

**Economics 101, Section 05: Introduction to Microeconomics
Spring 2008**

Syllabus

Classroom and time: HSS 259, Mondays 4:10-6:55 pm
Instructor: Camille Antinori
Office: HSS 150
Office hours: Mondays 2-3 pm
Phone: 415-405-0331 (no voicemail. Use email or call Economics Department to leave messages for me.)
E-mail: antinori@sfsu.edu
Econ Dpt phone: 415-338-1839
Course website: <http://www.aplia.com> (See Instruction Sheet below for using Aplia)

Course objectives

- To learn basic economic concepts as tools for analysis
- To use economic reasoning to assess individual and public choices concerning scarce resources
- To have a working knowledge of the nature and role of markets in the economy
- To illustrate arguments and interpret data using basic calculations and graphs
- To prepare for intermediate economics courses

Prerequisites

Introduction to Macroeconomics (Econ 100)

Required textbook

Principles of Microeconomics, N. Gregory Mankiw, 4th edition, Thomson-Southwestern, 2007

Grading

Grading will be based on the following:

30% 1 midterm
35% 1 final exam
30% (Almost) weekly Aplia homework assignments
5% Class participation

Exams

Midterm: March 17 during regular class time in same classroom.
Final: May 19 during regular class time and in same classroom.

Policy on plagiarism

No tolerance and results in at least a failing grade. See university policy for more information.

Policy on cheating

No tolerance and results in at least a failing grade. See university policy for more information.

In-class ethics

Out of respect for others, have cell phones turned off in class. If you get a call that you need to receive, please leave the classroom to take it and do not return for the rest of the class.

No side conversations other than those during classroom exercises.

Course Outline

Readings: Textbook reading assignments are shown below topic headings.

Assignments: In this course, we will use the Aplia website for viewing and submitting all assignments. About each week you will have graded assignments due. These will include problem sets, questions before and after the two experiments (to be run in class) and questions based on news analysis. Note the days and times when assignments are due. The Aplia website does not accept your homework after those due dates/times.

Experiments: For the two experiments, we will arrange for everyone in the class to be online simultaneously at the beginning of the scheduled class period. Each experiment takes about one hour, so we will schedule the experiment from 4-5pm. We will then meet at the classroom right after the experiment, so try to arrange your online access as close to the classroom as possible. The experiment is run from the Aplia website, so make sure you run the configuration test beforehand (this you will most likely already have done since you are doing your homework!) and can access the site.

If you do not have a computer or have trouble finding a spot for online access, let me know ASAP and I will reserve a spot in the BSS computer lab (in HSS building) for you to connect. Space is limited, so please try to find a space elsewhere and then let me know ASAP if you cannot find an alternative.

Part One: Introduction to Basic Principles of Economics

Mankiw Chaps 1-3

Concepts covered:

1. Choices under scarcity, tradeoffs
2. Marginal analysis
3. Opportunity cost

4. Use and usefulness of models
5. Demand and supply in the marketplace
6. Benefits of trade
7. Comparative advantage

Part Two: How markets work and welfare economics

Mankiw Chaps 4-8 (Skip chapter 9)

Concepts covered:

8. The market: perfect competition and otherwise
9. Elements of the demand curve
10. Movements and shifts of demand curve
11. Elements of the supply curve
12. Equilibrium of supply and demand
13. Elasticity of supply and demand
14. Price controls
15. Consumer and producer surplus
16. Deadweight loss

Experiment 1: Equilibrium Price and Quantity

Part three: Market versus non-market costs and benefits

Mankiw Chaps 10-11 (Skip Chapter 12)

Concepts covered:

17. Externalities
18. Types of goods
19. Private solutions
20. Coase Theorem
21. Property rights
22. Tragedy of the Commons
23. Market solutions
24. Regulation v. taxes, subsidies and permits

Experiment 2: Tragedy of the Commons / Open Access

Part four: Economics of production and industry organization

Mankiw Chaps 13-17

Concepts covered:

25. Costs of production: total, average, variable, fixed, marginal
26. Economic versus accounting profit
27. The production function
28. Long run and short run costs
29. Economies of scale and scope
30. Profit maximization
31. Supply curve in a competitive market
32. Short and long run equilibrium prices
33. Perfect competition
34. Monopoly
35. Price discrimination
36. Oligopoly
37. Monopolistic competition

Part five: Factor markets

Mankiw Chaps 18

Concepts covered:

38. Labor: Marginal product of labor, value of marginal product, wage determination
39. Capital: rent, interest, profit

Class Schedule (Subject to Revision)

Jan 28 Lecture 1 Mankiw 1-3

Feb 4 Lecture 2 Mankiw 3-4

Feb 11 Lecture 3 1st hour: *Experiment 1: Equilibrium Price and Quantity*; 2nd and 3rd hours: review of experiment and Mankiw 5

Feb 18 Lecture 4 Chap 5-7

Feb 25 Lecture 5 Chap 8, Chap 10

Mar 3 Lecture 6 Chap 10-11

Mar 10 Lecture 7 1st hour: *Experiment 2: Tragedy of the Commons*; 2nd and 3rd hours: Review of experiment, review for midterm

Mar 17 MIDTERM

Mar 24 No Class – Spring Break

Mar 31 No Class – Cesar Chavez Day

Apr 7 Lecture 8 Chap 13

Apr 14 Lecture 10 Chap 14

Apr 21 Lecture 11 Chap 15

Apr 28 Lecture 12 Chap 16-17

May 5 Lecture 13 Chap 17 and review for final

May 12 Lecture 14 Guest Lecture, Chap. 18

May 19 FINAL

Some websites you might find interesting:

<http://www.economist.com>

<http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/>

Supplementary reading:

Textbook that provides another perspective on same material:

The Economic Way of Thinking, Paul Heyne, Peter J. Boettke and David L. Prychitko, 11th edition, Prentice Hall, 2006



Student Registration and Payment Instructions

Course Name: Mankiw Microeconomics, Spring 2008

Start Date: 01/24/2008

Professor: Camille Antinori

Course Key: SMVA-YY5Z-76RH

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
- You will save money if you buy these together.
- You have two purchase options.
- You will have free access to the first four chapters of an online copy of your textbook at Aplia. You can access the remaining online chapters as soon as you submit a payment for your Aplia course.
- Don't buy anything until you understand your alternatives.

Registration

Registration Instructions

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Click the **System Configuration Test** link below the **Sign In** and **Register** sections to make sure you can access all of the features on Aplia's website. This takes just a few seconds and tells you how to update your browser settings if necessary.
3. Return to <http://www.aplia.com>.
 - If you have never used Aplia before, click the **New Student** button and enter your Course Key: **SMVA-YY5Z-76RH**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.
 - If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **SMVA-YY5Z-76RH**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the **Enter Course Key** button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.
4. If you understand your payment options, pay now. Otherwise, postpone your purchase decision by choosing the option to pay later. Your payment grace period ends at the end of the day on 02/13/2008.

Payment

Option A: Pay Aplia Directly

- Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on our website for \$70.00 USD. The website includes:
 - Access to an online copy of your textbook.
 - Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.
- However, if you try using the online textbook and decide you would also like a physical textbook, you can order one from Aplia for \$50.00 USD plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling.

Option B: Purchase at Bookstore

- Purchase a bundle from your school's bookstore, which includes:
 - An Apla Access Card containing a Payment Code that you can enter on Apla's website as payment for your Apla course.
 - A physical textbook.
- Purchase a stand-alone Apla Access Card from your school's bookstore.
 - Access Cards contain a Payment Code you can enter on Apla's website as payment for your Apla course.