

Principles of Economics – Fall 2022

Econ 110 – 01

9:30-10:45am TuTh Stein 132

10:00-10:50am Wed Stein 215

Professor: Dr. Christopher Oconnor
Office: Stein 507
Office hours: Tue and Thurs 1:00 PM-3:00 PM, Wed 12PM-1PM, and by appointment
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Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites, but you will need to develop some level of comfort applying basic math skills like solving simultaneous equations, drawing graphs, and finding area of geometric shapes. Please refresh yourself of these skills, but we will review them as needed.

Course Description:

This course introduces you to the basics of economics. It is designed to be useful for those who want to delve deeper into the science of economics as a major, or those who are not majoring in economics but want a basic understanding of what they observe in the world around them. After taking this course, you will be able to discuss economic issues more systematically, including how individuals and firms make real world economic decisions that determine prices and sales, and why (and how) the economy and economy wide factors are behaving the way they are.

Course Objective:

Students will master some of the basic tools of economic analysis, and by the end of the course you should know:

- How supply & demand is used to analyze market dynamics
- How market activities affect external bystanders
- How government intervention in markets impact the welfare of sellers and buyers
- How the structure of markets affect firm decisions
- How inflation and interest rates are determined
- The role of the Federal Reserve System and how its actions can impact the overall economy
- How government action can impact the overall economy

Additionally, you will learn how to solve economic problems based on what you learned and be able to apply these tools to real-world examples.

Text:

Mankiw, N. G., *Principles of Economics*, (9th edition).

I have made comprehensive notes of the relevant chapters to be covered from the book, which are provided to students on Canvas. You are encouraged to review the chapters before class and then use the class notes to zero in on the most important content. If you are unable to purchase the textbook, please go to the

Financial Aid Office website (<https://www.holycross.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid-office>) to contact a staff member, who will be happy to provide you with information and assistance.

Attendance Policy:

- Attendance is not mandatory, but is expected and would be highly advantageous. Students are responsible for all lecture material, including all in class announcements.
- You do not have to inform me about an absence unless it coincides with an exam or when the homework is due for submission. The make-up policy for a missed exam is given below.
- If you miss a class due to one of the reasons listed in the Excused Absence Policy (http://www.holycross.edu/sites/default/files/files/registrar/excused_absence_policy.pdf), you can email me and I will ensure you get the class notes.

Make-up Policy

Students who will miss one of the exams WITH APPROPRIATE REASON must inform me at least 5 business days before the exam. At which point, we can discuss an appropriate time to take the exam. If I am informed less than 5 business days before the exam date, the student who misses the exam WITH APPROPRIATE REASON will have their grade reweighted towards the other two exams. Appropriate reasons are highlighted in the College's Excused Absence Policy, and can be accessed at this link: http://www.holycross.edu/sites/default/files/files/registrar/excused_absence_policy.pdf. In the highly unusual circumstance that a student misses two exams WITH APPROPRIATE REASON, the method of making up for the missing test scores will be determined at my discretion.

Arrangements must be made before the date of the exam. It is the student's responsibility to approach me and make these arrangements and no exceptions will be made.

Students who miss an exam WITHOUT appropriate reason will receive a grade of zero for that exam.

If you are unable to submit the homework assignment(s) then the method of making up the missing scores will be determined at my discretion.

Class Recording:

PLEASE NOTE: Students are not permitted to record the contents of this class under any other circumstances. Consistent with applicable federal and state law, this course may be video/audio recorded as an accommodation only with permission from the Office of Accessibility Services (<http://www.holycross.edu/health-wellness-and-access/office-disability-services>).

Disability Access and Request for Reasonable Accommodations:

As is College policy (<https://catalog.holycross.edu/requirements-policies/academic-policies/#coursepoliciestext>), All academic accommodations for students need to be approved through the Office of Disability Services (<http://www.holycross.edu/health-wellness-and-access/office-disability-services>). Any student who feels the need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should

contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss support services available. Once the office receives documentation supporting the request for accommodation, the student would meet privately with Disability Services to discuss reasonable and appropriate accommodations. The office can be reached by calling 508-793-3693 or by visiting Hogan Campus Center, room 215A.

If you are already registered with Disability Services, please be sure to get your accommodation letters and deliver them to me as soon as possible. I need advanced notice to be able to facilitate the process of arranging accommodations.

Important Dates:

❖ Homework 1 due:	Wednesday, September 14 th
❖ Homework 2 due:	Tuesday, September 27 th
✓ First Midterm Exam:	Tuesday, October 4 th
❖ Homework 3 due:	Tuesday, November 1 st
✓ Second Midterm Exam	Tuesday, November 8 th
❖ Homework 4 due:	Tuesday, December 6 th
✓ Final Exam:	TBA

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

The academic dishonesty policy is as stated in the College’s Academic Integrity Policy <https://catalog.holycross.edu/requirements-policies/academic-policies/#academicintegritytext>. Depending on the context, as stated in this policy, the penalty attached to academic misconduct can be as severe as expulsion from the College. The academic dishonesty policy will be strictly enforced.

