

Florida International University
Department of Economics
ECO3101: Intermediate Microeconomics

Instructor: Rafael Dacal
Lecture hours: Thursday 18:25 – 21:05
Room Number Academic Health Center Room 3-215
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Office hours: 17:30 – 18:15 at the Steven and Dorothy Green Library or
Immediately after class
Course ID 014573
Class Number 77437

Course Description:

The course description is: Analysis of markets, theory of firm, demand and production theories, general equilibrium, and welfare economics

Course General Objective

This course covers microeconomics: supply and demand, consumer choice, cost and production, competitive and non-competitive markets.

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is required. I could make changes to exam dates, and course material could be handed out. If for some reason you miss a class, it is the student's responsibility, ***not the professor's***, to know what transpired in class.

I will take attendance using submitted homework. We have a limited number of classes. If you miss more than three classes without an acceptable excuse, I could exercise the right to issue an "F0" in the class.¹

If someone is caught submitting homework for a different student, both students will receive a "zero (0)" for the submitted HW (I consider this to be cheating).

¹ I define acceptable excuses as medical treatment or incarcerated during class hours.

In-Class and Online Courtesy:

In Class Etiquette

General rules are (in no particular order):

1. Students need to come to class on time, and he/she should plan to attend for the entire lecture.
2. Turn your cell phones and other electronic devices off prior to entering the classroom (That includes tablets, laptops, etc...).
3. Do not bring your laptop; you will not need it.
4. Students are required to read assigned chapters and associated homework before attending the class. Being prepared for class can make a huge difference.
5. As crazy as this may seem, students should **abstain from using drugs** before class.

Netiquette

In all online communication, it is expected that all students will follow rules of online “netiquette.” Netiquette is a set of rules for polite online behavior that all members of this class are expected to follow. Review some of the general netiquette rules.

Individuals who violate the netiquette policy or engage in disruptive online behaviors such as posting disrespectful or hostile comments, or posting inappropriate comments may have their class access privileges revoked and/or they may be referred to the Student Dean. Students, who continue to engage in unacceptable online behavior even after being warned, may be permanently denied access to the class and/or may receive an F for the class.

Class participation

Class participation accounts for approximately 10 percent of student’s total grade. Students are required to attend scheduled classes. Student is to arrive on time, and he/she should plan to attend for the entire lecture. Student should read and view videos on assigned chapters before attending the class. They should complete their homework before class and be ready to participate.

In essence, participation grade is based on the student’s ability to show interest and in his/her ability to provide economic insight to a class discussion.

Showing-up to class is not participating. Being physically in the class room does not constitute participating. **Talking is not participation.** You must make sense with respect to the class discussion.

Participation grade will be based in a small part on class attendance and HWs submission (a necessary but not sufficient condition). Students who achieved these criteria are ready to learn. But most importantly, **Participation will be based on** whether the student asks intelligent questions in class and provides insightful understanding of the class material

during in class discussions. Students who exemplify these criteria will be considered as participating.

Student's Responsibility:

1. It is the student's responsibility to know what is being covered in class.
2. It is the student's responsibility to take the exams and to know any changes in dates.
3. It is the student's responsibility to take their online quizzes before their due dates.
4. It is the student's responsibility to turn in his/her HW assignments on time.
5. It is the student's responsibility to read the web page/Blackboard for course updates.

Important:

Many students are under the impression that if they miss every class and/or exams, I can help them pass or give them an incomplete. I cannot. Others student belief a score of 40 out of 100 in every exam is good enough to pass a course (because they expect a huge curve). It is not. If you want help from me, you (the student) must show interest in the class. The student must go to class, do exercises, ask intelligent questions, and ask for help well before final exam date. If you ask for help the day before the final, there is very little I can do for you at that time.

I encourage all students to remember the following expressions for this class (and life in general):

- Always think ahead
- "Lack of planning on your part is not an emergency on my part" (anonymous)

All things aside, life happens and I will help whenever it is *possible*. I will send out emails as the semester progress providing guidance to the class if such event takes place.

Required texts:

- *Microeconomics* (5th Edition), Besanko & Braeutigam, Wiley, ©2010.

Special Accommodations:

As a disabled veteran, I am more than willing to assist anyone with a disability(s). Because of confidentiality, I am not made aware of any disability a student may have. If a student would like to request a special accommodation, he/she must work with the Disability Resource Center in advance and follow the appropriate process. Until the student asks for assistance at the Disability Resource Center, I will assume all students are able to do the work without providing any accommodation. Also, I would like to note that accommodations are not retroactive per Disability Resource Center policy. There are two Disability Resource Centers located at Biscayne and Maidique campuses. If you need more information, please come see me for information.

Important Dates:

First class meeting:	August 24 th , 2016
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 24 th & 25 th , 2016
Last day of class:	November 30 th , 2016
Finals week:	December 7 th , 2016
Dateline for grade submission:	December 14 th , 2016

Electronic Communication Policy for this class:

The following are my policies for electrical communication.

1. I will not open or read any email that is not from an FIU account.
2. I will only send email (or mass email) to your FIU account.
3. I will not open attachments through email (I am paranoid about viruses).
4. Student must send email with time for me to respond.
5. I will check my emails every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at a minimum.

Homework

Students are required to submit homework assignment at the start of every scheduled class. Homework assignment will consists of two questions from the “Problem” section at the end of each chapter. In order to obtain credit, student must:

1. Submit work on time (no late work will be accepted for HW grade).
2. Show all the steps to obtain the correct results (copying the question and final answer will not due).
3. Clearly and neatly write your answers

If mathematical or logical steps are not shown, no grade will be given. If student is sloppy in his/her writing, I will deduct up to, but not more than, 50% of the submitted homework.

The chapter assignment is due the same date as listed below (see Course Schedule table).

Extra Credit:

I will **not** give extra credit assignments. Curves will be administered at the end of the semester only if I deem them necessary.

I believe a student that does not know at least 60 percent of subject matter at the end of the semester, did not learn the basics. Hence, if the student’s exam score is below 60 percent, the student should not expect to receive a curve.

Make-up Policy:

No make-ups will be administered after the exam date. All quizzes and test are ported online and are available for several day. Please do not ask me, I will not do it.

An outpatient procedure or a cold the day of an exam is not a legitimate excuse for missing any online assessment. Assessments (quizzes/exams) are schedule for multiple days including the weekend and class time online. If you schedule a medical procedure on the day of an exam, you need to take the exam on the day/night prior. This paragraph is trying to illustrate to all students to plan ahead because I have set up all assessments to be available for multiple days to eliminate any possible excuses.

Course Outline		
Chapters	Titles	Dates
	<i>Class Introduction</i>	August 24 th , 2017
Chapter 1	<i>Analyzing Economic Problems</i>	August 24 th , 2017
Chapter 2	<i>Demand and Supply Analysis</i>	August 31 st , 2017
Chapter 3	<i>Consumer Preferences and the Concept of Utility</i>	August 31 st , 2017
Chapter 4	<i>Consumer Choice</i>	September 7 th , 2017
Chapter 5	<i>The Theory of Demand</i>	September 14 th , 2017
Chapter 6	<i>Inputs and Production Functions</i>	September 21 th , 2017
Chapter 7	<i>Costs and Cost Minimization</i>	September 28 th , 2017
Chapter 8	<i>Cost Curves</i>	October 5 th , 2017
Chapter 9	<i>Perfectly Competitive Markets</i>	October 26 th , 2017
Chapter 11	<i>Monopoly and Monopsony</i>	November 16 th , 2017
Chapter 13	<i>Market Structure and Competition</i>	November 16 th , 2017

*All the quizzes are only available in Blackboard.

Meeting Date

- August 24th, 2017
- August 31st, 2017
- September 7, 2016
- September 14th, 2017
- September 21th, 2017
- September 28th, 2017
- October 5th, 2017
- October 26th, 2017
- November 16th, 2017

Assessment Rules:

I maintain a zero (0) tolerance policy with regards to cheating. Students caught cheating during a test will receive grade of “**F=0**” for the exam, and further action may be taken. Repeat offenders will be required to sign an informal resolution which will be filed with the Dean’s office for further disciplinary actions. If you have any questions, read the student’s manual.

Bring an ID to Exam 2. You may not be allowed to turn in an exam without proof of identification.

