Econ 202 Section 502
Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2013
MWF 10:20-11:10

Instructor: Jeff Edwardson
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Office hours: Mondays 3:45-5:15 and Thursdays 3:00-4:30 or by appointment.

Course description
Microeconomics is the study of individual behavior, that of households, businesses and government units, and how they interact. In this course we will cover several aspects of this behavior, including scarcity and choice, opportunity cost, demand and supply, consumer behavior, firm behavior in perfect and imperfect markets, and additional topics as time permits.

Learning objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the role of scarcity, specialization, opportunity cost and cost/benefit analysis in economic decision-making.

2. Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in both market supply and demand curves on equilibrium price and output.

3. Summarize the law of diminishing marginal utility; describe the process of utility maximization.

4. Calculate supply and demand elasticities, identify the determinants of price elasticity of demand and supply, and demonstrate the relationship between elasticity and total revenue.

5. Describe the production function and the Law of Diminishing Marginal Productivity; calculate and graph short-run and long-run costs of production.

6. Identify the four market structures by characteristics; calculate and graph the profit maximizing price and quantity in the output markets by use of marginal analysis.

7. Determine the profit maximizing price and quantity of resources in factor markets under perfect and imperfect competition by use of marginal analysis.

8. Describe governmental efforts to address market failure such as monopoly power, externalities, and public goods.

9. Identify the benefits of free trade using the concept of comparative advantage.

Required text
The required text is a “custom” textbook based on Hubbard and O’Brien’s Microeconomics, 3rd edition, and is available at local bookstores. The ISBN is 1256234159. If you wish to use a study guide, there is a study guide for the Hubbard and O’Brien text, ISBN 0136022014. The study guide is optional.

Tentative Outline of Topics: All dates are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter One: Economics - Foundations and Models</td>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>Read pp. 2-20</td>
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<td>Chapter Two: Tradeoffs, Comparative Advantage, and the Market System</td>
<td>1/18-1/21</td>
<td>Read pp. 39-60</td>
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<td>Chapter Three: Demand and Supply</td>
<td>1/23-1/28</td>
<td>Read pp. 69-94</td>
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<td>Chapter Four: Economic Efficiency</td>
<td>1/30-2/1</td>
<td>Read pp. 103-126</td>
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Grades
Your grade will be determined by the average of three exam scores. You may substitute your lowest exam score with your score on an optional, comprehensive final exam. Course grades will be awarded as follows: 90+ = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F. Exam scores are the sole criteria used to determine grades. This means that extenuating circumstances will not be considered in the determination of grades. There is no extra credit.

Exam dates
Midterm 1: 2/13
Midterm 2: 3/22
Midterm 3: 4/24
Optional Final Exam: 5/7 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Missed Exams: Students who miss an exam may be allowed to take a makeup exam. Makeup exams will differ in both form and content from regularly scheduled exams. Makeup exams are typically in essay format. If you miss an exam and have not received my permission prior to the regularly scheduled exam, you must satisfy all of the following requirements in order to take a makeup exam.

1.) You missed the exam due to illness or university-excused absence.
2.) You must have a written excuse that I can keep in my files explaining the reason for missing the test. For example, if you were ill, you must have a written excuse from your physician or from the University Health Center stating that you were too ill to take an exam. In the event of a death in the family, you must provide written verification. (Note: I verify any written excuses to confirm they satisfy the first requirement above.)
3.) You must notify me by the end of the second working day after the missed test. The easiest way to notify me is to call 845-7351 during business hours, or via electronic mail at edwardson@econmail.tamu.edu.
4.) I will maintain a list of students who are eligible for a makeup and wish to take it. You need to make sure you get on this list if you wish to take a makeup.

Students who miss an exam and do not meet each of the four requirements above will receive a score of zero for the exam.

General class guidelines:
1. All students are expected to follow the Aggie Code of Honor. Academic dishonesty of any kind will be dealt with in a draconian manner.
2. You are expected to act courteously toward your classmates. Refrain from any behavior that might distract a classmate. Show up on time. Don’t leave early. Turn off your cellular telephone before entering the classroom. Text messaging during class is prohibited.
3. Regular attendance is expected. You are also expected to keep up with all reading assignments and assigned exercises. If the event you miss class, you should obtain any lecture notes you need from a classmate.

Calculators:
1. Simple mathematical operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) may be necessary on exams. While I’m certain that you can manage these by hand, you may use an electronic calculator if you wish.

2. Programmable calculators are not permitted. Graphing calculators are not permitted. Calculators that allow you store text are not permitted. You may not use your cellular telephone or any other wireless communication device as a calculator. No exceptions.

3. The sharing of calculators is forbidden.

Academic Resources: The Department of Economics offers both a free tutoring lab (located in ALLN 3002) and fee-based private tutors. You can find more information about both by calling 845-7351. Your textbook publisher offers several ancillary study aids, both online and in print.

ADA Policy Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

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