

Florida International University Department of Economics

Principles of Microeconomics (ECO 2023)

Instructor: Swati Sharma

Fall 2022

E-mail: swsharma@fiu.edu

Office Hours: M, W 10:00-12:30 pm

Office: Viertes Haus (VH) 136

Class Hours: M,W 8:00 am- 9:15 am

Classroom: Graham Center (GC), Room 283A

Course Description and Purpose

In this course we will study the making of decisions by individuals, businesses, and government. For some of you this may be the only course you take in the subject, and it provides a solid foundation for economic analysis and thinking that can last throughout your education and subsequent professional careers. For others, this may provide a foundation for many years of study in economics, business, or related fields.

Why study Microeconomics?

You are about to embark on a scholarly journey where you will learn about how people make decisions. Why should you be interested? Because you are a person, and you make decisions! This course will help you think more clearly about making decisions and to better understand how the economy works. We will use economic analysis to think about how people, businesses, and society try to maximize their well-being given that they all have limited resources.

Required Materials

- Hubbard, R. Gleen and O'Brien, Anthony Patrick; My Lab with Pearson e-text- Instant Access-for Microeconomics (8th Edition (updated), ISBN-13: 9780135952955)
- MyLab Economics Access (Course Website: [Pearson](#))

Note: On-line access to the full text of *Macroeconomics* is included with purchase of MyLab Economics access, so students are not obligated to buy a physical copy of the textbook. All weekly homework and quizzes will be distributed and grade through MyLab Economics, so you cannot pass this course without MyLab Economics class.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to describe the following:

- Explain the role of scarcity, specialization, and cost-benefit analysis in economic decision-making.
- Analyze how buyers and sellers interact in a free and competitive market to determine prices and quantities of a good.
- Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in supply and demand curves on equilibrium price and output.
- Evaluate the factors affecting firm behavior, such as production and costs.
- Analyze the performance of firms under different market structures.
- Recognize market failure and the role of government in dealing with those failures.
- Describe the complications surrounding public goods and externalities for an economy.

Registering for MyLab Economics Access

Follow the steps mentioned on MyLab Economics Access- Webpage, using the instructor 's course ID. Online access to the e-text and MyLab Economics can be accessed through: Pearson. If you need additional guidance, consult the support site, especially the system requirements which list recommended browsers. If you have problems registering, purchasing, or logging in, please contact Customer Support. Pearson Support is available to assist you on the phone, through email, or with on-line chat.

- Email services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Chat services are available Monday through Thursday (8:00 am- 12:00 am) and Friday (8:00 am- 10:00 pm)

Course Structure

Class Structure

- The class is meeting face-to-face twice a week for 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Class participation is not equivalent to class attendance; it implies that you participate actively in the class discussions. Actively talking and thinking economics may be the most important element to further your economic intuition.
- Attendance will be taken at the end of each class and will contribute towards the final grade.
- Students are allowed to miss three classes without penalty towards their grade. For every additional absence student will lose one percentage point from their final grade.
- Being tardy will count as half an absence. Students who come to class more than 30 minutes late will be counted as absent. Students who leave more than 15 minutes early from class will be counted as absent.
- Students who are on their phones during the lecture or sleeping will be marked as absent. All weekly homework will be distributed and grade through MyLab. The two lowest online homework assignment scores will be dropped.
- Exams are going to be composed of multiple-choice questions. To succeed in each exam you need to have a solid understanding of the current and the previous material.
- **Extra credit assignments** will not be given on an individual basis, **so do not ask**. If and when extra credit is given, the entire class will have the opportunity to get it. Usually, extra credit opportunities are available during the class. If you do not attend class, then you may miss the extra credit opportunity.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your grade, please contact me immediately. You should be proactive about your grades, and do not wait until the last minute.

Homework

- Homework consists of 20-40 questions from each chapter. Homework will be assigned at the end of every chapter and must be completed by the due date and time which are posted on MyLab. You have **TWO** attempts to complete the homework assignment, in which the score will count as the recorded grade.

- Make sure to save and submit the assignment once you have completed it. Homework assignments will not be reopened after due date.
- Two of your lowest homework scores will be dropped. In case you do miss an assignment, it will count as your lowest assignment, and it will be dropped.
- Since the homework assignments are on-line, they are open-book and open-notes. However, full understanding of the material will be needed to answer all the questions. Correct answers will be released after the due date.

Exams

- There are two exams in total: 2 Midterms and 1 final exam. All exams are hard-copied exams taken in class.
- **Make-up exams:** You are required to take all the exams at the scheduled time unless you have a university-sanctioned schedule conflict or a well-documented emergency. If you think you have a schedule conflict, please notify the instructor at least two weeks before the exam. All such situations will be dealt on an individual basis.

Grading Policy

Incomplete grade Policy Statement

A student who is passing a course but has not completed all work due to exceptional circumstances, may, with consent of the instructor, temporarily receive a grade of incomplete ("I"). The assignment of the "I" grade is at the discretion of the instructor but is allowed only if the student has a grade of at least a "C" and has completed at least 75% of the course.

