

Principles of Economics (Economics 101)

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Summary:

Principles of Economics (Economics 101) is the introductory course in Economics for undergraduates. It is a one-semester course that addresses the important issues of the 21st Century from an economic point of view. This course is the gateway course for the major of Economics; if you wish to major in Economics you must have at least a C in this course. It also meets the General Education requirement for an "Approaches" course in social and behavioral sciences.

Organization:

We will meet two times a week, on Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 pm in Carroll 111. Attendance will be taken, and excessive absences will result in a reduction in your final grade. You will also have one meeting a week with your recitation instructor. Those sessions are important review activities, and your attendance in recitation can affect your course grade.

Grading:

You will be responsible for two midterm exams and one final exam; the schedule for these examinations will be provided on the "Calendar" page. There will be no make-up examinations given; if you are unable to attend the midterm examinations, the weight of that exam in your final grade will be transferred to your performance on the comprehensive final exam. Each midterm exam will be worth 25 percent of your grade, and the final will be worth 35 percent.

You will also be responsible for weekly online assignments using the Aplia software bundled with the text. Your grades on those assignments will be averaged into an assignment grade that will represent 10 percent of your grade.

The final 5 percent of your grade will be awarded for two written policy memos that you will prepare during the semester.

We will have "ACC Tournament Grading" this semester. Anyone scoring 95 or above on the final exam will automatically receive an A for the course.

Resources:

Web site: Our web site within Sakai provides you a structure and outline for your weekly activities in this course. I will also use that web site to communicate with you. When you are registered for the course, this web site should appear automatically once you log into Sakai. If it does not, please contact the ITS Help Desk by phone, electronically or in the basement of the Undergraduate Library.

Text: We will be using a Cengage custom text entitled "Economics: Principles and Policy". It is made up of a selection of chapters from the hardcover text "Economics: Principles and Policy (12th edition)" by William Baumol and Alan Blinder. I've chosen this route to save you some money, but you're welcome to purchase the hard cover text. (Be sure that you get the 12th edition.) You can also buy last year's custom text used – it has the same contents as this year's. Be aware: my custom text from four years ago is not compatible.

The readings for each class are enumerated on the class schedule on the web site. It is in your interest to complete the readings prior to the class indicated on the schedule. Completing the readings on time will also be important to success in Aplia (see below).

Aplia: The Aplia system for online course review will be a required part of this course. You have three ways to obtain it, all from the textbook section of the Student Store. First, you can buy it bundled with the custom text at the Student Store. Second, you can buy it bundled with the eBook text. Third, you can buy the Aplia system as a stand-alone product. If you purchase your text anywhere other than the Student Store, you will need to buy Aplia as a stand-alone product at the Student Store.

Newspapers and journals: One of your graded responsibilities in this course will be to write policy memos based upon newspaper and magazine articles on economics topics. The articles will be chosen from economics-themed articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Economist magazine or the News and Observer. I will give you the opportunity to purchase a low-cost subscription to either the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal. This is not required, but is certainly convenient. You can also find current issues of these publications in the UNC Library each day. When assignments are due, I will provide you with the reading at no cost: you will not need a subscription to complete the assignment.

The UNC Honor Code:

Our behavior (yours, the TAs, and mine) in this class is governed by the UNC Honor Code. If you do not yet understand your responsibilities under this code, I urge you to go to <http://honor.unc.edu> to learn more. I take the Honor Code very seriously.

Economics 101: **Principles of Economics**

Fall 2015

Professor Patrick Conway

Class	Date	Topic	Reading from text
1	Aug 18	Course Introduction	Chapters 1&2
2	Aug 20	Scarcity, opportunity cost, marginal analysis	Chapter 3
3	Aug 25	Comparative Advantage and PPF	
4	Aug 27	Introduction to Demand and Supply analysis	Chapter 4
5	Sept 1	Market Equilibrium	
6	Sept 3	Rational expenditure rules; opportunity cost	Chapter 5
7	Sept 8	Production, input and cost	Chapter 7
8	Sept 10	Efficiency and marginal-cost pricing	Chapter 8
9	Sept 15	Comparative advantage and international trade	Chapter 35
10	Sept 17	The stock market and business finance	Chapter 9
11	Sept 22	Midterm Exam (classes 1-9)	
12	Sept 24	Accounting profit and economic profit	Chapter 10
13	Sept 29	Monopoly firms	Chapter 11
14	Oct 1	Firms with market power	Chapter 12
15	Oct 6	Regulating firms	Chapter 13
16	Oct 8	Externalities and property rights	Chapter 17
17	Oct 13	When do markets work?	Chapters 14 & 15
18	Oct 20	Macroeconomics	Chapter 22
19	Oct 22	Prices and Inflation	Chapter 23
20	Oct 27	Wages, Unemployment and the Labor Market	Chapters 19 & 20
21	Oct 29	Midterm exam (classes 10 and 12-19)	
22	Nov 3	Determining output in the short run	Chapters 25 & 26
23	Nov 5	Determining output in the short run (II)	
24	Nov 10	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	Chapter 27
25	Nov 12	Government expenditures/stimulus	Chapter 28
26	Nov 17	Money and the banking system	Chapter 29
27	Nov 19	Monetary policy and the financial crisis	Chapters 30 & 31
28	Nov 24	International finance	Chapter 36
29	Dec 1	The exchange rate and the macroeconomy	Chapter 37
Final	Dec 8, Noon	Cumulative Final Examination	