

Course: Economics 105

Term: Winter 2019-2020

Professor: Avraham Stoler (e-mail: astoler@depaul.edu)

Office: 6204 DePaul Center

Hours: By appointment

Text: N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Microeconomics* (8th edition)

Goals:

1. Teach students to think like economists (comparing benefits to costs, thinking on the margin, ignoring sunk costs, etc)
2. Provide students, with some overview of microeconomics (teaching economic concepts – for example, what is a subsidy? What is a competitive market? etc).
3. Provide students with analytical problem-solving ability that could be applied in later classes. Mastering this is especially important to students who plan to take additional economics classes.

Exams: There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. Each exam is worth a half of your final grade. If you miss an exam, you need a documented legitimate excuse (such as a family emergency or serious health issues). You will have to apply in the college for a makeup. The final exam will be given on the day and time that it is scheduled by the university. Exams are closed book with no electronic devices allowed. You will not need calculators.

Exams will test student on two main things: being familiar with economic concepts covered in class (knowledge) and being able to solve analytic economic problems. Memorization is not emphasized and will mostly help with the ‘knowledge’ part of the exam. I will not ask you what footnote 27 in page 123 said or anything similar to that. Your focus should be on remembering and understanding the main economics concepts (as opposed to specific examples) and on your problem solving ability.

Hypothetical example - suppose the book discusses the issue of subsidies to US farmers, giving an example of subsidy to corn producers. I will not ask you what % is the subsidy to corn producers which may be mentioned in the book. I will not ask you if there is a subsidy for corn in the US, or in the UK, etc. I might ask you what is a subsidy (show you are familiar with the economic concept) as well as how giving a subsidy might affect the amount of corn produced in the US (show problem solving skills).

Homework: Homework will be assigned in most weeks. Homework does not need to be submitted, and you are encouraged to work in groups if you find it helpful. Homework problems will reappear on exams, sometimes **as is** and sometimes in slightly modified form. That is, there is a strong incentive to do and understand them – they are an important part of the learning process (like in any analytical or mathematical class)

Professionalism: cheating: Texting during exams, etc. will result in a grade of F. Cell phones are not allowed during class. Using them is distracting to me and therefore hurts the whole class. Thank you for your understanding.

Attendance: Required. Low grades in this class are usually a result of missing class. If you miss more than 3 classes (without a legitimate documented excuse such as a family emergency or health issues), there will be a penalty to your grade.

Other: Student work in this course will fulfill the Social Behavioral and Cultural Inquiry Learning Outcomes and Writing Expectations of DePaul's Liberal Studies Program.

Disability: I provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Please talk to me early in the class – it is difficult to provide accommodations without appropriate advance warning.

Grading: Your grade will be the average of your midterm and final. So if you get, for example, A in the final and B+ in the midterm, your grade will be an A-. In case you are between grades, for example you get A in the final and A- in the midterm, I will use my general impression from the class, attendance, and participation to decide which of the two grades to choose.

Outline:

- I. Introduction, Ch.1
- II. Thinking Like an Economist, Ch. 2
- III. Interdependence and the Gains from Trade, Ch. 3
- IV. Supply and Demand, Ch. 4
- V. Elasticity, Ch. 5
- VI. Supply, Demand, and Government Policies, Ch. 6
- VII. Externalities, Ch. 10
- VIII. Public Goods and Common Resources, Ch. 11
- IX. Costs, Ch. 13
- X. Firms in a Competitive Market, Ch. 14
- XI. Monopoly, Ch. 15
- XII. Monopolistic Competition, Ch. 16
- XIII. Oligopoly, Ch. 17, pp. 347-353