Grade Calculation

The grade will be calculated using the following proportions:

- 70% of your grade will be determined by in class exams
- 25% of your grade will be determined by homework
- 5% of your grade will be determined by attendance.

$$\text{Final Grade} = (\text{Midterm 1} * 0.20) + (\text{Midterm 2} * 0.20) + (\text{Homework Average} * 0.25) + (\text{Final Exam} * 0.30) + (\text{Attendance} * 0.05)$$

If your final exam is a higher score than any of your two previous exams then your final grade will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Final Grade} = (\text{Average of Two Highest Exam Scores} * 0.4) + (\text{Homework Average} * 0.25) + (\text{Attendance} * 0.05) + (\text{Final Exam} * 0.30)$$

Grading Scheme

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	Range
A	90.00 or above	B	75.00- 79.99%	C	60.00- 64.99%
A-	85.00-89.99%	B-	70.00- 74.99%	D	55.00- 59.99%
B+	80.00-84.99%	C+	65.00- 69.99%	F	54.99 or less

Weekly schedule

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Midterm exam 1 will test on the material that was taught up until the exam date, while Midterm 2 and Final exam will be cumulative. Homework and quizzes in the second half of the semester tend to build on the concepts in the first half of the semester, so it is important to at least review those concepts throughout the semester.

1. Chapter 1: Economics: Foundations and Models
2. Chapter 2: Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, and the Market System
3. Chapter 3: Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply
4. Chapter 4: Economic Efficiency, Price Setting, and Taxes

MIDTERM EXAM -1

5. Chapter 5: Externalities, Environmental Policy, and Public Goods
6. Chapter 6: Elasticity

7. Chapter 9: Comparative Advantage and the Gain from International Trade
8. Chapter 10: Consumer Choice and Behavioral Economics

MIDTERM EXAM – 2

9. Chapter 11: Technology, Production and Costs
10. Chapter 12: Firms in Perfectly Competitive Markets
11. Chapter 15: Monopoly and Anti-trust Policy
12. Chapter 13: Monopolistic Competition
13. Chapter 14: Oligopoly

FINAL EXAM

HWs will be assigned each week through MyLab, and it is each student's responsibility to complete them on time.

Please note: The syllabus is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion

Key Dates

Classes start	Monday, August 22, 2022
Last day to add/drop	Monday, August 29, 2022
Labor Day observed (No classes)	Monday, September 5, 2022
Last day to drop with DR grade	Monday, October 31, 2022
Veterans' Day observed (No classes)	Friday, November 11, 2022
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday, November 24, 2022
Thanksgiving break (No classes)	Friday-Saturday, November 25-26, 2022
Last regular class day	Saturday, December 3, 2022
Finals Week	Monday-Saturday, December 5-10, 2022
End of term	Saturday, December 10, 2022
Grade available to students	Thursday, December 15, 2022

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required for all scheduled class lectures. However, you can miss classes if you have Covid-19 symptoms, or you were in contact with someone who was tested positive for Covid-19. In case you miss a class, please send me an email. Make sure to adhere to all the health safety protocols issued by the university.

Class attendance is **required** for all scheduled class lectures. Invariably, students who miss classes fall to the bottom of the grading ladder. Reading the textbook is a complement to the lectures, not a perfect substitute for missing classroom lectures. The lectures may deviate from the textbook, and you can only be aware of the appropriate material if you attend the class. Some material in the textbook may be skipped in the lectures, while other material may be studied in more detail than is presented in the textbook. I will give examples, make clarifications, answer questions, and offer interpretations that may not be found in the textbook. Announcements concerning which material in the textbook will be emphasized or ignored, will be made in class. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. Students are also responsible for all subsequent changes in the syllabus that are announced. Missing a lecture is no excuse.

Note: The University may administratively drop you from the course if there is no verified record of your attendance during the first two weeks of classes.

Policies on Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted and under no circumstances will make-up homework be allowed. A student who fails to complete the homework before the due date will receive a grade of "0" for the respective assignment or quiz. Deadlines are strictly enforced and are detailed on MyLab Economics, and on Canvas. Please be mindful of these dates, as they will not change.

Technology policy

Ideally, I have a no laptop or cell phone policy. You may choose to use an electronic device to take notes as long as it doesn't disrupt the pace of the class like typing noises. I find that although there are merits to taking notes on these devices they can cause a distraction, sometimes even distracting those around you. Additionally, because my goal is to promote long term retention of this material this is best done through taking notes with a paper and pencil.

Email policy

Please use Canvas to send a message if you have any questions or concerns. Please use common courtesy when sending messages. Please allow 48 business hours for a response. Messages will

be checked periodically Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Messages will not be checked on the weekends.

Classroom etiquette

- Arrive on time.
- No food or beverages except for water.
- Please silence cellphones during class.
- If you need to use your cell phone for any non-academic purposes during class (i.e., social media, texting, checking voicemails, phone calls, and etc.) please step outside of the classroom.

Exam etiquette

This is a large class and I have to proctor this exam on my own. I ask you to adhere to a few rules on exam days.

- You cannot not leave the class once the exam has started unless you are finished. Once you leave the classroom you will have to turn in your exam. Please use the bathroom before coming to class.
- No calculators or wireless devices are allowed on the exam.
- Please remove smart watches.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Students are required to comply with the F.I.U. university policy on academic integrity found in the [Academic Misconduct](#). Cheating in exams, homework, or any other assignment will not be tolerated. Students found cheating on an exam you will be given a score of “0” on the exam and you the zero will not be replaced with the final exam grade.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register at [Disability Services Office](#).

Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or Florida International University policy and will not be tolerated.