

CONTRACT/SYLLABUS FOR ECONOMICS 103 – 002: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
Spring 2013 Monday, Wednesday & Friday 2:00 – 2:50pm 312 Schneider Hall

Professor: Eric M. Jamelske

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Class Email List: 2135.econ.103.002

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 – 11:00am **AND** Friday: 11:00 – 11:45am **OR** by appointment

Text: Principles of Economics (micro), N. Gregory Mankiw, 5th ed. **AND Supplemental Bookstore Packet**

Text Website: http://websites.swlearning.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bI&flag=instructor&product_isbn_issn=9780324589979&disciplinenum=413

Course Website: <http://www.uwec.edu/jamelsem/courses.htm>

Course Description

We will discuss and learn the basic foundations and ideas of *microeconomics*. In the context of contemporary economic issues, we will examine and analyze market settings with respect to pricing and production/consumption decisions as well as efficiency and equity issues. We will learn to *think like an economist* as we look at how economic actors (consumers and firms) make decisions as they interact in a variety of market settings. We will also discuss the role of government and how economics guides public policy decisions. Overall, this course is designed to enhance your understanding of how the *economic way of thinking* is both relevant and connected to your everyday life and the real world. **Please read the student preface in your textbook for a brief description of why you should study economics.**

Course Goals

1. To learn and understand the concepts associated with the *principles of microeconomics*.
2. To learn and understand the models and tools used in basic *microeconomic* analysis.
3. To develop and utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills.
4. To be able to apply the above knowledge and skills in the analysis of *microeconomic* issues as well as be able to think critically and interpret the outcomes of such analyses.
5. To make the connection between the theoretical concepts introduced in class and the real world by applying the *economic way of thinking* to analyzing current news events.

Please arrive on time! Late arrivals can be disruptive to the learning environment and therefore should be minimized out of respect for the professor as well as fellow students.

Please respect the learning environment by not speaking while I am lecturing. If you have a question, raise your hand and I will be glad to help.

The university and this classroom are designed to be a civil atmosphere. Please honor this goal by respecting all individuals at all times, <http://www.uwec.edu/Civility/>.

All solution keys will be posted on the class website for your review. I may also email you with important announcements. It is therefore important that you check your email and the website regularly in order to remain current with course information and announcements.

If you miss a class you should promptly meet with a classmate to the notes and briefly go over the basic details from the class you missed. You may then see me if you need more help or have any additional questions. **The course tutors can also be a valuable resource for this purpose.**

It takes both students and an instructor to make a course successful. As your instructor, I will always come to class prepared and ready to participate....**I expect the same from you as students!**

Grading:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance	5%
Pop Quizzes & Homework	20%
90-100%	A
79-89%	B
66-78%	C
50-65%	D
< 50%	F

$$(0.20)*EXAM1 + (0.25)*EXAM2 + (0.30)*FINAL + (0.05)*ATTENDANCE + (0.20)*HOMEWORK$$

***All scores are on 4.0 point scale**

***Grade distributions on each exam may be subject to minor modification**

***If you get a solid A on the final exam.....you will get at least an A- in the course**

- ❖ **Testing:** Exams 1 & 2 will cover material as announced in class and the final exam will be cumulative. All exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer analysis questions. Most multiple choice questions will be similar to the sample on-line quizzes available on the textbook website listed above. The remaining questions will be similar to questions from the homework assignments and quizzes.
 - **Bring a pencil, eraser, straight-edge & calculator.**
 - **All exam grade inquiries must be brought to my attention privately outside of class within one week of the graded exam being returned. Final exam grade inquiries must be brought to my attention within one week of the course grades being posted to the CampS system.**

- ❖ **Attendance & Make-Up Exams:** Attendance is not only strongly encouraged, but it is required and will count toward your overall grade. Approved excused absences will not count against your grade. **There will be no make-up exams.** All exam dates, including the date and time of the final exam, are clearly listed in the course calendar so there should be minimal excuse for missing any exam. One exception will be allowed for the first two exams for approved excused absences (**see me for details**).
 - **You must take the final exam to receive a passing grade in the course.**

- ❖ **Academic Dishonesty:** Such behavior is a serious offense and **will not** be tolerated in this course. The procedures and penalties for academic misconduct are described in the UW-Eau Claire Student Services/Standards Handbook, Chapter 14 <http://www.uwec.edu/DOS/policies/academic/ch14faculty.htm>.

