

Econ 2106: Principles of Microeconomics

University of West Georgia Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Heather R. Bono

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Office: Miller Hall 1219

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30-9:30am, 2:00-3:30pm, and 5:00-6:30pm

Course/Section/Time

Econ 2106-03, TR 9:30am – 10:50am

Econ 2106-04, TR 11:00am – 12:20pm

Econ 2106-05, TR 12:30pm – 1:50pm

Location

Adamson Hall 117

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Miller Hall 1309

Text: Principles of Microeconomics OpenStax College with Sapling Learning

Prerequisites: Overall 2.0 GPA

Course Learning Objectives:

The overall objective of this course is for you to learn basic economic concepts and more about the economic system in which we live. To this end, upon completion of the course a student will be able to:

1. describe basic economic concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs (LG 8)
2. summarize in writing the key microeconomic concepts contained in an article from a business periodical, e.g., the Wall Street Journal (LG1)
3. demonstrate a basic knowledge of microeconomics including concepts such as utility maximization, elasticity costs, market structure and labor markets (LG8)
4. demonstrate a basic knowledge of international economics including concepts such as comparative advantage, specialization and gains to trade (LG9)
5. recognize ethical and economic dimensions of government involvement in markets including regulation and the provision of public goods (LG8)
6. analyze current events using economic models such as supply and demand (LG8)

NOTE: A complete list of expected learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department web site (http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php).

Evaluation: There will be three exams offered during the semester. In addition, 12 homework assignments available through the Sapling Learning website (the two lowest grades will be dropped so that only 10 homework assignments will count towards your final average). There will also be several bonus point opportunities throughout the semester. Final grades are based on your performance on the following:

| Assessment | Points | Total Points | Points Earned | Final Grade |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Exams (3 total) | 80 each | 240 | 270 or higher | A |
| Homework (after 2 drops, 10 total) | 6 each | 60 | 240 up to 270 | B |
| Bonus Opportunities (various) | Vary | Bonus | 210 up to 240 | C |
| | Total | 300 | 180 up to 210 | D |
| | | | Below 180 | F |

Final grades for this course will be assigned using this exact point distribution. **Final grades will not automatically be “rounded up”.** For example, if a student earns 239.6 points, a final grade of “C” will be assigned for the course. You would need to earn at minimum 240 points (exactly 240 or more) for a final grade of “B”.

Class notes, syllabus, link to the course Sapling Learning website, and other materials can be found on Course Den. All grades will be recorded on the grade tab on Course Den. If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, etc. about your grade, you **MUST** bring it to the instructor’s attention within 48 hours of the grade being posted in Course Den. **Grade issues (missing or “incorrect”) that are not brought to the instructor’s attention until the end of the semester will not be addressed.**

Attendance: Attendance is not required but highly encouraged. **The last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is March 3, 2016. Please be aware that UWG has instituted a new limited withdrawal policy as of Fall 2013, information is available here: <http://www.westga.edu/registrar/1560.php>.**

Exams: All exams will be given in class and will begin promptly at the scheduled class time. You must be on time in order to take all exams. If you are late and someone else has already turned in his or her exam, you **WILL BE DENIED** access and will not be allowed to take the exam. This is to ensure test security. Please allocate plenty of time for handling parking or traffic delays. **Note:** due to the final exam schedule published by the Registrar, the final exam may be given at a different time than our regularly scheduled class time. However, all test day rules still apply. Specific days and times for the final exam can be found on the course calendar at the end of this syllabus or on the Registrars’ The Scoop website. The exams will be based on lectures, assigned readings, class discussions and worksheets, quizzes and homework assignments.

There are **NO** make-ups for the exams, **EXCEPT** for valid excuses, examples would be severe/contagious illnesses, hospitalization, university sanctioned events where you are a required participant, or jury duty. You **MUST** provide appropriate documentation and notify me via my WestGA email address (please do not contact me regarding missed exams via CourseDen) by the end of the scheduled test day. Only students with appropriate documentation will be allowed to make-up a missed exam. **Make-up exams will be provided after appropriate documentation has been received. Make-up exams will be scheduled only on Fridays and should be completed before the next scheduled exam.**

On test day, phones, music devices, and any other electronic device or auxiliary devices (ex: headphones, Bluetooth headsets, cameras, etc.) are not allowed on your desk. Watches must also be removed and placed in your bag. Failure to follow this test day procedure will result in action in accordance with the academic dishonesty policy. You may use a calculator on the exams; however, cell phones or other electronic devices (laptops, tablets, smart watches, etc.) may not be used as calculators. You **may not** share calculators with your classmates.

Homework Assignments: Twelve homework assignments will be given throughout the semester via the Sapling Learning website. These will consist of short answer/problem solving questions. The two lowest homework grades will be dropped so that only 10 will count towards your final average.

You will have unlimited attempts on each question on the assignment. These assignments will not be timed; however, each assignment has a specific due date/time. Specific dates/times can be found on the class schedule at the end of this syllabus and are posted on the calendar in Course Den.

There are **NO MAKE-UPS** for these assignments. Homework assignments **will not** be reopened **FOR ANY REASON** once the deadline for completion has passed.

Any issues, technical or otherwise, concerning the homework must be addressed with sufficient notice in advance of the due date/time. Once the deadline has passed, any unattempted homework assignment will result in a grade of zero.

You can complete your homework assignments using the student computer labs on campus or on your own equipment. Keep in mind that technology problems often seem to occur at the worst possible times. I encourage every student to have a back-up plan and complete their work well in advance of deadlines in case their technology fails. You should have an alternate computer access plan if your ISP suddenly goes out of business, or your disk crashes, or you experience some other personal hardware issue. You are responsible for having an emergency alternative computer access plan. Know in advance where you can go (library, Internet café, friend's house, workplace) if your primary system fails. Unreliable Internet access or inability to login will result in missed deadlines and forfeited points.

If you are experiencing technical issues with Course Den or Sapling Learning (not your computer/ISP) that are preventing you from submitting your homework, you have two responsibilities: 1) **immediately** contact the appropriate technical support: for **Course Den related problems** contact the Help Desk by phone: 678-839-6248 or by email: distance@westga.edu. If it's after office hours you can go to <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>. For **Sapling Learning related problems** contact their technical support using information located at <http://www2.saplinglearning.com/help/higher-education-us/student-faq> 2) Notify me via my WestGa email address (**do not** do this through the email offered in Course Den) after you contact the Help Desk or technical support.

Bonus Point Opportunities:

If you register for at least the courtesy access of Sapling Learning by 11:00pm January 12, 2016, you will receive 2 bonus points to be added to your point total for the semester.

In-class Activities/Sapling Learning Assignments: At various times throughout the semester there may be opportunities for bonus points via in-class or Sapling Learning assignments. These opportunities will be given at the discretion of the professor. Sapling Learning bonus assignments will have specific due dates/times. In-class activities **will not** be announced in advance. There are **NO MAKE-UPS** for missed bonus activities (this includes both in-class activities and Sapling Learning assignments). Any missed activity is considered a forfeiture of the bonus point opportunity.

Class Policies:

- Food is not allowed in any of the classrooms.
- Turn off or silence cell phones and put away before coming into class. **Sleeping, texting, and listening to music during class are not allowed. Do not come to class if you intend to do this.**
- Answering cell phones during class is not allowed and is a violation of the student code of conduct. Any student who violates this policy will be reported to the student conduct office.
- Headphones should be removed once class has begun.
- Be on time. It is distracting to me as well as other students when you come in after the lecture has already begun.
- If you need to leave class early, please inform me before class begins and sit close to the door so that you may exit with as little disruption as possible.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating on any test or assignment will result in a zero on the test or assignment and will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Students not familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty should refer to the Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog: <http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm>.

The following are some examples of violations of the honor code in this course:

- Talking to classmates during exams.
- Looking at other students' exams.
- Texting or emailing during exams.
- Having on watches or having your cell phone out during exams.
- Borrowing/sharing calculators during exams.
- Using cheat sheets or writing notes on desks.
- Having another student complete an online homework/bonus assignment for you.

WOLF PACT: By enrolling and continuing in this course you agree to the following:

Having read the Honor Code for the University of West Georgia, I understand and accept my responsibility to uphold the values and beliefs described therein and to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect the values of the Institution and the Richards College of Business so as to respect the rights of all UWG community members. As a UWG student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly and within the parameters set by my instructor. I understand and accept that if I am found guilty of violations (through processes due me as a UWG student and outlined in the UWG Student Handbook), penalties will be imposed. I also recognize that my responsibility includes willingness to confront members of the UWG community if I feel there has been a violation of the Honor Code. Ultimately, I will conduct myself in a manner that promotes UWG as the best place to work, learn, and succeed for my generation, and those to come!

UWG Email Policy: University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email. All correspondence between you and I should be via UWG e-mail. **I will not respond to e-mails sent from personal e-mail accounts.**

Cancellation: In the event that class is cancelled, I will communicate it with you as quickly as possible via Course Den and WestGa email, and any relevant assignments or course announcements will be posted on Course Den. Please review UWG's Emergency Closing Policy for inclement weather located here: http://www.westga.edu/police/index_5102.php.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Accessibility Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Accessibility Services is located in 123 Row Hall at the Student Development Center, telephone 678-839-6428, http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php.

Credit Hour Policy (3 credit hours): For approximately fifteen weeks, students in this class will generally spend 150 minutes with direct faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online) and work about 360 minutes outside of the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, readings, assignments, projects, group work, research, and test preparation.

Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy: Effective August 1, 2014, the use of all forms of tobacco products on property owned, leased, rented, in the possession of, or in any way used by the USG or its affiliates is expressly prohibited. "Tobacco Products" is defined as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes and any other smoking devices that use tobacco such as hookahs or simulate the use of tobacco such as electronic cigarettes. This policy applies to all persons who enter the areas described above, including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, contractors and subcontractors, spectators, and visitors. All events hosted by a USG entity shall be tobacco-free. All events hosted by outside groups on behalf of the USG shall also be tobacco-free. Violation of this policy may result in corrective action under the Student Code of Conduct or campus human resource policies. Visitors refusing to comply may be asked to leave campus. The full policy is available here: <http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section9/C503>.

Other Important Information: Students, please carefully review the following information at this link http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf. It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Registering Sapling Learning: You will need to do this as soon as possible. Your first scheduled assignment has a due date of January 14, 2016 at 11:55pm. The link to register for your class section can be found in the folder located on Course Den. You will need to purchase access directly through the Sapling Learning website. Instructions can be found at <http://www2.saplinglearning.com/help/higher-education-us/accounts-and-registration>. A link to the instructions is provided in the folder located on Course Den. There is a courtesy trial period of 14 days, however, you will need to pay for access in order to complete all the assignments for the semester. More information regarding payment can be found on the Sapling Learning website. **If you register for at least the courtesy access of Sapling Learning by 11:00pm January 12, 2016, you will receive 2 bonus points to be added to your point total for the semester.**

Tentative Class Schedule/Topic List

| Date | Chapter | Topic |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| Tues. 01/12 | 1 | Introduction/Syllabus and Course Overview/Welcome to Economics Homework #1 available 8am |
| Thurs. 01/14 | 1 | Welcome to Economics...continued Homework #1 due 11:55pm/Homework #2 available 8am |
| Tues. 01/19 | 2 | Choice in a World of Scarcity Homework #2 due 11:55pm/Homework #3 available 8am |
| Thurs. 01/21 | 2 | Choice in a World of Scarcity...continued |
| Tues. 01/26 | 3 | Demand and Supply Homework #3 due 11:55pm/ Homework #4 available 8am |
| Thurs. 01/28 | 3 | Demand and Supply...continued |
| Tues. 02/02 | | Overflow/Exam Review Homework #4 due 11:55pm |
| Thurs. 02/04 | | Exam 1 given in class |
| Tues. 02/09 | 4 | Labor and Financial Markets Homework #5 available 8am |
| Thurs. 02/11 | 4 | Labor and Financial Markets...continued |
| Tues. 02/16 | 5 | Elasticity Homework #5 due 11:55pm/Homework #6 available 8am |
| Thurs. 02/18 | 5 | Elasticity |
| Tues. 02/23 | 6 | Consumer Choices Homework #6 due 11:55pm/Homework #7 available 8am |
| Thurs. 02/25 | 6 | Consumer Choices...continued |
| Tues. 03/01 | 7 | Cost and Industry Structure Homework #7 due 11:55pm/Homework #8 available 8am |
| Thurs. 03/03 | 7 | Cost and Industry Structure...continued LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A GRADE OF "W". |
| Tues. 03/08 | | Overflow/Exam Review Homework #8 due 11:55pm |
| Thurs. 03/10 | | Exam 2 given in class |
| Tues. 03/15 | | No Class – Spring Break |
| Thurs. 03/17 | | No Class – Spring Break |
| Tues. 03/22 | 8 | Perfect Competition Homework #9 available 8:00am |
| Thurs. 03/24 | 8 | Perfect Competition...continued |
| Tues. 03/29 | 9 | Monopoly Homework #9 due 11:55pm/Homework #10 available 8am |
| Thurs. 03/31 | 9 | Monopoly...continued |
| Tues. 04/05 | 11 | Monopoly and Antitrust Policy Homework #10 due 11:55pm/Homework #11 available 8am |
| Thurs. 04/07 | 11 | Monopoly and Antitrust Policy...continued |
| Tues. 04/12 | 10 | Monopolistic Competition Homework #11 due 11:55pm/Homework #12 available 8am |
| Thurs. 04/14 | 10 | Monopolistic Competition...continued/Oligopoly |
| Tues. 04/19 | 10 | Oligopoly...continued |
| Thurs. 04/21 | | Overflow/Exam Review Homework #12 due 11:55pm |
| Tues. 04/26 | | Section 04 (11:00am class): Final Exam at 11:00am |
| Thurs. 04/28 | | Section 03 (9:30am class): Final Exam at 8:00am Section 5 (12:30pm class): Final Exam at 11:00am |

Note: This schedule provides a general plan for the course. More topics may be covered if time permits. All assignment (tests and other assignments) **due dates will remain fixed.** However, **material covered for each are tentative** and deviations may be necessary depending upon the progress of the class. Changes will be announced in class and updated on the Course Den calendar.