

# Econ 101 (006): Introduction to Economics

UNC at Chapel Hill  
Economics Department  
Fall 2009

## Instructor Information:

Mike Aguilar

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Office Hours: M,W,F 12pm-1pm, or by appointment

## Class Schedule:

Lecture: M,W,F 11:00am - 11:50am Carroll Hall Room 111

Recitation: Every student must be registered for a recitation, designated section 6xx.

## Course Materials:

**Text:** *Economics - Custom Edition*, by R.Byrns and G.Stone; Pearson Publishing; ISBN: 9780536507617.

**Blackboard:** Assignments, announcements, grades, readings, and other information will be posted at blackboard.unc.edu. Blackboard will be the primary method of communication for this course, so please check it frequently.

**Clicker:** Students are required to purchase a clicker (eInstruction response pad) and to enroll it with eInstruction so that they can use it in our course. Enrollment instructions are available at <http://www.unc.edu/~maguilar/teaching/Clickers-Econ101F09-006.pdf>. Students who purchase a new textbook from the UNC bookstore will receive \$10 rebate coupon for their clicker. Students who do not buy the book-coupon bundle must still purchase a clicker, which they can do at the UNC bookstore. Students must register their clickers at least two hours before the first class meeting. It is essential that you include your PID number during registration.

**Recommended Periodicals:** The Wall Street Journal; The Economist.

## Course Goals:

If we are successful, this course will change the way you think. Regardless of your academic major or your career after college, economics plays a vital role in our daily lives. This course will explore several key economic concepts such as supply and demand, taxation, international trade, and others. We will apply these concepts to many “real-world” scenarios throughout the semester. By the end of the course you should have an idea of how an economist thinks, and be able to apply this critical skill to interpret the world around you.

Grading	% of Course Grade	Date	Details & Policy
Final Exam	(30%)	12/14/09 12:00pm - 3:00pm	Comprehensive exam. Missing the Final Exam without a valid excuse from the Dean will result in a zero exam score.
Test 1 Test 2	(20%) (20%)	10/02/09 11:00am-11:50am 11/16/09 11:00am-11:50am	Missing a Test without an “excused” absence results in a zero score for that Test. If you miss either Test with an “excused” absence, the Final Exam will account for 40% of the course grade, and the other Test will account for 30%. If you miss both Tests with an “excused” absence, the total Test grade will account for 0% of the course grade, and the Final Exam will account for 70%.
Homework	(20%)	TBD	There will be approximately ten homeworks throughout the semester. You may drop the assignment with the lowest score. No late assignments will be accepted. No “make-ups” will be given. If you miss an assignment due to an “excused” absence, your Homework grade will be reweighted among the remaining homework assignments.
Clicking	(10%)	almost every lecture	In almost every lecture, there will be opportunities for students to earn points by answering questions with their eInstruction response pads, i.e. Clickers. Students are required to bring their Clickers to lecture each day. There are no opportunities to make up missed Clicker points. In order to allow for illness, technical problems, and other unforeseen emergencies, only the highest 90% of each student’s Clicker assessments will count toward your grade. If a student misses Clicker points due to an “excused” absence, your Clicker grade will be reweighted among the remaining Clicker assessments.
Extra Credit	( $\leq$ 3p.p.)	weekly	Each teaching assistant will allocate extra credit points during weekly recitations. The student(s) with the highest number of points in all of Econ101-006 will be awarded an extra 3 percentage points onto their course grade. Other students will be awarded points on a pro-rated basis. If your recitation does not meet during a given week, you may attend any other recitation offered during that week. You may not make up extra credit points for any other reason.

Students associated with Disability Services must contact me one week prior to each Test.

Excused Absences: Illness or participation in University sanctioned activities. Documentation from coach or doctor must be provided. You must fill out the “Excused Absence” form found on the Blackboard site, and turn it in to me as soon as possible.

Letter grades are computed from the total points earned during the semester and assigned based on the scale nearby. There is no maximum number of A's nor B's awarded. However, in previous courses 20% – 25% of my students have earned in the A range, 30% – 40% have earned in the B range, and 20% – 30% have earned in the C range. Although the grade distribution may change this semester, the past scores should give you a sense of my grading standards.

A	$x \geq 95\%$
A-	$90 \leq x < 95$
B+	$85 \leq x < 90$
B	$80 \leq x < 85$
B-	$75 \leq x < 80$
C+	$70 \leq x < 75$
C	$65 \leq x < 70$
C-	$60 \leq x < 65$
D+	$50 \leq x < 60$
D	$40 \leq x < 50$
F	$x < 40$

**Tentative Course Outline:**

- Weeks 1 through 4     *Foundations of Economics*  
 What is economics? Production, Gains from Trade, the Market Mechanism and the Invisible Hand.
- Weeks 5 through 9     *Microeconomics*  
 Consumer Theory. Theory of the Firm. Perfect Competition. Monopolies.
- Weeks 10 through 16   *Macroeconomics*  
 Macroeconomic data. The business cycle. Fiscal, Monetary, and Trade Policy.