

Economics 310: Applied Microeconomics
Spring 2008
Syllabus

Instructor: Katy Rouse	Class Time: MWF 2:00-2:50pm
Office: Phillips Annex 200	Class Location: Gardner 008
Email: felter@email.unc.edu	Office Hours: MW12:30-1:30, Th 10-11
Course Website: www.unc.edu/~felter/econ310.html	TA: Katherine Theyson Email: ktheyson@email.unc.edu

Note: This class is the intermediate microeconomics class for non-majors. It does NOT fulfill the intermediate microeconomics requirement for majors.

Required Texts: Price Theory & Applications, 6th ed. Steven E. Landsburg (2005)
ECON 310 Course Packet (available at the student bookstore)

Course Objectives: Economics is a social science that examines how individuals decide what goods to make, how much of each to make, for whom goods are made, and how scarce resources are allocated to produce each good. Economics assumes that individuals act rationally in their own self-interest. By the end of the course, you should be able to understand how individuals and groups of individuals make economic decisions. A central goal is to develop the tools necessary to analyze and evaluate how rational agents make economic decisions in response to events that occur in the world around them and to develop the skills necessary to evaluate the welfare implications of policy decisions.

Grades: Your final grade will be composed of participation points, five homework quizzes, two midterms and a final exam. Participation points will count for 5% of your grade. The homework quizzes will count for 10% of your grade. Each midterm will count for 25% of your grade. The final exam will be cumulative and will be worth the remaining 35% of your grade. All exams may be curved (to your benefit – not loss) at the discretion of the instructor. Final grades will not be curved and will be determined using the following scale:

91.5-100	A
89.5-91.4	A-
87.5-89.4	B+
81.5-87.4	B
79.5-81.4	B-
77.5-79.4	C+
71.5-77.4	C
69.5-71.4	C-
59.5-69.4	D
<59.5	F

Homework Quizzes (10%): There will be 5 homework assignments posted online on the course website throughout the semester. These problems will be invaluable in developing intuition and your problem-solving skills. They will also be a good indication of the exam questions. These will not be graded in their entirety. Rather, on the day the homework is due, you will have a short quiz covering the material from the homework. These quiz questions will come directly from the

homework. If you've completed your homework, you can use your completed assignment during the quiz. You will not be allowed to have any other class notes for the quiz. The lowest of these scores will be dropped and the remaining four will be averaged to make up your homework quiz grade. Since your lowest score is dropped, there will be no makeup quizzes.

Participation Points (5%): These points will come from class attendance on eight randomly selected days. You will not know what days I will take attendance. As long as you are present on 5 out of the 8 selected days, 5% of your grade will be a 100%. If you miss more than 3 of these 8 days, your grade will drop by 1% for each day missed. *Note: I will take attendance on the first two days of class in order to finalize the class roster. These 2 days will NOT count as 2 of the 8 attendance days.*

Midterm Exams (25% each): There will be no make-ups for midterm exams. Since the final exam will cover material from the entire semester, if your final exam score is higher than the lower of your two midterms, I will replace your lowest midterm exam grade with your final exam score. Therefore, if you miss one midterm, the 25% weight of that midterm exam will automatically be added to the final. If you miss both midterms, 25% of your grade will be a zero.

Final Exam (35%): The final will be held on May 6 at 12pm. All students must take the final exam at the scheduled time set by the university. The final exam will cover material from the entire course.

Honor Code: You are reminded that the University Honor Code is in effect for all academic work. Do your work in accordance with that honor code. You are allowed and encouraged to work together on homework assignments, but collaboration on exams is strictly forbidden.

General Comments: The course will move quickly; therefore, it is imperative that you keep up with the reading and the lectures. Anything in the reading or discussed in lecture will be fair game for the exams. The material is cumulative, so cramming will not work!

Tentative Course Schedule					
#	Day	Date	Topic	Chapter	Notes
1	W	Jan 9	Syllabus, Math Review		
2	F	Jan 11	Demand, Supply and Equilibrium	1	
3	M	Jan 14		1	
4	W	Jan 16	Prices, Costs and the Gains from Trade	2	
5	F	Jan 18	Consumer Behavior	3	
	M	Jan 21			NO CLASS
6	W	Jan 23		3	
7	F	Jan 25		3	
8	M	Jan 28		3	
9	W	Jan 30	Consumers in the Marketplace	4	Homework 1 QUIZ
10	F	Feb 1		4	
11	M	Feb 4		4	
12	W	Feb 6		4	
13	F	Feb 8	The Behavior of Firms	5	
14	M	Feb 11		5	
15	W	Feb 13	Production and Costs	6	
16	F	Feb 15		6	
17	M	Feb 18		6	Homework 2 QUIZ
18	W	Feb 20		6	
19	F	Feb 22	MIDTERM 1		Chapters 1-6
20	M	Feb 25	Competition	7	
21	W	Feb 27		7	
22	F	Feb 29		7	
23	M	Mar 3		7	Last day to DROP (March 4)
24	W	Mar 5	Welfare and the gains from trade	8	
25	F	Mar 7		8	
	M	Mar 10			NO CLASS
	W	Mar 12			NO CLASS
	F	Mar 14			NO CLASS
26	M	Mar 17		8	
27	W	Mar 19		8	Homework 3 QUIZ
	F	Mar 21			NO CLASS
28	M	Mar 24	Monopoly	10	
29	W	Mar 26		10	
30	F	Mar 28		10	
31	M	Mar 31	Game Theory	12	
32	W	Apr 2		12	
33	F	Apr 4	Market Power, Collusion, and Oligopoly	11	Homework 4 QUIZ
34	M	Apr 7		11	
35	W	Apr 9	MIDTERM 2		Chapters 7-12 (no 9)
36	F	Apr 11	External Costs and Benefits	13	
37	M	Apr 14	Public Goods	14	
38	W	Apr 16	Demand for Factors of Production	15	
39	F	Apr 18	The Market for Labor	16	
40	M	Apr 21		16	
41	W	Apr 23	Allocating Goods over Time	17	
42	F	Apr 25	Risk and Uncertainty	18	Homework 5 QUIZ
	Tu	May 6	FINAL EXAM 12-3 PM		Chapters 1-18 (no 9)