Exam and assignment weights:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Exams | 30% (10% each) |
| 2. Quizzes | 30% (average from the 11 quizzes) |
| 3. Class participation | 10% |
| 4. Homework | 15% |
| 5. Chapter Presentation | 15% |

Quiz* Outline		
Chapters	Titles	Due Dates
Chapter 1	<i>Analyzing Economic Problems</i>	August 31 st , 2017
Chapter 2	<i>Demand and Supply Analysis</i>	September 7 th , 2017
Chapter 3	<i>Consumer Preferences and the Concept of Utility</i>	September 7 th , 2017
Chapter 4	<i>Consumer Choice</i>	September 14 th , 2017
Chapter 5	<i>The Theory of Demand</i>	September 21 th , 2017
Chapter 6	<i>Inputs and Production Functions</i>	September 28 th , 2017
Chapter 7	<i>Costs and Cost Minimization</i>	October 5 th , 2017
	<i>Online Exam I (Chapters 1 – 4)</i>	October 12 th , 2017
Chapter 8	<i>Cost Curves</i>	October 19 th , 2017
	<i>Online Exam II (Chapters 5 – 8)</i>	November 2 nd , 2017
Chapter 9	<i>Perfectly Competitive Markets</i>	November 9 th , 2017
Chapter 11	<i>Monopoly and Monopsony</i>	November 30 th , 2017
Chapter 13	<i>Market Structure and Competition</i>	November 30 th , 2017
	<i>Online Exam III (Chapter 9, 11 and 13)</i>	December 7 th , 2017

Team presentations

There is team presentations. Each presentation should last about 15 to 20 minutes (no more) per person (One hour top). The requirements are:

1. All team members must present some portion of the material.
2. Teams will be assigned randomly.
3. The presentation consists of a PowerPoint slide deck – I have provided the deck in Blackboard.
4. Team presentation must include highlights of the chapter covered (important topics in each of the chapters assigned). Presentation is intended:
 - a. Help lead discussion as the class goes over the material
 - b. Require students to prepare for class
 - c. Provide a method for in-class dialog
5. Grading for this assignment is divided into two parts: group presentation and individual presentation. Each portion is 50% of the total presentation grade.
6. Students who miss the first class of the semester will be assigned to a group at the discretion of the professor.

Academic Honesty

Your academic work must be the result of your own thought, research, or self-expression. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unacceptable collaboration, falsification of data, aiding and abetting dishonesty, unauthorized or malicious interference, hacking computer property or software, and online disturbances. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct Policy and the Student Code of Conduct section located in the Student Handbook for more information. All required class activities are subject to submission to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Types of Academic Dishonesty:

- **Cheating:** Is defined as obtaining or attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain credit for work by dishonest or deceptive means.
- **Plagiarism:** The use of words or ideas of the original creator without attribution as if they were your own. Plagiarism ranges from copying someone else's work verbatim and elaborating on or altering someone else's work.
- **Self-Plagiarism:** Submitting or reusing parts of a previous paper without referencing source it was first submitted. This includes retaking a course and turning in previously submitted papers and data.
- **Unacceptable Collaboration:** Using answers, solutions, or ideas that are the results of collaboration without citing the fact of the collaboration is improper.
- **Falsification of Data:** Making up or falsifying information and data. Examples include making up or altering data for an experiment or citing reference to sources you did not actually use.
- **Pay Services:** Employing an assignment writing service or having another write the paper for you.
- **Enabling:** Aiding and abetting another student in an act of academic dishonesty. Examples include giving someone a paper to copy and allowing someone access to your account.
- **Unauthorized or malicious interferences:** If one person deliberately interferes with the work or activities of another person on purpose to cause the other harm or irreparable damages. Academic honesty violations are considered a breach of policy and may result in academic penalties (zero points on the assignment/test in question, and/or a failing grade for the class), disciplinary action, and/or referral to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Syllabus is a "Live" Document

Please recall that this syllabus is a live document and things may change in the course of the semester as I, the professor, deem necessary. Any changes we agree to during class will require a change to the syllabus to become formal. If there is no change to the syllabus, there is no change. This is why it is important that you check the syllabus every so often (e.g., once a week or once every other week) and come to class.

Final Class Grade Scale:

When computing the final class grade, the following standard will be used.

A	100 – 94
A –	93 – 88
B +	87 – 84
B	83 – 79
B –	78 – 75
C +	74 – 73
C	72 – 67
D	66 – 60
F	59 – 0