

University of Utah
Economics 2010/2020-001:009 and 2020-002:003 Fall 2011
Principles of Economics (Macro and Micro “Jumbo”
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:40 - 10:30 AM OSH WPRA
Friday 7:30 AM – 1:45 PM Various sections/rooms
This Syllabus version covers the first half class

Instructors: Steve Bannister, steve.bannister@econ.utah.edu, Phone: 801.581.7481

Komson Chanprapan, fezbo@hotmail.com

Bryan Craven, bryan.craven.1@gmail.com

Victor Isidro, victor.isidro@economics.utah.edu

Garret Marshall, garretmarshall@yahoo.com

Office Hours: By appointment at: steve.bannister@econ.utah.edu

Textbook: McConnell, Brue, Flynn, McConnell Economics 19e, ©2012, University of Utah Custom Textbook (19th Edition) [Softcover], including online Connect-Plus access, McGraw-Hill; 19e edition, ISBN10: 007-756-309-3. Required. Available in Campus Book Store during the week of August 22. Note that students may access the ebook version for free for three weeks. I will have instructions the first day of class.

Prerequisites: An elementary understanding of algebra and geometry.

Credits: 3 semester credit hours per half/6 hours total

Calendar: **Course Calendar**

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Course Description:

This first half course will introduce you to economic (scientific) thinking and the main Microeconomic principles and theories.

My goal is to teach you to think about economic issues analytically. Thus we will use economic history as well as basic algebra, calculus, and graphs.

In order to grasp contemporary debates related to the way economies and economic policies work in the real world, I will present content from a variety of sources including economic journals, blogs and newspapers such the Financial Times or the Wall Street Journal.

Course Schedule:

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------|
| ..... | First Half – Microeconomics | ..... |
| ..... | Week 1 | ..... |
| Introduction, Logistics, Motivation, The Math Thing | | Week 1 |
| Chapter 1 – Limits, Alternatives, and Choices | | Week 1 |
| Chapter 2 – The Market System and the Circular Flow | | Week 1 |
| Quiz | | Week 1 |
| ..... | Week 2 | ..... |
| Chapter 3 – Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium | | Week 2 |
| Chapter 4 – Elasticity | | Week 2 |
| Chapter 5 – Market Failures: Public Goods and Externalities | | Week 2 |
| Quiz | | Week 2 |
| ..... | Week 3 | ..... |
| Chapter 6 – Consumer Behavior | | Week 3 |
| Chapter 7 – Businesses and the Costs of Production | | Week 3 |
| Chapter 8 – Pure Competition in the Short Run | | Week 3 |
| Chapter 9 – Pure Competition in the Long Run | | Week 3 |
| Quiz | | Week 3 |
| ..... | Week 4 | ..... |
| Chapter 10 – Pure Monopoly | | Week 4 |
| Chapter 11 – Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly | | Week 4 |
| Chapter 12 – The Demand for Resources | | Week 4 |
| First Half Midterm | | Week 4 |
| ..... | Week 5 | ..... |
| Chapter 13 – Wage Determination | | Week 5 |
| Chapter 14 – Rent, Interest, and Profit | | Week 5 |
| Chapter 15 – Natural Resources and Energy Economics | | Week 5 |
| Quiz | | Week 5 |
| ..... | Week 6 | ..... |
| Chapter 16 – Public Finance: Expenditure and Taxes | | Week 6 |
| Chapter 17 – Asymmetric Information, Voting, and Public Choices | | Week 6 |
| Chapter 18 – Antitrust Policy and Regulation | | Week 6 |
| Chapter 19 – Agriculture: Economics and Policy | | Week 6 |
| Quiz | | Week 6 |
| ..... | Week 7 | ..... |
| Chapter 20 – Income Inequality, Poverty, and Discrimination | | Week 7 |
| Chapter 21 – Health Care | | Week 7 |
| Chapter 22 – Immigration | | Week 7 |
| First Half Final | | Week 7 |
| ..... | Fall Break | ..... |
| ..... | Second Half – Macroeconomics | ..... |

Between August 22 and October 7 we will cover Parts 1 – 6, Chapters 1 – 22 in McConnell, Brue, and Flynn. The course will be composed of seminar lectures Monday thru Thursday, 9:40 AM – 10:30 AM. A mere pittance of time – or is it? We will learn to think about that type of question.

