

Syllabus

Department of Economics

A. Laramie

EC131 Principles of Microeconomics

Fall 1999

Office: Carney 243

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 - 11:30 and by appointment

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Required Reading: Richard Tresch, Principles of (Micro) Economics, West Publishing Company.

Course Objective: The purpose of this course is to get you to think critically about how the economy works and how government policy impacts on the workings of the economy. In this course, particular emphasis is given to analyzing the determinants and the effects of individual households' and businesses' (economic) decisions. By the end of the course, you should be able to understand the meaning of economic efficiency, the requirements for economic efficiency, and how different social environments affect the economy's performance. Moreover, you should have a sense as to how well our economy works and the circumstances where government intervention is appropriate. To accomplish these objectives, we will learn about the research methods of economists.

Course Outline

I. Introduction

- A. The First Principles of Economics
- B. Solving the Economics Problem
- C. Society's Economic Problem
- D. Markets, Prices and the United States Economy

II. The Laws of Supply and Demand

- A. Demand and Elasticity
- B. Supply and Marginal Cost
- C. Market Equilibrium: The laws of Supply and Demand
- D. Applications of Supply and Demand

III. The Economic Problem of Consumers and Business Firms

- A. The Theory of Consumer Choice
- B. The Firms How Problem and the Total Cost of Productio

IV. The Structure of Product Markets in the United States

- A. Perfect Competition
- B. Pure Monopoly

- C. Softening Competition: From Collusion to Effectively Competitive Markets
- D. Oligopoly
- V. Conclusion: Implications for the Economy as a Whole.

Grading: Grading will be based upon three semester exams and a final exam. The final exam will be cumulative. The lowest semester grade will be dropped from the final average. Your final average grade will be based on the two semester exams with the highest scores (each weighted 30%) and the final exam (weighted 40%).

Tentative Assignment Schedule:

- 9/2 Introduction
- 9/7 Chapter 1: Questions 1, 2, and 6
Chapter 2: Questions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
- 9/9 Chapter 3: Questions 2, 3, 4 and 6
- 9/14 Chapter 4: Questions 5
Chapter 5
- 9/16 Chapter 5 continued
questions 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 11
- 9/21 Chapter 6: questions 1, 3 - 10
- 9/23 Chapter 7: questions 2 - 4, 10
- 9/28 Exam 1: Chapters 1 -7
- 9/30 Class cancelled
- 10/5 Chapter 8; questions 5, 6, 8, 9
- 10/7 Chapter 10: questions 1 -4
- 10/12 Appendix 10:2: question 1
- 10/14 Chapter 11
- 10/19 Chapter 11

10/21 Chapter 11 continued: questions 2- 4, 7 - 9

10/26 Exam 2, Chapters 8, 10 and 11

10/28 Chapter 13

11/2 Chapter 13 continued: questions 1 - 4, 8, 10

11/4 Chapter 14

11/9 Chapter 14 continued: questions 1 - 3, 6, 9 -11

11/11 Review

11/16 Exam 3 Chapters 13 and 14

11/18 Chapter 15 questions: 4 - 7

11/23 Chapter 15 continued questions: 4 - 7

11/30 Chapter 16

12/2 Chapter 16 continued, questions 2, 4, 6 - 8, 10

12/7 Review