two in-class exams and a cumulative final on the “official” final date (dates on attached schedule). The exams will have multiple choice and open response/quantitative questions. Any special accommodations must be scheduled at least one week before the exam date. Make-up exams will be given only under exceptional circumstances, and students must discuss this with me, in person, **before** the scheduled time of the exam. Note the date of the cumulative final: **May 4th, 2018, from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Location TBA.** I have no control over this. If you have made plans to leave Clark before that date, either change your travel plans or drop this course **now**.

MindTap Assignments & Problem Sets:

There will be five MindTap assignments for this course (due dates on attached schedule). The purpose of these online assignments is for students to further engage with the material you see in-class and read from the textbook. You have three attempts at each question, and guidance is given after each try. An average of your scores is taken across all attempts. Online assignments are graded automatically upon completion, and if not submitted, are graded as is at the deadline. So leave your best answers if you have tried it. Your best three MT assignments will be worth 6% each, your fourth best will be 2% and I will drop your lowest score.

Further, there will be problem sets assigned before each exam. These are to be handed in in class. They are due the day of the in-class review at the start of class as will be covered in class that day. Bring a second copy for you to follow along/check your answers with. **Late submissions** on these **are docked 33%**, even if you are not in-class, they must find a way to us on time. They are due at 1:30 and if they only appear under my office door at 3, they are late. These are designed for you to practice working economics questions out by hand and are to be taken as a practice exam. So, handing it in after they’ve been reviewed, and answers are available isn’t fair to you or your classmates.

Project:

To demonstrate the intellectual and practical skills gained in the application of economics developed during this course, students will work on a project taking them through the different topics we covered, obtaining original data, analyzing and interpreting this data and writing a formal report. You will pick a partner. More information is on Moodle.

Active Learning

Every one unit/free credit hour course at Clark University has 180 hours of associated engaged academic time. In this course, for the typical student, they will be likely divided as follows:

Class time:	35 hours (28 classes x. 1.25 hours)
Reading:	40 hours (20 chapters x 2 hours)
MindTap Assignments	25 hours (5 modules x 5 hours)
Problem Sets	21 hours (3 packets x 7 hours)
Studying for exams:	35 hours (2 midterms x 10 hours, final 15 hours)
Project:	25 hours (15 meeting and research, 10 hrs writing)

Academic Integrity:

[language taken from Academic Advising website]**

“Academic integrity is a basic value for all higher learning. Simply expressed, it requires that work presented must be wholly one's own and unique to that course. All direct quotations must be identified by source. Academic integrity can be violated in many ways: for example, by submitting someone else's paper as one's own; cheating on an exam; submitting one paper to more than one class; copying a computer program; altering data in an experiment; or quoting published material without proper citation of references or sources. Attempts to alter an official academic record will also be treated as violations of academic integrity.

To ensure academic integrity and safeguard students' rights, all suspected violations of academic integrity are reported to the College Board. Such reports must be carefully documented, and students accused of the infraction are notified of the charge. In the case of proven academic dishonesty, the student will receive a sanction, which may range from an F in the assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the University.”

The complete academic integrity policy is available with Academic Advising at <http://www.clarku.edu/offices/aac/integrity.cfm>

Students with Documented Disabilities:

If a student requires accommodation in this course due to a documented disability, you must be registered with the Student Accessibility Services. For information, please contact Adam Kosakowski, Director of Student Accessibility Services at 508-798-4368 or at akosakowski@clarku.edu. If you are registered with SAS, and qualify for accommodations that you would like to utilize in this course, please request those accommodations through SAS in a timely manner.

Office Hours:

I can be found in Jonas Clark Hall, 202B. My office hours are Mondays 3-4 and Thursday from 11-12. If you are not able to come to office hours and need to meet with me, email me to schedule an appointment.

Use of Moodle:

There is a Moodle page for this course. It is mostly used as a storehouse for important materials and for class communication.

Tentative Course Outline and Disclaimer:

A course outline is attached. I reserve the right to make changes to any information contained in this syllabus or attached course schedule at any time during the semester. An updated version of the syllabus and/or course schedule will be discussed and distributed to students if changes are made and posted to the course Moodle page.