ECON 2306: Introduction to Microeconomics

Distance Sections: 006, 007, 008

Fall 2012

Syllabus

Instructor: Timothy A. Wunder
Office: COBA 319
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 am to 12:30 pm and also by appointment.
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Class Expectations:
1. I expect that you will read this syllabus and abide by the information in it. Continuation in this class implies that you have read this syllabus and agree to the terms within.

2. I expect that you will complete the assignments and tests within the appropriate time frames as is laid out in the calendar at the end of this syllabus.

3. I expect academic integrity. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in the severest possible manner. It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

4. You need to be aware that the two exams in this class will need to be taken either on campus at time and room to be announced or via a certified proctor as set up with the UTA testing center. There will be an opportunity to take the exams at an appointed time for free, however if you can’t make it at that time you may have to pay to take the exams at the UTA testing center. More information on this is available below in the class calendar section.
5. All assignments will be open for completion up until the closing date which is listed in the calendar below. No late assignments will be accepted.

6. You should expect to gain a basic understanding of elementary models of the micro-economy as well as an understanding theoretical reasoning behind firm and individual behavior.

7. At the end of this class you as the student should be able to do the following (Student Learning Outcomes)
   - Use supply and demand to answer questions on economic topics.
   - Explain the theory of consumer behavior that helps to explain demand.
   - Explain the theory of the firm that serves to explain supply.
   - Explain differing market models including perfect competition and monopoly.

Text and Materials:
The text for this class is Microeconomics; Brief Edition by McConnell, Brue and Flynn. This book will be essential in understanding the concepts in class. Secondary requirements will be to maintain a good understanding of the issues in the current media. My recommendation for a source on this is to read Business Week, some other news magazine, or the Wall Street Journal or New York Times.

University Policies:
Individuals with Disabilities Act:
As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support Services Available:
The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Electronic Communication:
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students
are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Student Feedback Survey:
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week:
A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Grading:
There are a total of 500 points available in this class. Final grading will be in the following form:

90+ (450 points or more)   A
80-89 (400 – 449 points)   B
70-79 (350 – 399 points)   C
60-69 (300 – 350 points)   D
Below 60 (below 300 points)   F

I reserve the right to lower these boundaries but I will never raise them.

This class will have the following ways to achieve points:

1. There will be 2 exams each worth 150 points. The exams are scheduled in the syllabus calendar below. Each of these exams will only cover the materials during that section. Exam 1 will cover materials in lesson one through six and
exam 2 will cover materials in lesson seven through twelve. Each exam will contain 30 multiple choice questions (each worth 4 points) and 3 short answers (each worth 10 points). These exams are proctored exams taken OFFLINE.

2. There will be a brief cumulative skills assessment worth 20 points that will be taken at the same time as exam 2. This assessment will consist of 20 simple multiple choice questions that should be easy to answer if the student has mastered the materials in this class.

3. There will be 4 multiple choice homework sets that you will be able to complete via blackboard. These sets will contain a total of 30 multiple choice homework questions for a grand total of 120 points. These homework questions are intended to be tools to assist you in the preparation for the exams. The exam questions will be similar to these homework questions in terms of both difficulty and content. You will be allowed two attempts at the multiple choice homework questions. Your final attempt will be the multiple choice homework that will be graded.

4. There will be 4 short answer homework questions. These homework questions will each count for 10 points and the lowest of these question scores will be dropped in the final grade. These short answer homework questions are intended to be tools to assist you in the preparation for the exams. The exam short answer questions will be similar to these homework questions in terms of both difficulty and content.

5. There will be 4 group discussions each worth 10 point and the lowest discussion score will be dropped in the final grade. Each of these discussions will take place via blackboard forums and you will be randomly assigned to a discussion group. You will be graded in these discussions according to participation. To get full credit you must post a comment and reply to at least two of the other students’ comments. Differences of opinion are welcome however polite discourse is required. Inappropriate commentary will result in you receiving no credit for the discussion. Continued inappropriate behavior may result in your not being allowed to participate in the discussion forums and the loss of all potential points from these discussions.

Class Calendar (all times and dates set to DFW local time) each week starts on that Sunday.

**Week of**

*August 19:* First day of classes August 23rd. Lesson 1 available August 23rd.

*August 26:* Lesson 2 available August 26th. Multiple choice homework 1 available August 26th. Short answer homework 1 Available August 26th. (Last day to complete both is September 1st 11:59 pm)
September 2
Lesson 3 available September 2nd
Discussion 1 Begins September 2nd
(Discussion closes September 8th 11:59 pm)

September 9
Lesson 4 available September 9th
Multiple choice homework 2 available September 9th
Short answer homework 2 available September 9th
(last day to complete both is September 15th 11:59 pm)

September 16
Lesson 5 available September 16th
Discussion 2 begins September 16th
(Discussion closes September 22nd 11:59 pm)

September 23
Lesson 6 available September 23rd

September 30
Nothing new available use time now until test to study and prepare

October 7
October 8th - 11th exam 1
You MUST use an approved university proctoring service to proctor this exam. They will charge you for this service. One option is to use UTA’s proctoring service; go to http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/prospective/testing-services/index.php for information. Test slots are limited to the 8th, 9th and 11th you should make arrangements as early in the semester as possible. AS A FAVOR TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ABLE TO, I WILL PROCTOR EXAM 1 FOR FREE ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 10TH FROM 6 TO 9 PM ON THE UTA CAMPUS. (ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED). You are not allowed to come to this session if it conflicts with any of your other UTA classes.

October 14
Lesson 7 available October 14th

October 21
Lesson 8 available October 21st
Multiple choice homework 3 available October 21st
Short answer homework 3 available October 21st
(last day to complete both October 27th 11:59 pm)

October 28
Lesson 9 available October 28th
Discussion 3 begins October 28th
(Discussion closes November 3rd 11:59 pm)
Schedule note: Last day to drop October 31st

November 4
Lesson 10 available November 4th
Multiple choice homework available November 4th
Short answer homework 4 available November 4th
(last day to complete both November 10th 10:59 pm)
November 11
Lesson 11 available November 11\textsuperscript{th}
Discussion 4 begins November 11\textsuperscript{th}
(Discussion closes November 17\textsuperscript{th} 11:59 pm)

November 18
UTA Thanksgiving November 22 – November 25\textsuperscript{th}

November 25
Lesson 12 available November 18\textsuperscript{th}

December 2
Nothing new available use time now until test to study and prepare
Last day of classes December 5\textsuperscript{th}

December 6\textsuperscript{th}, 7\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} Exam 2 (and skills assessment)
You MUST use an approved university proctoring service to proctor this exam. They will charge you for this service. One option is to use UTA’s proctoring service; go to
http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/prospective/testing-services/index.php for information. Test slots are limited to the 6\textsuperscript{th} 7\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} you should make arrangements as early in the semester as possible.

\textbf{As a favor to those of you who are able to, I will proctor exam 2 (and the skills assessment) for free on Thursday December 6\textsuperscript{th} from 6 to 9 pm on the UTA campus, (Room to be announced)}  You are not allowed to come to this session if it conflicts with any of your other UTA classes. Check your finals calendar to determine conflicts early. If there is a conflict you will need to have this test proctored.