

EC201 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS – WINTER 2012 (ONLINE)

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Office Hours: TR 1:00pm – 1:50pm & online TBA

Course Website: <http://d2l.pdx.edu> and <http://www.aplia.com>

TA: Matthew Eddleman

Office: Econ Lab

Email: meddle@pdx.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Required Textbook & Aplia Access

MANKI, N. Gregory. **Principles of Microeconomics** (6th Edition). South-Western Cengage Learning, 2011. (ISBN: 0-538-45304-4)

Aplia (<http://www.aplia.com>) will be used for all problem sets in this online course. You will need to purchase access either in the bookstore, online bookstores or on Aplia's site. You may access Aplia for free until 11:59 PM on 01/28/2012. Note that Aplia comes with a **free** online version of the textbook, but you may purchase a discounted physical copy through Aplia if you like.

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/>
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (AXXT-QG3U-EA5Z) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button. **If you don't have an account,** click the *Create a New Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: **AXXT-QG3U-EA5Z**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Course Objective

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in microeconomics. Economics is the study of how the world manages and distributes its scarce resources. Microeconomics looks at the behavior and interaction of consumers/households and firms within the market and how government intervention (or non-intervention) might impact outcomes. Topics include supply, demand, elasticity, market efficiency, production costs, market systems, game theory, externalities, public goods and asymmetric information.

In this course, you will learn to use economic concepts and terminology as tools for analysis of individual, firm or public choices. You will also be able to better understand and critique microeconomic policies and current events.

Contact: Email is generally the best way to contact us. However, TA Matthew (meddle@pdx.edu) should be your first point of contact for any questions or concerns.

Grading Scheme	
Midterm #1	12.5%
Midterm #2	12.5%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	15%
Discussion / Participation	20%
Problem Sets	30%
Quizzes	10%

Exams

Exams will be online during the time ranges stated in the calendar. These exams are timed and closed book. Any collaboration or communication during the exams will be considered cheating. They will consist of both multiple choice questions as well as short answer/graphing questions. Make sure that you are able to take the exams during the timeframes given as **NO MAKEUP EXAMS** will be given.

Discussions

Discussions are an important part of an online course such as this one. Although we will not meet in person, this is your chance to get to know your classmates and learn together. Weekly discussion questions will be posted every Monday. You are expected to write thoughtful responses to discussion questions by **Wednesday (11:30pm)** in the [Discussion](#) section. You will also have to respond to at least **three** other students (in a critical/thoughtful way) by **Friday (11:30pm)** in the same week.

Half of your discussion grade will depend on your own response, but the other **half** will depend your response to **three** other student's threads. Late postings (within 1 week) will receive up to half credit. The discussion is an important forum for the course, so responses like "that's cool" or "I like what she said" or "Great post" **do not** qualify as critical responses and may not receive any credit.

Problem Sets (Aplia)

Problem sets are done in Aplia (www.aplia.com). Access instructions are on the syllabus. This should be the **FIRST** thing that you do for this course to ensure timely completion of assignments. There is one problem set per chapter with due dates listed on the calendar (before 11:30pm). Some problem sets are longer, some are shorter, but every problem set is weighed equally. **NO LATE PROBLEM SETS ARE ACCEPTED**, but you will be able to drop **TWO** of your lowest problem set grades.

Quizzes

There will be one short quiz for every chapter (on D2L) and it will be due 2 days before the problem set for that chapter is due. This is mainly a quick check that you've read the chapter. The quizzes consist of 8 random multiple choice questions (meaning that everyone will receive different questions) within 10 minutes. Again, **NO LATE QUIZZES ARE ALLOWED**, but you will be able to drop **TWO** of your lowest quiz scores.

POLICIES

Affirmative Action

Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.

Academic Misconduct Policy

You are expected to display academic integrity and honesty. Cheating, fraud or plagiarism will be dealt with according to the Portland State **Student Code of Conduct** (<http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct>), which could lead to failing the course or expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation

Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center are responsible for contacting the faculty member prior to, or during, the first week of term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.

Calendar/Schedule

Course calendar is tentative and is subject to change as the instructor deems appropriate. Please check online for any updates.