

Bridgewater State University

Syllabus Summer 2020

ECON 101 – PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

3 Credits

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1. COURSE BACKGROUND

This is a broad introductory survey course, focusing on how "microeconomic" actors-- including business firms, households, and nonprofit and government institutions-- organize to provide for the sustaining and flourishing of life. Simple theories of producer, consumer, and market behavior are presented within the broader context of the social and physical environment for economic activity.

2. COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of the term students will

- understand the fundamental relationships of economic activity and be able to use basic economic reasoning to contextualize and analyze current economic issues.
- Consider the role of markets in modern society,
- Build and manipulate the basic microeconomic model of supply and demand.
- Apply economic logic and modeling to environmental resource management, and other contemporary public policy issues.
- Identify the properties of competitive markets and those with market power

3. REQUIRED BOOK

Goodwin, Neva, Jonathan M. Harris, Julie A. Nelson, Pratistha Joshi Rajkarnikar, Brian Roach, and Mariano Torras. Microeconomics in Context, Fourth Edition. New York: Routledge, 2019.

4. INSTRUCTOR'S COMMITMENTS

- Communicate course requirements, assignments and other expectations clearly and timely
- Facilitate understanding of assigned materials and class themes
- Complement assigned readings with other relevant material
- Grade and return homeworks/quizzes/exam with relevant comments within a reasonable time

- Be available outside of class hours to accommodate any questions, concerns, and clarifications regarding the course

We will be covering a lot of new information in this course and I understand that everyone has their own pace of learning new topics and subjects. If you have any questions, during classes or outside of classes, please don't hesitate to ask or contact me. It will be important for you to communicate with me regarding problems you are having as we progress through this course.

5. STUDENT COMMITMENTS

A. Course Expectation

We will cover a lot of topics that might not be familiar to you, in a short period. Topics and materials that we will engage in each class will be based on the assumption that you already understand previously discussed topics. You might not understand current topics without knowledge of previous ones. Since a majority of topics are cumulative, **attending all classes is very important as well as mandatory**. I expect everyone to be at class on time so that we can use class time more efficiently. Also, I want you to wait for the class to be formally dismissed before you start to pack up your things or get up to leave.

B. Prerequisites

Laptop: You must have access to a personal computer and reliable access on the Internet. You will be assigned online-exercises. A laptop is also required for in-class work sometimes. I will let you know in advance when you need your own laptop in class.

Blackboard: All lecture materials, such as lecture slides, homework and assignments as well announcements will be posted on the Blackboard.

C. Assignments and Grading

You can earn a maximum of 100 points in this course. Point breakup is as follows:

Attendance and Class Participation: 10 points

Homework: 20 points

Quizzes: 10 points

Mid term: 30 points

Final Exam: 30 points

Total: 100 points.

Letter grades will be issued based on these scores and BSU grading policy. I anticipate a grade of 93.33 and above will qualify for an A, 90 and above A-, 86.66 and above B+, 83.33 and above B, 80 and above B-, and so on. However, this is a provisional estimate of grades and I reserve the option of adjustments to this grading scale in adherence to BSUs grading policy.

Please consult the class schedule at the end of this syllabus for due dates. Details of each assignment are discussed hereafter.

Attendance and Class participation (10% of the final grade).

Attending classes is important and mandatory since what you learn from this course is cumulative. If you miss a class, it will make it difficult to catch up or understand. It is your obligation to be present in each class session for the entire duration. Two absences will be excused, if you submit evidence of your excuses, such as doctor's notes and other materials. Beyond this absence, **each unexcused absence will result in points deducted from your total grades.** Please make sure you know what was discussed during a missed class, ask your colleagues or the instructor. Punctuality also counts: please be respectful of your colleagues and be on time to class. Also, class participation is highly encouraged. The combined of attendance and class participation will account for 10% of your course grades.

Homework (20%)

There will be weekly homework assignments available on Blackboard. All assignments will be based on the class textbook or lecture notes. They will count towards 20% of your course grade. You will have unlimited attempts for homework assignments, i.e.; you can revise your answers before the final submission.

