

## Syllabus “Principles of Economics” ECON-102, Fall 2014

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Office hours: Wed 10-11:30am, Thur 9:30-11:00am or by appointment.

Time: Tue, Thu 11:00am-12:15pm

Location: SCTR A162 (Science Center)

**Course Objectives:** This course is an introduction to the most important economic principles. Its aim is twofold: To provide the student with a basic understanding of economic concepts in order to apply them to daily life, as well as, to lay a solid foundation for upper level econ courses. It will cover mostly the same material as Econ-101, but using a more formal approach that requires basic knowledge of calculus (derivatives with respect to one variable) and algebra. The course will therefore provide a more authentic flavor of academic economics and an idea of the nature of more advanced courses. It will also give the student an opportunity to apply and hone already acquired mathematical skills.

**Course requirements and grading schemes:** There will be six problem sets, to be handed in the week after they have been assigned. Problem sets will be graded based on the effort exerted to solve every single problem. Your total score on problem sets will be based on the highest five grades received. There will also be two midterms and one accumulative final exam. The material covered in the second midterm will necessarily build upon previous material; in that sense it might also be considered accumulative. The composition of your final grade will look like this:

Problem Sets:	20%
1 <sup>st</sup> Midterm:	20%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Midterm:	20%
Final Exam:	40%

**Textbook:** The only required textbook for the course is:

N. Gregory Mankiw; “*Principles of Economics*”; 6<sup>th</sup> Edition; Cengage Learning; ISBN: 978-0-538-45305-9

Unfortunately, there does not exist any principles textbook with a more formal treatment of the material. You are welcome to use different editions, **but you will have to check that you answer the right questions in the problem sets.** I will occasionally also post additional readings on blackboard.

**Class notes:** Given that the material covered will go beyond the textbook, it is essential that you attend class and take your own notes. You won't be able to attain a passing grade only from the textbook and readings.

**Honor code:** The Oberlin College Honor Code applies to all assignments for this course. You can access complete information on the Honor Code via Blackboard (go to the tab Lookup/Directories>Honor Code). Before turning in each of your exams and your problem sets, you need to write the honor pledge and sign it. The pledge is as follows: "*I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.*" The exams are all closed book and closed notes. For the exams signing the honor pledge signifies that you have abided by those restrictions and neither given nor received aid during the exams.

You are encouraged to work on your problem sets in groups of 2-5 persons. However, if you do so each of you is required to clearly state with whom you worked on that particular problem set. A failure to do so will be considered a violation of the Honor Code.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities that require accommodations (such as a note taker or special testing arrangements), please let the instructor know early in the semester so your learning needs can be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Ms. Jane Boomer, Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities. Her office is in Peters G-38A and her phone number is x58464.

### **Course outline:**

Week 1: Introduction: What is Economics?  
Chapters 2 & 3

Week 2: Consumer Choice  
Chapter 21

*First problem set*

Week 3: Theory of the Firm (Production) & Supply and Demand  
Chapters 13 & 4

Week 4: Elasticity & Government Policies  
Chapters 5 & 6

*Second problem set*

Week 5: Market Efficiency & 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm  
Chapters 7

**1<sup>st</sup> Midterm: Thu Oct 2 (up to Government Policies).**

Week 6: The Deadweight Loss of Taxation & Externalities  
Chapters 8 & 10

*Third problem set*

Week 7: Public Goods  
Chapter 11

### **Fall Recess**

Week 8: Market Structure: Competitive Markets & Monopoly  
Chapters 14 & 15

Week 9: Asymmetric Information & Introduction to Macro Measures  
Chapters 22 & 23

*Fourth problem set*

Week 10: Introduction to Macro Measures cont. & 2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm  
Chapter 24

**2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm: Thu November 13 (up to Asymmetric Information).**

Week 11: Productivity and Economic Growth & Unemployment  
Chapters 25 & 28

*Fifth problem set*

Week 12: Unemployment cont.

*No class Nov 27 (Thanksgiving)*

Week 13: The Financial & Monetary Systems  
Chapters 26 & 29

*Sixth problem set*

Week 14: Inflation & Short Run Fluctuations  
Chapters 30 & 33

**FINAL EXAM: Thur December 18 9:00-11:00am**