

ECN 101: Principles of Microeconomics
Department of Economics and Finance
Summer 2019

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr Martin Stack

Instructor's Email: martin.stack@rockhurst.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday: 11:05 am – 12:15 pm

Class location: Kaletsch Campus, Room 4

Class meeting times: Mon-Thurs, 8:30 – 11:05 am

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an entry-level course in economics, covering fundamentals of microeconomics and aimed at students who choose it as an elective or plan to continue their studies in economics. This course helps students develop basic analytical skills in economics and microeconomics. It provides students with a basic understanding of the market system in advanced capitalist economies. It examines the logic of constrained choice with a focus on the economic behavior of individuals and organizations. After a theoretical analysis of the determinants and the interaction of supply and demand under competitive conditions, alternative market structures will be investigated, including monopolistic and oligopolistic forms. The course examines the conditions under which markets allocate resources efficiently and identifies causes of market failure and the appropriate government response. The introduction to the role of government includes its taxing and expenditure activities as well as regulatory policies.

III. RATIONALE

This entry-level course in economics covers the fundamentals of macroeconomics and is aimed at students who choose it as an elective or plan to continue their studies in economics. Together with ECN 100, it provides the necessary prerequisites for any other upper-level course in economics. The course is a program requirement for the majors in International Banking and Finance, International Economics, International Relations, International Management, and Environmental Science. It is also a prerequisite for Economics as a combined major as well as a minor. It fulfills core requirements in the Area of Knowledge “International Engagement”.

IV. COURSE GOALS:

This is an entry-level course in economics, covering fundamental of microeconomics and aimed at students who choose it as an elective or plan to continue their studies in economics. Together with ECN 100, it provides the necessary prerequisites for any other upper-level course in economics. It is a program requirement for the majors in International Banking and Finance, International Economics, International Management, International Relations, and Environmental Science. It is also a prerequisite for Economics as a combined major as well as a minor. This course helps students develop basic analytical skills in economics and microeconomics. It provides students with a basic understanding of the market system in advanced capitalist economies. It examines the logic of constrained choice with a focus on

the economic behavior of individuals and organizations. After a theoretical analysis of the determinants and the interaction of supply and demand under competitive conditions, alternative market structures will be investigated including monopolistic and oligopolistic forms. The course examines the conditions under which markets allocate resources efficiently and identifies causes of market failure and the appropriate government response.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of microeconomic concepts, especially those relating to supply, demand, and elasticity.
2. Students will apply basic supply and demand models and explain how the concept of elasticity relates to supply and demand.
3. Students will evaluate the assumptions regarding markets and welfare.
4. Students will examine and analyze firm behavior and various forms of industry organization.
5. Students will prepare a microeconomic analysis of a firm and an industry.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, *Principles of Microeconomics*, 2nd ed.
- Additional reading will be uploaded into Moodle.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Exam 1 | 100 pts | (25%) |
| Exam 2 | 100 pts | (25%) |
| Research paper | 100 pts | (25%) |
| Research paper Oral Presentations | 50 pts | (12.5%) |
| Class participation and attendance | 50 pts | (12.5%) |
| ----- | | |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>400 pts</i> | <i>(100%)</i> |

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

- *Exams:* There will be two exams: the exams will consist of problem, short answer questions and essays. I will provide a review guide before each exam.
- Class Participation and Preparation:
 - Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments and to be able to relate materials from current newspapers and economics magazines to course topics.
 - There will be regular articles assigned from the Financial Times and the Economist, and we will discuss these articles in class.
 - We will also discuss homework problems in nearly every class: students will be required to discuss their solutions to these problems.
- *Research Paper: due Tuesday, 25 June.*
- *Oral Presentations will be made on Thursday, 27 June.*

The paper will consist of a 10 page, double-spaced economic analysis of a firm and an industry: Details for the project and oral presentation will be discussed in class and distributed on-line.

IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Grading Scale:

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|--------|----|
| 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+ |
| 60-66 | D |
| < 60 | F |

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Class behavior: On-time arrival, respect, courtesy, attentiveness, not leaving while class is in session without permission to be obtained before class begins, not using devices for personal reasons.

Attendance and class work: Learning is an active process. Turning in work and attending classes does not ensure a passing grade. To succeed in this course you should be rather active both during class meetings and outside of class. You are required to read the assignments before the class meetings, as we will discuss the content of the readings in class. Should you miss a class, you are responsible for any missed information. Extended absences may result in you being invited to withdraw from the class.

STUDY TIPS:

It may help to take note of the following tips to assist you in your studies:

- ✓ Visit the Moodle page and check your Franklin email regularly to make sure you are informed of announcements and new posts.
 - ✓ Always do the required reading before attending class.
 - ✓ Come to class prepared to learn and participate in class.
 - ✓ Lectures do not cover every chapter's detail. I will concentrate on the core and basic topics and use material not included in your textbook.
 - ✓ Ask questions in class. Don't let your questions go unanswered!
 - ✓ Take good notes and review them soon after class.
 - ✓ Economics is a "language" that is spoken in "math" as well as in "words." So, you need the study skills from both quantitative, as well as qualitative, learning. Many of the "stories" in economics are explained in both words, graphs, and math.
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X: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement:

<https://www.fus.edu/academics/academic-catalog>

XI: RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Writing and Learning Center: <https://www.fus.edu/services/accessibility-and-tutoring/tutoring>

Accessibility Services: <https://www.fus.edu/services/accessibility-and-tutoring/accessibility>

XII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Tentative Course Schedule:

| | Text readings |
|--------------------|--|
| Week 1-Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Introduction and Overview • Chapter 3: Supply and Demand |
| Week 1—Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 (continued): Supply and Demand • Chapter 5: The Market Strikes Back |
| Week 1—Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: (continued) The Market Strikes Back • Chapter 4: Consumer and Producer Surplus |
| Week 1—Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Elasticity |
| Week 2—Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Behind the Supply Curve |
| Week 2—Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Chapter 12: Behind the Supply Curve (continued)</u> |
| Week 2—Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 |
| Week 2—Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video and Reading—see Moodle and class announcement |
| Week 3—Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch 13: Perfect Competition |
| Week 3—Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch 14: Monopoly continued |
| Week 3---Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch 15: Oligopoly |
| Week 3—Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16: Monopolistic Competition |
| Week 4—Monday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8: International Trade |
| Week 4—Tuesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESEARCH PAPERS DUE • Chapter 20: Factor Markets and Distribution of Income |
| Week 4—Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 |
| Week 4--Thursday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Presentation—Research Papers |