

ECON 502 – ADVANCED MICROECONOMIC ANALYSIS

COURSE SYLLABUS

SPRING 2012 - # 11205

Professor Larry Howard, Ph.D.

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Time: M-W 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Place: SGMH-2504

Office Hours: M-W 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Meetings at any other time must be arranged in advance via email or phone.

Web page for this course: We will be using Blackboard to post grades which can be accessed by logging into the student portal at: <http://my.fullerton.edu>

REQUIRED TEXT:

Walter Nicholson and Christopher Snyder,

Microeconomic Theory 11th edition (or any recent edition is fine).

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course will be one of the most important courses you take in your graduate program, as it will provide the foundation for much of your subsequent work in economics. We will explore in detail the theoretical framework that economists utilize to model rational decision-making behavior of consumers and firms, the price system, and resource allocation in partial equilibrium settings.

CALCULATION OF COURSE GRADE:

Quizzes - 11 total- lowest score dropped	Each quiz worth 2%	20%
Midterm Exam		35%
Final Exam		45%

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION:

You need to plan on attending class, taking good notes, studying for in-class quizzes, and learning how to solve homework assignments correctly, or plan on receiving a low grade. If you work and your job is such that you are unable to attend lectures, then you should not be enrolled in this course. Also, please feel free to ask any questions you can think of. I will always treat your questions with respect and will not tolerate disrespect from or towards anyone in the class. This is an academic setting where questions are expected and highly encouraged. Moreover, asking questions is essential to the process of learning and improving your understanding of economics.

IN-CLASS QUIZ INFORMATION:

At the beginning of most lectures, we will have short quizzes covering essential material from the previous week. These are designed to ensure you keep up with the pace of the course, and will reflect the kinds of questions that will be on the exams. The dates of in-class quizzes are noted in the course schedule below.

EXAM INFORMATION:

All you will need to bring to the exams are a writing utensil and a calculator. The exams will consist of short answer questions similar to but not identical to the questions contained in the class lectures, in-class quizzes, and homework assignments.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION:

There will be homework assignments assigned throughout the semester. You may work on these alone or in study groups. You will not be required to turn in your work on the homework problems, and we will spend a portion of each class session going over any questions you have regarding the solutions. While I don't mind people working in groups on these problems, I strongly encourage you to not simply copy solutions from another student. Your performance on the exams and quizzes will directly reflect the work you put in each week. The assignments assist in honing your problem solving skills and will reflect the kinds of questions on the exams.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated for any reason. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill which he or she does not possess.

If suspected, disciplinary action will be taken in complete accordance with the University's academic honesty policy as stated in the undergraduate catalog:

http://www.fullerton.edu/catalogprevious/catalog2007-2009/university_regulations/gradingpol.asp

Please also note that academic dishonesty includes any instances of sharing print copies or emailing electronic copies of the class assignments, obtaining old class assignments from students who previously completed this course, or otherwise attempting to obtain an unfair advantage over the other students in the class by not individually completing the required assignments.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

You are encouraged to attend class to ensure your understanding of the material we cover as well as what is to be expected on exams; however, please note that you are not required to attend class, notifying me of your absence is not necessary, and I will not provide copies of lecture notes in the event that you cannot attend a class. I recommend introducing yourself to at least one other student in the class to help ensure you can get a copy of any lecture notes you missed.

CALCULATOR POLICY:

A personal calculator may be used during exams and quizzes, but not shared with other students. The calculator cannot be a Wi-Fi device.

CLASSROOM NOISE POLICY:

Students are expected to be considerate of their fellow classmates who have also paid money to take this course. Thus, any noise from any source should be kept to a minimum so people can hear clearly. Generally, any questions should be directed to the instructor so that everyone can hear and benefit. Side conversations are absolutely not permitted.

Students who repeatedly ignore the classroom noise policy may be asked to leave and/or withdraw from the course.

COMPUTER USE DURING CLASS POLICY:

In order to maintain a low-noise environment so every student can hear the lectures and to minimize any distractions the use of computers during class is not permitted unless a waiver by the university has been granted. This includes personal computing devices such as laptops, netbooks, notebooks, iPads, or tablets.

Students will be asked to either put away these devices during class or leave the classroom.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY:

There is no extra credit for this course. Please do not ask.

GRADING POLICY:

Grades are not negotiable. If you believe there is an error in calculating your grade please contact me immediately to schedule an appointment for review. Your grades will be posted via Blackboard which can be accessed by logging into the student portal at: <http://my.fullerton.edu>

The grading scale is as follows:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-60	F

LEGIBLE HANDWRITING AND GRAPHS POLICY:

All of the exams and homework assignments for this course will require you to present your answers in written form. If I am not able to clearly discern what is written then you will receive no credit for the particular section(s) that are illegible. For this reason, I strongly recommend that you use print handwriting rather than cursive handwriting. Many of the exam and homework questions will also require a graph using the two dimensional Cartesian (rectangular) coordinate system to correctly answer the question. Graphs that are not properly drawn will receive no credit. Properly drawn graphs consist of:

1. Clearly labeled axis units (e.g. price for y-axis and quantity for x-axis)
2. Clearly labeled numerical values for each axis
3. Clearly labeled curves

“MAKE UP” EXAM POLICY:

Any missed exam will receive a grade of zero. There are no exceptions other than valid, documented medical or family issues that may arise. Make-up examinations will be given only for the most unusual extenuating circumstances and only by prior arrangement.

