Econ 201.02 - Microeconomic Theory Syllabus

Professor Donald Cox Fall 1996

Office: Carney 128 Phone: 552-3677

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30--2:30 p.m.

Economics 201 is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in price theory. The subject matter is intrinsically analytical and is best learned by working on problems. The reading schedule is outlined below. Students are required to follow this schedule. Required reading usually ranges from 10 to 30 pages per class.

Text: The required text is Landsburg, <u>Price Theory and Applications</u>, Third Edition.

Study Guide: The study guide that accompanies the text is highly recommended, because it has

lots of solved practice problems.

Grading: The course grade is based on three exams: two in-class midterms and a final

exam. The first midterm will be given on October 3 and the second on November 7. Each midterm counts for 25 percent of the course grade. The remaining 50 percent of the course grade is determined by the final exam, which will be given on December 16, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. No make-up or early exams will be given. Students should check their schedules to make sure that no

conflicts occur on these exam dates.

Problem Sets: Eight problem sets will be required during the course. These problems are listed

on the reading schedule on the next page. Completion of the problem sets is mandatory. Students may collaborate with other students when working on problem sets but each student must hand in his/her own completed problem set.

All problem sets must be handed in <u>on time</u>. Due dates are marked on the

reading schedule.

| <u>Date</u> | | Reading | Main Topic | Problems Due |
|-------------|----|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| September | 3 | | Fundamentals - Supply and Demand | |
| | 5 | Ch. 1 | Fundamentals - Supply and Demand | |
| | 10 | Ch. 2 Ch. 8, section 8.1 | Utility and Preferences | |
| | 12 | Ch. 3, section 3.1 | Consumer's Optimum | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3*, 1.5 |
| | 17 | Ch. 3, sections 3.2, 3.3 | Changing Prices & Income | |
| | 19 | Ch. 4, sections 4.1, 4.2 | Income & Substitution Effects | |
| | 24 | Ch. 4, sections 4.3, 4.4 | Income Elasticity, Price Elasticity | 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 |
| | 26 | Ch. 17, sections 17.1 and 17.3 | Applications, Borrowing and Lending, Multiple Constraints | |
| October | 1 | | Review | 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9 |
| | 3 | | MIDTERM #1 | |
| | 8 | | Discussion of Midterm #1, Beginning of Exchange Theory | |
| | 10 | Ch. 8, section 8.2 | Edgeworth Box | 2.4, 2.7 |
| | 15 | Ch. 5 | Exchange and Production | |
| | 17 | Ch. 6, section 6.1 | Theory of the Firm, Production Function | |
| | 22 | Ch. 6, sections 6.2, 6.3 | Cost Curves, Optimum of the Firm | |
| | 24 | Ch. 7, sections 7.1, 7.2 | Cost Curves, Optimum of the Firm (contd.) | |

^{*}On this problem, skip parts b-i and b-ii.

| <u>Date</u> | | Reading | Main Topic | Problems Due |
|-------------|----|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| October | 29 | Ch. 7, sections 7.3, 7.4 | Competitive Supply and Equilibrium | |
| | 31 | Ch. 7, sections 7.5, 7.6 | Competitive Supply and Equilibrium (contd.) | 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 7.7 |
| November | 5 | | Review | |
| | 7 | | MIDTERM #2 | |
| | 12 | | Discussion of Midterm #2 | |
| | 14 | Ch. 10, sec. 10.1, 10.2 | Monopoly Theory | |
| | 19 | Ch. 10, sec. 10.3 | MonopolyApplications | 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 3.9, 4.1, 4.4 |
| | 21 | Ch. 11, sec. 11.1-4 | Oligopoly and Duopoly | |
| | 26 | Ch. 11, sec. 11.5 | Monopolistic Competition | |
| | 28 | Ch. 15 | Factor Demand, Monopsony | 6.1, 6.2, 6.4 |
| December | 3 | | Catch-up Day | 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 |
| | 5 | | Review | |
| | 16 | | FINAL EXAM, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | |