

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS: ECON 2304-FALL 2007

Instructor: Mevlude Akbulut

Class Time: TTH 10.00-11.30 am

Location: AH 302

Instructor: Mevlude Akbulut

Web-page: <http://www.uh.edu/~makbulut>

Office Hours: Tuesday 1.00-2.00 pm
or by appointment

E mail: makbulut@mail.uh.edu

Office: Room 246 McElhinney

Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Math 1310 or a higher Math. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that you have the necessary prerequisite.

Required Text: N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics (4th edition) integrated with Aplia. This is an online integrated product available at www.aplia.com.

Recommended: The Study Guide prepared by David R. Hakes, 4th edition

Aplia Website: During this course you will be required to access Aplia website. To access the website, you need to register for an account with Aplia at <http://www.aplia.com>. Attached is an instruction sheet that describes how to complete the registration process. You will need a “course key” in order to register, and that is **WGFF-V8XE-CQVK** for this course. On the website you will find the assignments which will be graded, as well as tutorials and practice problem sets that will not be graded.

ATTENTION: DEPARTMENTAL FINAL EXAM will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.;
room number will be announced later.

STUDENTS MUST SHOW THEIR ID CARD FOR ADMISSION TO THE FINAL EXAM.

***** FREE DROP-IN TUTORIAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IN Room 208A, McElhinney Building.**

***** A TUTORING SCHEDULE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS about the third week of class.**

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will attain, through lectures, readings and problem sets, knowledge of the building blocks of economic analysis.

- Students will develop, through lectures, readings and problem sets, some tools to analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
- Problem sets will enable students to understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in economics through written exposition and argument.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is an introductory course in Microeconomics which will expose you to very useful tools, including problem solving and analytical thinking. You will learn about how our personal choices and firm structures affect the economy. This course is very different from any course that you have taken so far. Hence you are required to attend every class that is scheduled. You are responsible for all material and announcements presented in class. You are also responsible for all of the material in the chapters covered in class, **whether I specifically cover it or not.**

CLASS INFORMATION:

Poor attendance and/or excessive tardiness may result in automatic withdrawal from the course. However, do not assume that you will be dropped from the class if you choose to withdraw- you must go through appropriate withdrawal procedure for this. If you miss a class, you are expected to get material from another student in the course. If you work and your job is such that you are unable to attend lectures, then you should not be enrolled in this course.

I will not give any information over the phone or email that you would have known had you attended class or read the web page information.

EXAMS:

There will be 2 midterm exams and 1 comprehensive Final. The dates for the exams will be listed in the course outline on the attached page.

There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS**, so it is important that you do not miss either one. If you are ill or an emergency arises that will prevent you from taking an exam at the given time, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately. If you miss any exam without prior notification, you will receive a **zero**. There will be no curve applied to the grades of the exams. One time curve might be applied at the end of the course depending on the overall grade distribution and the average grade in the class.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Homeworks will count for 20% of your final grade. There will be a variety of assignment types including tutorials, problem sets and news analysis questions. Some of these questions are only for practice and will not count for your homework grade. **Generally, graded assignments are due every Sunday by 1.00 p.m.** I advise you NOT wait until Saturday to start these assignments. Please note that these due dates are strict and **NO exceptions** can be made. Because of this lack of flexibility each student will allowed **three free passes**. This will help account for computer and other problems that may avoid you from completing an assignment. No more than three grades will be dropped **for any reason**, so be sure you are aware of all due dates and start assignment early. Assignments and quizzes will be posted later, so be sure to check Aplia website often!

QUIZES: To prepare you for the midterms and final, you will have approximately 8 quizzes, one in every two chapters, throughout the course. The quizzes will be graded and discussed in the following lecture and you will get **10 extra points** for your performance in these quizzes.

INCOMPLETES will only be given in case of emergency situations and will not be given for poor academic performance for any reason.

GRADES:

GRADES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE. Do not contact me after the final semester grades have been posted (asking me to change your grade for any reason.) [Of course, if you believe your grade was posted erroneously by all means DO contact me.] **In addition, there is NO extra credit for this course. Don't ask.** Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 1) **Problem Sets Approximately every week, each counted equally 20%**
- 2) **Exam 1 (in-class time) Tuesday, October 2nd 25%**
- 3) **Exam 2 (in-class time) Tuesday, November 13th 25%**
- 4) **Final Exam Saturday December 8th 2.00-5.00 pm 30%**
- 5) **Extra 10 points from the quizzes**

Grade scale:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

Date	Topic	Chapter
August 21	Ten Principles of Economics	1
August 23	Thinking like an Economist	2
August 28 & 30	Interdependence & the Gains from Trade	3
September 4 & 6	The Market Forces of Supply & Demand	4
September 11 & 13	Elasticity and Its Application	5

September 18	Supply, Demand & Government Policies	6
September 20& 25	Consumers, Producers & the Efficiency of Markets	7
September 27	Application: The Costs of Taxation	8
October 2	MIDTERM 1	
October 4	Application: International Trade	9
October 9	Externalities	10
October 11	Public Goods and Common Resources	11
October 16	The Design of the Tax System	12
October 18 & 23	The Costs of Production	13
October 25	Firms in Competitive Markets	14
October 30	Monopoly	15
October 1	Oligopoly; Monopolistic Competition	16 & 17
November 6&8	The Markets for the Factors of Production	18
November 13	MIDTERM 2	
November 20	Earnings & Discrimination	19
November 27	Income Inequality & Poverty	20 through p. 436

December 8 **Departmental Final Exam***
Saturday, Dec 8th, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Room: TBA**

Important Dates:

- September 4- Last day to drop without incurring a “W” on transcript
- September 14- Last day to file for spring graduation
- October 31- Last day to drop or withdraw



Student Registration and Payment Instructions

Course Name: Microeconomics (Custom) Mankiw Fall 2007
 Start Date: 08/20/2007
 Professor: Mevlude Akbulut
 Course Key: **WGFF-V8XE-CQVK**

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
- You will have free access to the first four chapters of an online copy of your textbook at Aplia. You can access the remaining online chapters as soon as you submit a payment for your Aplia course.

Registration

Registration Instructions

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Click the System Configuration Test link below the Sign In and Register sections to make sure you can access all of the features on Aplia's website. This takes just a few seconds and tells you how to update your browser settings if necessary.
3. Return to <http://www.aplia.com>.
 - If you have never used Aplia before, click the New Student button and enter your Course Key: **WGFF-V8XE-CQVK**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.
 - If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **WGFF-V8XE-CQVK**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enter Course Key button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.
4. If you understand your payment options, pay now. Otherwise, postpone your purchase decision by choosing the option to pay later. Your payment grace period ends at the end of the day on 09/09/2007.

Payment

Pay Aplia Directly

- Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on our website for \$65.00 USD. The website includes:
 - Access to an online copy of your textbook.
 - Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.
- However, if you try using the online textbook and decide you would also like a physical textbook, you can order one from Aplia for \$50.00 USD plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling.