

Sam Houston State University
College of Business Administration
Department of Economics and International Business

Course Syllabus
Online Spring, 2018

Instructor: Darren Grant

Course Number: ECO 2302.02

Course Title: Principles of Microeconomics

Prerequisites: None

Office: Smith-Hutson 237-H

Office Hours: This is an online class. To email me, please use the Blackboard email tool located in the left portion of the screen under Course Information. You are also welcome to stop by my office on campus whenever the door is open. I have office hours on campus M, W 9:30-11 a.m.

Phone: 294-4324

E-Mail: dgrant@shsu.edu (if you e-mail me directly, please put ECON 2302 in the subject line)

Required Text:

Bade / Parkin, *Foundations of Economics*, any edition. Older editions are much cheaper and are fine by me. Please get the book and please read the assigned chapters, which are indicated on the course schedule. You will be glad you did!

Tutoring:

If you happen to be on campus, tutoring for Principles of Microeconomics is available every afternoon in Smith-Hutson Room 108.

Course Description:

Microeconomics studies the behavior of firms and consumers, and how they interact in the marketplace when there are limited resources and unlimited wants. This course provides an introduction to the study of the price system and resource allocation, problems of monopoly, and the role of government.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of the course is to introduce you to tools, concepts, and knowledge that will prepare you for subsequent course work in the business curriculum and improve the way you make personal decisions. There won't be lots of facts for you to memorize; rather, the idea of this course is

to help you understand how firms, consumers, and markets behave, and to increase your awareness of the power of incentives. To this end, after completing this course the student will be able to:

Understand opportunity costs: Economics is the study of the best allocation of scarce resources to meet unlimited wants. Making good decisions is key to economic reasoning; good decisions require an understanding of opportunity costs.

Understand marginal costs and marginal benefits: To make good economic decisions and achieve an optimal allocation of resources, it is essential to understand marginal costs and marginal benefits.

Understand free markets: Prices and the market system act with little government intervention to coordinate the production and consumption decisions of thousands of firms and millions of consumers.

Course Expectations:

To fully understand the course material, you must set aside time to read the text, review the lectures, work on the homework, and ask questions about the material you do not understand. This course is cumulative, with each period's lesson relying on comprehension of what came before. Thus, to perform well in the course, you must keep up to date on a period-by-period basis. Falling behind will make this course much more difficult. Accordingly, no graded work is dropped in this course, and nothing can be turned in late. You must keep up with the coursework!

There are several ways to keep up: 1) make sure you ask questions about unclear material via the virtual office or via email, 2) before you proceed to new material, review the material that came before, 3) copy your notes into a second notebook (especially the graphs) soon after watching the lecture, 4) read the assigned chapters, and 5) watch the lectures multiple times, if necessary, to understand difficult material.

Homework and Applications:

There are eight homework sets, one for each chapter we cover. You will have seven days to complete the homework. All the homework is multiple choice, but you may have to perform calculations or draw graphs to figure out what the right answer is. You have two chances to do the homework, and I will accept the higher of the two grades.

There are also two sets of "applications," in which you read an article from a newspaper or magazine about an economic topic, listen to a small lecture about it, and then take a short quiz. Altogether, homework and applications form 30% of your grade.

No late homework / applications will be accepted. These must be *submitted* by 11:55 pm on the due date. If you open the homework by 11:55 pm but do not submit it until after 11:55 pm, the system won't accept it! Don't tempt fate: do your homework early!

Exams:

Exams are designed to test your understanding of facts, concepts, and problem-solving skills. The ability to perform well on exams will require reading and understanding the textbook, listening to and understanding the lectures, and completing and understanding the homework. There will be five (5) exams during the semester – four (4) midterm exams and one (1) final exam. Each of the four (4) midterm exams will consist of about 30 multiple choice questions. The final exam is comprehensive and will consist of about 50 multiple choice questions, in the style of those from the midterms. Altogether, 70% of your final average comes from these exams.

Each midterm will last one hour. Each exam will be available for a four day period, to provide each student ample opportunity to find time to complete the exam. Once the exam is opened, **it must be completed within the one hour period; once the exam has been exited you cannot reenter the exam. After one hour, the exam window will close automatically.** After you have completed the exam, you may not discuss the exam with your classmates until the exam period has ended. **Any use of your textbook, lecture videos, notes, or discussion of the exam with another student during the exam period will be a violation of the student code of conduct.** Students will have two hours to complete the final examination.

No late exams will be accepted, and no make-up exams will be allowed (see below). Exams must be *submitted* by 11:55 pm on the due date. If you open the exam by 11:55 pm but do not submit it until after 11:55 pm, the system won't accept it! Don't tempt fate: do your exams early!

Also, please be sure to have a good internet connection, a reliable source of power, and anything else needed to prevent computer problems during an exam. In the event these problems occur, they are your responsibility, not mine, and I am not obligated to do anything to correct them or make up for them.

The only acceptable excuse for a missed exam or homework is an extended, excused absence, arising from death or serious illness in your family. In this case documentation from a *physician* or mortuary is *required*. In the event your exam or homework is excused, its grade will be replaced with your grade on the final exam.

ProctorFree:

The exams in this course require you to use the ProctorFree software furnished by SHSU Online. ProctorFree is an on-demand, automated online proctoring service that is designed to deter cheating in an online testing environment. ProctorFree monitors eye movements, body movements, voice recognition, along with anything accessed on your computer during the exam. Any unusual activity will be reported to the instructor. The instructor will look at the ProctorFree video and if in his estimation cheating has occurred, the student will be given a zero grade on the exam.

You are required to have a microphone, keyboard, mouse, and webcam (normally, an external webcam includes a microphone). You will also need the Java plugin for your Browser, which can be Firefox 13+, Chrome 18+, Safari 6+ (Mac only), or Internet Explorer 8+ (Windows only).

For more information refer to the ProctorFree information link on the landing page in Blackboard. There is nothing else to download or install. Procedures and a practice exam will be furnished in the course, and there is also support from SHSU Online Technology Support at 936-294-2780.

Course Evaluation Process:

Your semester grade will be determined by your grades on your mid-term exams, final exam, homework, applications, and a possible extra credit point (see below). **Nothing is dropped! Don't tempt fate: do your homework, applications, and exams early!**

You have five exams: four midterms and the final. Each is worth 14% of your grade, for a total of 70%. You also have ten "assignments": eight homeworks and two sets of applications. Each of these is worth 3% of your grade, for a total of 30%.

Course grades will be assigned as follows: 90% and higher is an A, 80-89% and higher is a B, 70-79% is a C, 60-69% is a D, and 0-59% is an F. I round fractions of a point in the usual manner: 0.5 and higher is rounded up, and everything else is rounded down.

Course Schedule:

On our course blackboard site you will find the course schedule. It is very systematic, to help you organize your studying for this class. Each week can be thought of as beginning on Monday and ending on Sunday night. Everything that is due is due at 11:55 pm on Sunday night.

We cover chapters in groups of two, one week for each chapter, and then take a week for the midterm exam on those chapters. Halfway through the course, and again at the end, we take a week to do applications on the material that we have covered in the previous six weeks.

Extra Credit Point for Completing Course Evaluations:

Sometimes students forget to do the course evaluations at the end of the semester. In order to encourage you to do it, if at least 70% of the class has completed the evaluation by the last class day, then **everyone** in the class gets **one extra point** on their **final** class grade.

This guarantees the anonymity of the evaluation, because I will not know who responded, I only know the percentage of people that have filled out the course evaluation. It also means that you need not send me anything individually to show you completed it.

Remember that the course evaluations are available about two weeks before the end of the semester. The university will send you a reminder when they open.

General Policies:

Students can find online a more detailed description of the following policies at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

There you will also find a link to the specific university policy or procedure.

Use of Telephones and Text Messagers:

The use of electronic devices that perform the function of a telephone or text messenger during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used during the exam. The visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and will result in a charge of academic dishonesty. See <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. If you are caught cheating on a test or homework, the *minimum* penalty is a zero on that test or homework.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:

Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work, which can and should be completed within the several-day window provided if possible..

Disabled Student Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely because of their disability, from any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center.