Fridays will we will split into discussion groups to cover questions and work the exercises that will convert you into economists.

Much of the course content, homework, and quizzes will be available online.

Part of your grade will be determined by your participation in class. That includes participating every day during the seminars.

Coursework:

The course consists of in-class lectures, including an in-class review for the midterm exam and the final exam, homework, and quizzes. Each lecture is associated with required readings from the textbook. The course schedule, above, is a guide, and will be modified depending on our actual lecture experience.

You will attend a discussion group on Friday at the time you selected; the purpose is to answer questions and work example problems.

Homework will be assigned but not included in your course grade. Homework exercises are online via McGraw-Hill's Connect system. The main purpose of homework is to build and exercise your skills and test your knowledge on topics before you take the timed graded quiz in the same topics. So consider homework as practice quizzes.

You will take either timed quizzes or midterm/finals every week whose grades will count in your final grade. The quizzes are all taken online. You are also required to take a midterm exam and a final exam, both of which will be in class on the scheduled exam date.

Communications among us:

You should send all questions not covered in lecture regarding the course content, quizzes, midterm scores, final scores, final grades, and so forth, directly to your favorite TA/instructor. We frequently check mail. Blackboard/Vista e-mail is hardly useful, so send us your preferred email which will allow us to have a useful group and individual email for the class. We will also communicate with you on course questions and developments using your preferred mail, so please send that to me ASAP.

Please be specific about the question that you are asking. For example, if you have a question about Homework 2, question no.11, make sure that you state enough information so that your question is clear, so just for example, Econ 2010-001, Homework 2-Chapter 9 #143. Each homework is different so just giving us the number of the question on your quiz does not tell us which question it is. This will allow us to respond more quickly.

Office Hours:

My approach to office hours (as required beyond your Friday discussion group) is to be as flexible as possible; when I am not lecturing, I am usually in the Economics office, or available via email. So, if you want to meet, the best thing to do is send me a mail, and we'll find a jointly agreeable time to do so. steve.bannister@econ.utah.edu.

Note that having your preferred email is important to make communicating easy. I will ask you for that several times, including the first day of class.

Computer system requirements:

As part of your textbook purchase, you should have received an online access code for Connect. This site contains many resources, and will be used for quizzes.

You will need a computer with a browser to access the necessary web sites. If you do not have access to a personal computer, please see me about using an available computer lab.

Assignments (How to Complete the Course):

The course will be structured around lectures and discussions on the required reading, homework practice based on a customized study plan, the timed quizzes, and the midterm and final exams.

The practice homework, timed quizzes, and resources including PowerPoints are available when you login to Connect. You will need your access code, and the following instructor/class information to register:

To register for, and get access to, Connect for this class go to:

Econ 2010 Connect Link

To perform well in the class and to start understanding economic truths, you should focus on the following course elements:

1. **Follow the Course Schedule:** It provides you with a study schedule for the class and dates when assignments are due.
2. **Attend Lectures:**
 - Lectures are where the meat is put on the bones of the principles you will be learning.
 - Lectures are a way of making the links from the principles concepts to the real world.
 - Lectures are where relevant current events are tied to the principles.
 - Lectures are where the principles are related to important historical events.
 - Lectures are where you can ask questions, debate relevant points, and enlarge your worldview.

- People who regularly attend lectures do better in the class on the average, trust me on this one. And they tend to enjoy the classwork much more. Here is the study cycle I strongly recommend, and which reflects the way Connect is set up.

