

SYLLABUS

Econ 2010-001

Principles of Microeconomics

With discussion sections Econ 2010-002, Econ 2010-003, Econ 2010-004, and Econ 2010-005

Course Information

Instructor: Catherine Ruetschlin, Ph.D.

Department: Economics

Email: catherine.ruetschlin@economics.utah.edu

Office Hours: Drop-in office hours are available via zoom each Thursday from 1 to 3 pm. See the Contact Me page in Canvas for more information. You can also email me via the Canvas Inbox or at the email above to set up an appointment for a virtual meeting using zoom or ConexED outside of these hours.

Teaching Assistants

Section 002: Sanchaita Hazra sanchaita.hazra@utah.edu

Section 003: Gyeongho Kim gyeongho.kim@utah.edu

Section 004: Zehu Du zehu.du@utah.edu

Section 005: Aishwarya Ghosh aishwarya.ghosh@utah.edu

Course Description

Course Summary

Principles of Microeconomics presents the fundamental tools of analysis for understanding economic decision making among individuals, firms, and organizations, whose collective decisions determine how resources are allocated in a capitalist economy. Students will engage with the basic analytic tools of modeling and critical thinking. The tools presented include supply and demand analysis, theories of consumer and producer behavior, analysis of competition and market power, and their application to social welfare and public policy.

Econ 2010 is a 3-credit introductory course designated Social/Behavioral Science Exploration. The course does not assume any prior training in the field of economics and requires only basic algebra skills.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the role of markets in modern society
- Build and manipulate the basic microeconomic model of supply and demand
- Apply and interpret the economic logic of basic models of international trade, environmental resource management, and other contemporary public policy issues
- Identify the properties of competitive markets and those with market power

Required Materials

Goodwin, Neva, Jonathan M. Harris, Julie A. Nelson, Pratistha Joshi Rajkarnikar, Brian Roach, and Mariano Torras. *Microeconomics in Context, Fourth Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2019.

The textbook is available through the University's inclusive access program which offers discounted text access for those students who are willing to use a digital textbook through the Canvas course site. You may opt in to or out of inclusive access using the 'bookshelf' tab in the Canvas course page menu on screen left and using the instructions available in the file titled 'Access the textbook.' You may also opt out at the link <https://portal.verba.io/utah/login>.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Econ 2010-001 is offered in person for Spring 2022.

The course is organized into weekly modules with materials presented in lecture format during Monday and Wednesday classes from 11:50 am to 1:10 pm. In order to accommodate social distancing and the needs of students in quarantine, these sessions will be streamed in real time through Zoom video conferencing.

Each module of this course includes reading, lecture, interactive question and answer, one quiz, and one application problem. Students are expected to have read the assigned text before class, and to come with comments or questions related to the material. Your participation is encouraged in every class session.

Friday discussion sessions are in person, interactive, and required. In these discussions your Teaching Assistants will demonstrate the numerical or graphical reasoning that appears on application assignments. Attending Friday discussion sessions will provide you with the tools you need for success in this course.

Use the modules tab on Canvas to view the course calendar and access the course content including links, lectures, and assignments. The content of each module is presented in the Module Overview and Instructions page, including the objectives and organization for the week, links to live class sessions, associated assignments, and the record of lecture material when available.

Effective communication is essential to our progress this semester and you are encouraged to contact the instructor via email or Canvas, to set up in-person or virtual appointments to discuss any questions, and to reach out when the content or delivery is not working for you. Your instructor is a human being who is invested in your intellectual progress.

Canvas Time Zone Information

To ensure you are viewing due dates and times correctly, as well as events in the calendar, set your student Canvas time zone to your current location by following this [guide](#).

If you do not change your time zone, all due dates and times listed in Canvas default to Mountain Time.

Content written by instructors, such as office hours written in the syllabus, are in Mountain Time, unless stated otherwise.

Online Course Expectations

While all of the academic expectations of this online course are equivalent to those in the traditional course section, there are a number of additional expectations that students should be aware of when participating in the course online.