***Any student with a disability requiring special classroom and/or exam accommodations should contact me as soon as possible in order to make the necessary arrangements for the semester. The Services for Students with Disabilities Office is located in Old Library 2136. For more information see their website at <http://www.uwec.edu/ssd/index.htm>.**

- ❖ **Homework:** There will be regularly assigned homework problem sets. Each assignment must be turned in no later than the announced due date and will be graded based on your performance on some selected questions as well as the completeness and genuineness of the overall attempt. A solid try is worth between 3-4 points and then selected questions are worth ½ point each for a total of 10 points. It is possible to get 10/10 and still have wrong answers so it is important to check the solution keys on the web.
 - I strongly encourage you to work small groups on homework with each student handing in their own assignment. There is a weekly study session with tutors to help facilitate this process.

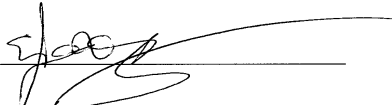
- ❖ **Current Event Assignments:** There will be two assignments in which you are to find an article dealing with a microeconomic issue relating to the current topic of study in class. You will be required to apply some sort of economic reasoning and/or graphical analysis describing “**what is going on**” in the article. These assignments are designed to assist you in making the connection between the theoretical concepts introduced in class and the real world. These graded assignments will count 5 points toward your HW/Quiz score.

- ❖ **Quizzes:** There will be regular in-class quizzes to foster an understanding of the material being covered. These quizzes will be graded and counted as homework, generally worth 5 points each (**no make-ups**).

- ❖ **Participation and Discussion:** I will take overall course participation into account for each student to be used in adjusting the overall course grade for borderline cases. Participation does not necessarily require speaking in class, however I strongly recommend that you ask questions and interact with me as well as other students in a classroom setting. Participation can be during office hours if you are more comfortable asking questions privately. I will also ask for volunteers to answer questions and provide comments during class discussions in an effort to get you involved. I invite you to visit my office hours any time. As your instructor, I am a valuable resource for this class ~ **please take advantage!**

- ❖ **Study Sessions and Tutors:** There are tutors/mentors for this class who will hold a weekly study session to assist you with homework assignments and studying. **The tutors can also help you catch up if you have missed a class.** In addition, the Academic Skills Center has Econ 103 tutors available if you need additional help. For more information see their website at <http://www.uwec.edu/asc/>.
 - There will be between 6-8 extra credit assignments that can be used to replace low or missing homework/quiz scores. These consist of occasional speakers/events on campus as announced in class as well as assignments posted on the homework solution webpage.
 - There will be a review session prior to each exam. The focus of these sessions will be to re-cap the material that has been covered up to that point and to review the homework and quizzes thereby relating the classroom lectures to the assigned work in preparation for the exam. If you are organized and work hard to stay current in the course, the exams will seem familiar and should not be too difficult.

Signature _____

Signature X  _____

Mission Statement of the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

<http://www.uwec.edu/acadaff/policies/mission.htm>

We foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy, and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.

We fulfill our mission through a pervasive university commitment to provide:

- Rigorous, intentional and experiential undergraduate liberal education for life and livelihood;
- Strong, distinctive professional and graduate programs that build on and strengthen our proud tradition of liberal education;
- Multicultural and international learning experiences for a diverse world;
- Exemplary student-faculty research and scholarship that enhance teaching and learning;
- An inclusive campus community that challenges students to develop their intellectual, personal, cultural, and social competencies;
- Educational opportunities responsive to the needs of our communities, state, region and beyond;
- Academic leadership in transforming liberal education.

UW – Eau Claire Liberal Education Learning Goals and Learning Outcomes

<http://www.uwec.edu/ULEC/upload/LELGOs-1-0.pdf>

UW – Eau Claire Student Information & Resources

Dean of Students: <http://www.uwec.edu/dos/>

Academic Skills Center: <http://www.uwec.edu/asc/index.htm>

Career Services Office: <http://www.uwec.edu/career/index.htm>

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs: <http://www.uwec.edu/orsp/index.htm>

Center for International Education: <http://www.uwec.edu/cie/index.htm>

Center for Service Learning: <http://www.uwec.edu/sl/index.htm>

Student Health Service: <http://www.uwec.edu/shs/index.htm>

Student Senate: <http://www.uwec.edu/studentsenate/>

Student Organizations: <http://www.uwec.edu/studentorgs>

University Recreation: <http://www.uwec.edu/recreation/>

Department of Economics: <http://www.uwec.edu/econ/index.htm>