Quizzes (10%)

Throughout the course, surprise quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class or through Blackboard. These will be fairly quick to answer and will be timed. Each of these quizzes will cover topics covered up to the day of the respective quiz, cumulatively. Quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence or late entry to class will NOT be made up.

Exams (60% of the final grade).

There are two scheduled exams. One mid-terms will be conducted in the middle of the course. The exact schedule will be announced a week before the exam. The final exam will follow the University schedule. Practice exams will be posted on Blackboard a week before the exams. We will also do a review session before each exam.

D. Additional Policies

Academic Integrity

All of us are bound by the BSU code of academic integrity and classroom conduct. If you haven't read it, take time to read it at your earliest. Pay special attention to the protocol and conventions for quoting, paraphrasing and referencing work done by others. Violations of this code will be promptly reported and penalized. The code is here: (<http://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>).

While this is not an all-inclusive list, this will help you to understand some of the things instructors look for: **Academic dishonesty** is an attempt to misrepresent one's efforts on any academic assignment or exercise submitted for evaluation. These attempts and examples may be defined as, but are not limited to:

Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas, information, etc., are common knowledge.

Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use prohibited materials or information in any academic exercise. This definition includes prohibited communication of information during or after an academic exercise.

Fabrication and falsification: Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic matter. Falsification is a matter of altering information, while fabrication is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.

Abuse of academic materials: Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material.

Multiple submissions: The submission of the same work (including oral reports) in more than one course without prior permission of both instructors.

Complicity in academic dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to misrepresent their efforts on any academic assignment or exercise submitted for evaluation.

Special Circumstances – Bridgewater State University is committed to ensuring equal academic opportunities and inclusion for students. If you have any special circumstances that might impact your participation, success, and/or comfort in class, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. These may include (but are not limited to) having a documented disability, involvement in upcoming religious observances, speaking English as a second language, etc.

Any student who due to a documented disability needs special accommodations to participate in class and/or complete assignments should contact the instructor during the add/drop period so that reasonable accommodations can be made. If you have not done so already, please register with the Disability Resources in the Academic Achievement Center, Maxwell Library, (508) 531-2194. You can still receive services even after the course has begun.

E-mail. Feel free to email me at any time, but allow at least 24 hours for a response. Be sure to check your BSU e-mail account daily for class materials or instructions. You are responsible for all e-mail communications sent by your instructor and your classmates to your BSU e-mail account, per the University's [E-mail as an Official Means of Communication to Students](#) policy.

Late Work/Make-Ups. Late work will not be accepted. An absence does not exempt you from handing in work or taking exams on the scheduled day. Ask me about missed work ahead of time, or as soon as possible after your absence. You may also contact a fellow student or come to see me in person. In any case, it is your

responsibility to find out what you missed and turn in any materials due when you return. In the case of a documented illness or emergency, if you have notified me before the missed class, I may work with you to make special arrangements depending on the situation.

6. CLASS SCHEDULE

The following table includes the session plan. This schedule is subject to change based on the instructor's discretion. However, all changes will be communicated in advance.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Week 1 (May 25-29)	Course Introduction	Economic Activity in Context Chapter 1	Supply and Demand Chapter 3	Supply and Demand Chapter 3	Welfare Analysis Chapter 5
Week 2 (June 1-5)	Economic behavior and Rationality Chapter 7	Consumption and Consumer Society Chapter 8	Markets and Society Chapter 2	Markets for labor Chapter 9	Mid term
Week 3 (June 8-12)	Production Costs Chapter 15	Markets without Power Chapter 16	Economic and Social Inequality Chapter 10	The Economics of the Environment Chapter 12	Common Property Resources and Public Goods Chapter 13
Week 4 (June 15-19)	International Trade and Trade Policy Chapter 6	Taxes and Tax Policy Chapter 11	Markets with Market Power Chapter 17	Mkts for Other Resources, Chapter 14	Final Exam