Instructor Expectations

Your course instructor is an expert in the topics you will learn about this semester. Your instructor is your mentor and facilitator of the classroom experience, aided by graduate teaching assistants, and is committed to the following expectations for this course:

- The instructor will design the course to include lectures, readings materials, and assignments that will challenge students and will provide them with opportunities to learn and practice course content.
- Though this online course includes pre-recorded lectures, it is not a class that is run “automatically” by technology. The instructor and teaching assistants will interact with the class via announcements, virtual office hours, emails/the Canvas Inbox, feedback on assignments, and comments on lecture bulletin boards, among other methods.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will respond to emails in a timely fashion. “Timely” in this instance means within 48 hours, not including weekends and holidays.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will be available for individual consultation via virtual office hours, email, or phone. Students will not be required to come to campus in order to meet with the instructor or teaching assistants.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will provide feedback on the assignments in a timely manner.

- The instructor will follow all official University of Utah policies regarding conduct in the classroom, incompletes, and accommodations. Accommodations will be considered on an individual basis and only with required documentation.

Student Expectations

Though the online format allows students greater flexibility to complete their work, this course does have a structure and timeline, including due dates for course assignments. As such, the following is expected of all students in this class:

- Students will log in to the course a minimum of 3 times per week.
- Students may be expected to work with classmates; however, students are not expected to interact with their classmates in person. A good alternative to meeting in person would be online video conferencing, which allows students to find a time to meet that works best for their schedule. Depending on the assignment, students can also choose to interact with their classmates with whatever technology they are most comfortable with (Groupme, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, etc).
- To do well in online courses, students must be self-motivated, organized, and willing to stay on top of their schedule. Students should take control of their learning while in this course.
- Students will regularly check course announcements. The Announcements area is the instructor's official means of communication when distributing information to the entire class.
- Students will update their Canvas settings to ensure they receive timely notifications from the course.
- If students have any questions, are struggling with course materials, or need further assistance from their instructor, they will take the initiative to contact their instructor via the Inbox feature in Canvas or via email.
- Email isn't perfect; sometimes, messages sent to instructors are lost before they are read. If you do not hear back from your instructor 3 days after sending a message, please contact your instructor again.
- Students will engage with the course, students, and the instructor in a respectful and professional manner at all times.

Netiquette

Students are expected to follow the core rules of netiquette at all times while participating in the class, interacting with other students, and communicating with the course instructor and teaching assistants.

Evaluation and Grading

Semester Grading Scheme

Weekly quizzes, completed on Canvas before class each Tuesday: 40%

Weekly application problems and online discussions: 40%

Midterm exam: 10%

Final exam: 10%

Assignments

Assignments in this course include weekly quizzes over assigned reading, application problems that provide practice with technical relationships, and online discussion activities. All assignments will be completed on Canvas. The assignments are intended to help you master the material, prepare for exams, and improve the quality of in-class discussions.

Any assignment in this course may include a combination of multiple choice, short answer/essay questions, analytical/graphical analysis, and comments posted to the discussion feature of Canvas. All graded assignments must be written in complete sentences. Assignments are due before class begins on the date assigned.

Please note application problems and exams will often be posted under the ‘quiz’ function on Canvas. This designation does not change the assignment category of applications or exams – quiz is simply the only modality on Canvas that allows for electronic grading.

- **Quizzes** will be made available on Canvas at the beginning of each week and are due before the start of class the following Monday. The quiz will test your understanding of the material covered over the weekly module. These weekly quizzes usually consist of 10 multiple choice questions.
- **Application Problems** will be assigned most weeks. These problems require you to apply the theory covered in the weekly module to specific examples, including quantitative applications. Application problems for all modules before the midterm must be completed before the midterm exam. Application problems for all modules after the midterm must be completed before the final exam. You are encouraged to complete the applications on a weekly basis. Applications may be multiple choice, numerical answer, short answer, or graphical questions that require you to draw and upload your work.
- **Discussion Board** participation will be assigned throughout the semester. Discussions are graded pass/fail for participation.

Exams The midterm exam will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd at 11:50 am. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, May 4th during the University-scheduled final exam period. Each exam will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

All students must complete the exam independently – no collaboration is allowed during the exam period.

University of Utah Grading Scale

A	100%–94%	A-	93.9%–90%		
B+	89.9%–87%	B	86.9%–84%	B-	83.9%–80%
C+	79.9%–77%	C	76.9–74%	C-	73.9%–70%
D+	69.9%–67%	D	66.9%–64%	D-	63.9%–60%
E	59.9%–0%				

Course Policies

Late Assignments and Exams

The due dates on quizzes and application problems are intended to help you stay on track in the course and identify questions about the core concepts before the class moves on. Please note due dates and work each week to keep up with the course.