Course Grade:

You will submit four homework assignments, take two midterms and take a final exam which is NOT comprehensive. Additionally, there will be at 6 bonus points available in this course, 2 points from each exam. Your final grade (excluding bonus points) is determined by your scores on the homework, midterms and final exam. This is determined as follows:

$$\text{Final Average} = 0.24 * \text{Homework} + 0.25 * \text{test 1} + 0.25 * \text{test 2} + 0.26 * \text{final}$$

Your course grade is determined by your final average on the following scale:

A	93 and above	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F = below 60	
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69		

Notes:

1. Students who miss an exam and have a confirmed legitimate excuse will have the weight of their other exams adjusted accordingly. Any conflict with the testing dates should be reported to me immediately. Please read carefully the “Make-up policy” section of this syllabus (above).

2. Students have two days after exam grades are posted to submit a *written* appeal of the grading of a particular question or questions. After the appeal period expires, the grade is considered final, and cannot be changed.
3. There is no rounding of your final average since the bonus points already essentially “rounds up” your grade. For example, 82.9 is a B-, not a B.
4. Scores **will not be curved** beyond the fact that assessments in total come with 6 extra points.

Class Participation:

Attendance and class participation are encouraged in order to have a successful experience in this course.

Homework and Exams:

1. Homework:

Knowledge of the homework is essential in doing well on the exams (this cannot be stressed enough). Homework assignments will be published on Canvas the day before the class on which the homework is based begins (except for the first week when you receive it at the first class). For example, homework 2 covers lectures 4-7 and you will receive the homework 2 assignment before the classes covering lecture 4-7 begins. The idea is that after lecture on each day, you will be able to complete a section of the homework based on what we covered in class that day. The homework due date is noted on the comprehensive course outline at the last pages of this syllabus. Each homework must be turned in during class on the due date. The homework due dates may be subject to change. After the homework due date, a solution sheet for the homework will be posted.

Each homework will be 6% of your final grade for a total of 24% across all 4 homework. If no homework is submitted by the due date, you will receive a homework grade of 0.

Feel free to get together with other students to discuss homework problems, but you must write up the homework on your own. If you copy the homework from another student, both students will receive zero points for homework.

2. Exams

There will be two mid-terms and one final exam which will NOT be comprehensive. The midterms will be held during class time. The first Midterm will be on Tuesday October 4th, will cover material from lectures 1-7, and will be 25% of your final grade. The second midterm will be on Tuesday November 8th, will cover material from lectures 8-12, and will be 25% of your final grade. The final exam is TBA. It will cover material from lectures 13-18 and will be 26% of your final grade. Each exam can contribute 2% bonus points.

Class Conduct and Cheating

1. Class Conduct:

The classroom is a formal space and a place for mutual respect. I pledge to do everything I can to make the classroom environment a conducive place for learning. I expect that students will do the same. To maintain this formal atmosphere, please refrain from the following activities during the virtual class: texting or talking on the phone, chewing, eating a large quantity of food, or distracting other students from completing in-class work. **Any type of disruptive activity may lead to a loss of bonus points. Cell phones should be in silent mode and out of sight during the lecture.**

2. Cheating:

Cheating will not be tolerated. All violations will result in an F for the relevant homework or exam and will be strictly enforced according to the terms of the College's Academic Integrity Policy.

Severe Weather Protocol

In case of a severe weather event, this course will observe the College's guidance with respect to cancellations. You can read about it here: <https://www.holycross.edu/emergency-management/inclement-weather>. Please stay abreast of campus notifications to learn when these events have affected the College's operations.

Religious Observances

Students should follow the guidance outlined in the policy for Excused Absences (http://www.holycross.edu/sites/default/files/files/registrar/excused_absence_policy.pdf) when they require accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course.

Course outline

These topics and dates are subject to change; notification will be provided in that case. Please look out for class notifications/announcements about possible changes in dates. Homework are submitted in class and exams are also done in class.

Day	Month	Date	Lecture #	Topic	Textbook Chapter
Tue	Aug	30	1	Introduction and Preliminaries	1-2
Wed	Aug	31	2	Supply and Demand Model	4
Thu	Sep	1	2	Supply and Demand Model	4
Tue	Sep	6	3	Elasticity	5
Wed	Sep	7	4	Consumers, Producers and Efficiency of Markets	7
Thu	Sep	8	4	Consumers, Producers and Efficiency of Markets	7
Tue	Sep	13	5	Supply, Demand and Government Policies	6,8
Wed	Sep	14	5	Supply, Demand and Government Policies	6, 8
Wed	Sep	14	1-3	HW 1 Due	1-2, 4-5
Thu	Sep	15	6	Externalities	10
Tue	Sep	20	6	Externalities	10
Wed	Sep	21	7	Public Goods	11
Thu	Sep	22	7	Public Goods	11
Tue	Sep	27	4-7	HW 2 due	6-8, 10-11
Tue	Sep	27	1-7	Loose Ends	11
Wed	Sep	28	8	Inequality and Poverty	Schaffner Ch.5
Thu	Sep	29	9	Cost of Production	13
Tue	Oct	4	1-7	Test 1 – Based on lectures 1-7 and HW 1 and 2	1-2, 4-8, 10-11
Wed	Oct	5	9	Cost of Production	13
Thu	Oct	6	10	Competitive Markets	14
Tue	Oct	18	10	Competitive Markets	14