“MAKE UP” QUIZ POLICY:

Any missed quiz will receive a grade of zero. There are no exceptions, and the lowest quiz score is dropped to allow for unforeseen events that prevent you from attending class.

PREREQUISITE POLICY:

1. Legible handwriting unless a waiver has been granted by the university.
2. Students must have completed Introduction to Mathematical Economics (ECON 441).
3. Students must have completed at least one (but preferably two) semesters of Calculus.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students with documented special needs (as determined by the Disabled Student Service Office) are eligible for accommodations through that office. For more information, please contact the Disabled Student Service Office, UH 101, (714) 278-3117 or please see www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES NOTICE TO STUDENTS

The safety of all students attending California State University Fullerton is of paramount importance. During an emergency it is necessary for students to have a basic understanding of their personnel responsibilities and the University's emergency response procedures. In the event of an emergency please adhere to the following guidelines

Before an emergency occurs-

1. Know the safe evacuation routes for your specific building and floor.
2. Know the evacuation assembly areas for your building.

When an emergency occurs-

1. Keep calm and do not run or panic. Your best chance of emerging from an emergency is with a clear head.
2. Evacuation is not always the safest course of action. If directed to evacuate, take all of your belongings and proceed safely to the nearest evacuation route.
3. Do not leave the area, remember that faculty and other staff members need to be able to account for your whereabouts.
4. Do not re-enter building until informed it is safe by a building marshal or other campus authority.
5. If directed to evacuate the campus please follow the evacuation routes established by either parking or police officers.

After an emergency occurs-

1. If an emergency disrupts normal campus operations or causes the University to close for a prolonged period of time (more than three days), students are expected to complete the course assignments listed on the syllabus as soon as it is reasonably possible to do so.
2. Students can determine the University's operational status by checking the University's web site at <http://www.fullerton.edu>, calling the University's hotline number at 714-519-0911, or tuning into area radio and television stations. Students should assume that classes will be held unless they hear or read an official closure announcement.

NOTE ON ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES:

The main purpose of the degree program at the Mihaylo College of Business & Economics (MCBE) at Cal State Fullerton is to provide you with the knowledge and skills that prepare you for a successful career in business. In order to assist us in achieving this goal, we will use a number of assessment tools to track your progress through the MCBE curriculum. Please expect to participate in MCBE assessment activities in several of your courses while at the MCBE. As you do so, you will assist us in identifying our program's strengths and weaknesses as well as areas for potential improvement. In other words, you are making an important investment in the value of your degree.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note that dates are subject to change. Check the class websites regularly for announcements

Date	Day	Topic	Textbook reading	Notes
1-23	M	Economic Models	Ch. 1	Read over Ch. 2 for review
1-25	W	Preferences and Utility	Ch. 3	
1-30	M	Preferences and Utility	Ch. 3	Quiz 1
2-1	W	Utility Maximization and Choice	Ch. 4	
2-6	M	Utility Maximization and Choice	Ch. 4	Quiz 2
2-8	W	Utility Maximization and Choice	Ch. 4	
2-13	M	Income and Substitution Effects	Ch. 5	Quiz 3
2-15	W	Income and Substitution Effects	Ch. 5	
2-20	M	NO CLASS		PRESIDENTS' DAY
2-22	W	Income and Substitution Effects	Ch. 5	
2-27	M	Uncertainty and Information	Ch. 7	Quiz 4
2-29	W	Uncertainty and Information	Ch. 7	
3-5	M	Uncertainty and Information	Ch. 7	Quiz 5
3-7	W	Review for the midterm exam		
3-12	M	Midterm Exam		Covering Ch. 3-8
3-14	W	Review the midterm exam		
3-19	M	Production Functions	Ch. 9	
3-21	W	Production Functions	Ch. 9	
3-26	M	NO CLASS		SPRING RECESS
3-28	W	NO CLASS		SPRING RECESS
4-2	M	Cost Functions	Ch. 10	Quiz 6
4-4	W	Cost Functions	Ch. 10	
4-9	M	Profit Maximization	Ch. 11	Quiz 7
4-11	W	Profit Maximization	Ch. 11	
4-16	M	Profit Maximization	Ch. 11	Quiz 8
4-18	W	The Partial Equilibrium Competitive Model	Ch. 12	
4-23	M	The Partial Equilibrium Competitive Model	Ch. 12	Quiz 9
4-25	W	The Partial Equilibrium Competitive Model	Ch. 12	
4-30	M	Monopoly	Ch. 14	Quiz 10
5-2	W	Monopoly	Ch. 14	
5-7	M	Monopoly	Ch. 14	Quiz 11
5-9	W	Review for the final exam		
5-14	M	Final Exam**		Covering Ch. 9-14 Time: 5:00 - 6:50 p.m.

**** Please note that the Final Exam is scheduled from 5:00 - 6:50 p.m.**