Late exams will not be accepted without an excuse from the University or a medical professional.

Content Accommodations

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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Technology Issues and Tech Help

Your instructor invested time before the start of the semester to ensure that the technologies used in this online class will operate smoothly. Nevertheless, technology doesn't always do what we want it to do! As such, this course has the following expectations regarding tech problems:

- Students are **required** to contact the instructor immediately when they notice broken links or inaccessible files in the course. Links and files are assumed to work, unless students indicate otherwise. Points lost on assignments, due to inaccessible links and files, **cannot** be made up if students did not notify the instructor of the problem prior to the assignment due date.
- The instructor is committed to fixing broken links and inaccessible files as soon as possible after being notified by the students. In the case that there will be a significant delay before

these items can be fixed, the instructor will post an announcement to let the class know about the problem and to describe any alternate files/links or alternate due dates for assignments, if applicable, that students should be aware of.

- Students are responsible for submitting all assignments and activities by their due dates. In the very rare case that technical problems prevent a student from submitting an assignment, students are required to—
 - Immediately contact their instructor via email or the Canvas **Inbox**, to let them know about the problem and to submit a copy of their assignment as an attachment (where possible).
 - Then, immediately contact the Canvas help desk to troubleshoot and resolve the problem.
 - Submit an email updating the instructor on whether the problem was resolved and of any additional steps the student or instructor needs to take to get the assignment properly submitted to Canvas.
- It is **not** appropriate to send an email to your instructor informing them about tech problems after an assignment due date.
- Students are expected to read all assignment instructions and to submit work in the required file formats. Work submitted as improper file formats will **not** be considered to have been handed in on time. The instructor will only grade work submitted using the proper file format.
- It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the appropriate help desk to troubleshoot and resolve tech problems in the course,

24/7 help is available to all students via the *Help* button in the far-left Canvas menu.

For more detailed information about getting tech help, please review the information on the [Tech Help](#) page of the course.

Institutional Policies

All students and instructors are expected to adhere to the following university policies:

The Americans with Disabilities Act

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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

University Safety Statement

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report

suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message.

For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu (Links to an external site.).

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Drop/Withdrawal

Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for the last day to withdraw from term, first and second session classes.

Deadlines for courses with irregular start and end dates policy:

<https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/miscellaneous.php>

Plagiarism/Cheating

It is assumed that all work submitted to your instructor is your own work. When you have used ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, *"includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."*

For detailed definitions and possible sanctions, see the Student Code:

<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

Wellness Statement

Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems.

For helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Veterans Support Center

The Veterans Support Center is a “one stop shop” for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201.

You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at:
<http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>

LGBT Resource Center

The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 of the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm.

You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu>.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development.

These resources include:

Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu>)

Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu>)

English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli>)

About the U

As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field.

CSBS Emergency Action Plan

Not every online student comes to campus, but some do. Familiarize yourself with the [CSBS Emergency Action Plan](#) before you come to campus.

Course Outline

The course is organized into 15 week-long modules. To see the module schedule and assignment due dates, students should view the Course Summary section below and the course Modules.

Syllabus Changes

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be posted to Canvas under Announcements.

Course Summary

Approximate Lecture Dates	Topic	Reading (Goodwin, et al)
January 10-12	Orientation, Markets & Society	Chapters 1 & 2
January 19	Production Possibilities and Exchange	Chapter 1 Chapter 6
January 24-26	International Trade and Trade Policy	Chapter 6
January 31- February 2	Supply & Demand	Chapter 3
February 7-9	Supply & Demand Elasticity	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
February 14-16	Elasticity Welfare Analysis	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
February 23	Taxes & Tax Policy	Chapter 11
February 28 - March 2	Review/Midterm Exam	
March 14-16	Externalities and the Environment	Chapter 12
March 21-23	Public Goods	Chapter 13
March 28-30	Production Costs	Chapter 15
April 4-6	Perfect Competition	Chapter 16
April 11-13	Monopoly Markets	Chapter 17
April 18-20	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 17
April 25	Wrap Up/Review	
May 4, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Final Exam	