3. **Textbook Reading:** You should read the textbook material that corresponds to the particular lesson to be covered. The textbook is the only essential source of information for the course. Technically, you only need to complete the quizzes, midterm, and final to complete the course.

However, all the questions contained in those various examinations come directly from the textbook. Yet, for most students, the lecture notes, practice homework, and PowerPoints can be very useful in reinforcing one's knowledge.

4. **Lecture Notes:** For the class lectures, I will work from lecture notes that will highlight the important concepts, make sense of them, and tie them to the real world. This is my attempt to highlight the "forest" that overarches the "trees" of the course content.

I will publish the lecture notes, usually after the lecture as a practical matter.

5. **Homework:** After reading the lesson materials, take the homework assignment associated with the chapter. Connect will score the homework. You can take them as many times as necessary to get all the answers correct.

6. **Graded Timed Quiz:** You will take the timed quiz on each lesson in order to complete the lesson. There are 5 quizzes which are required and they will comprise 30% of your total score.

The quizzes are grouped so that you will have a completion deadline every week. The timed quizzes will be available usually Thursday, but must be completed by the date and time set on the course calendar, usually Sunday at midnight.

(a) Note well that the quiz is usually timed for 30 minutes. ***Do not open the quiz before you plan on taking it!*** Once you begin a quiz, the timer starts and you will be unable to stop it. Make sure you are ready to take the quiz and you are in a stable computer environment before you start it.

(b) Actual quizzes are not restricted to closed-book tests. ***If you want to take them as open-book tests, you can do so.*** They are also unproctored and you can use any resource, Google, Twitter or even call Who Wants to be a Millionaire?.

Be aware however that heavy reliance on book or other aids may affect your performance on the more heavily weighted exams where no aids are allowed.

Also, you are limited to 30 minutes on the graded quizzes, so you will be under time pressure and will not have time for extensive research. The time for learning is before these quizzes in the readings, lectures, and homework cycle that I have set up for you on Connect.

(c) All Timed Quizzes must be completed by midnight of the specified due dates. You can take the quizzes earlier than the deadline. But, once the

deadline passes, you will not be able to access the quiz.

- (d) **PowerPoint Presentation:** each Lesson will have a link to a publisher - provided PowerPoint presentation for the relevant Chapter in the text. Some students may find these useful in reviewing or synthesizing the Lesson material.

- 7. **The Midterm and Final Exams:** You will take a midterm and a final exam. Both the midterm and final exams will consist of 50 questions, and each will count for 35% of your class score.

I am planning to arrange to have proctored on-line exams, in the format very similar to your quizzes. We would move to a room that would have computers for everyone. I have not worked out these logistics yet, so will update this as the plan comes together.

The midterm and final must be taken on the dates listed in the calendar. Exceptions are allowed only with the permission of the instructor. According to the reasons of the request, the instructor will decide whether an exception is allowed or not. Incomplete Grades will not be allowed.

- 8. **Preparing for the midterm and final:** The midterm will cover Chapters 1 – 12. The best method of preparation for the midterm is to reread all chapter summaries in the textbook focusing on the defined terms and the graphs used, retake all of the practice quizzes, **and know why the correct answers are in fact correct, and review all of the actual quizzes taken.**

The midterm questions will be very similar to those found in the practice quizzes and quizzes, so those are the best sources of study material. However, they will concentrate on the most important themes, rather than on narrow facts and content. For example, there will be no true/false questions.

The final exam will cover Chapters 13 – 22.

Grade Policy:

Grades will be based upon these components: class participation, timed quizzes, the midterm and the final exam. Each component is weighted as follows:

| Activity | Grade weighting |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Class Participation | 10% Extra Credit |
| 5 Quizzes | 30% |
| Midterm Exam | 35% |
| Final Exam | 35% |

Disclaimers:

"The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/"

It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments.

Classroom equivalency: Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code.