Wed	Oct	19	11	Monopoly	15
Thu	Oct	20	11	Monopoly	15
Tue	Oct	25	12	Monopolistic competition and Oligopoly	16-17
Wed	Oct	26	12	Monopolistic competition and Oligopoly	16-17
Thu	Oct	27	8-12	Loose ends	Schaffner Ch.5, 13-17
Tue	Nov	1	8-12	HW 3 Due	Schaffner Ch.5, 13-17
Tue	Nov	1	13	Macroeconomics and Measuring National Income	23
Wed	Nov	2	13	Macroeconomics and Measuring National Income	23
Thu	Nov	3	14	Measuring Cost of Living	24
Tue	Nov	8	8-12	Test 2 – Based on lectures 8-12 and HW 3	Schaffner Ch.5, 13-17
Wed	Nov	9	14	Measuring Cost of Living	24
Thu	Nov	10	15	Unemployment	28
Tue	Nov	15	15	Unemployment	28
Wed	Nov	16	16	Aggregate Demand and Supply	33
Thu	Nov	17	16	Aggregate Demand and Supply	33
Tue	Nov	22	17	The Monetary System	29
Tue	Nov	29	17	The Monetary System	29
Wed	Nov	30	18	Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Aggregate Demand	34
Thu	Dec	1	18	Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Aggregate Demand	34
Tue	Dec	6	13-18	HW 4 Due	23-24, 28-29,33-34
Tue	Dec	6	13-18	Loose Ends/Extra	TBD

Wed	Dec	7	13-18	Loose ends/Extra	TBD
Thu	Dec	8	13-18	Loose ends/Extra	TBD
TBA	Dec	TBA	13-18	FINAL (Time TBA) – Based on lectures 13-18 and HW 3	9-12

Summary of important dates (in chronological order) from the course outline above:

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Study Tips

There is no formula that can absolutely guarantee success in this class. However, doing the right things substantially raises the probability that you will experience a favorable outcome. I will divide these tips into two sections. The first section includes things that everyone should be doing. The second section includes tips for those who feel they may struggle in this class or for those who (later in the semester) find that they actually are struggling or for those who just really want to maximize what they get out of this course.

For All

1. Come to every class: Sometimes absences are unavoidable, but the vast majority are discretionary. Is it possible to “recreate” the lecture for yourself outside of class? Yes, but (i) this takes more time and energy than actually coming to class and (ii) the overwhelming majority of students who skip class do not have the self-discipline to do this. Thus, come to class.
2. Pay attention and take good notes: It is not easy to focus on a 105 minute lecture that is often quite technical in nature, but that is your job, so just do it. Coming and not paying attention is pretty much the same as not coming.
3. Take the homework seriously: The purpose of the homework is to give you practice for the exams. If you don’t take it seriously, you will not be getting the needed practice. This is not a spectator sport. You have not learned the material if you cannot do the problems. It is OK if you can’t get a problem right the first time (i.e., on the homework), but you need to be able to get it right on the exam.
4. When you submit the homework and receive the solution sheet, compare your answers to the sheet. If there is stuff on the sheet you don’t get, come see me at office hours on Friday from 1-2pm. Rework problems you got wrong without looking at the key before the exam.

5. Do not depend on the homework only to do well on the test, review your notes.

6. Use the textbook to supplement the lecture. It can provide alternative takes on the material which may be useful if you are not understanding something I presented in class. If the text does not clear things up, then come see me.

For Some

1. Read the text quickly prior to lecture (to give you a partial roadmap to the lecture) and again more carefully after the lecture. This gives you more exposure to the material and the alternative takes from the text may help you understand things you did not get in the lecture. There is considerable overlap between the lecture and the text.

2. Review your class notes as soon as possible after class. This is especially important to do the homework. If there are things you do not get, you can try and resolve this on your own by reading the text or talking to a classmate. However, if that does not resolve the problem, then come see me.

3. Rewrite your notes. Rewriting notes is a really good way to absorb the material. The process may also reveal to you the things you are not getting. These need to be addressed either through using the text, talking with a classmate or coming to see me. Redrawing diagrams is great practice. Make sure you understand why the diagrams look as they do. If you cannot understand why they are drawn a certain way, either consult the text, talk to a classmate or see me.