

ECON 202: Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2009

Colorado State University

section 003: 9:00 – 9:50 TR

section 004: 2:00 – 2:50 TR

Instructor: Bret Anderson
bret.anderson@colostate.edu
(email is by far the preferred method of contact)

Office: Clark C309 D
Hours: 10:00 – 11:30 Tuesday & Thursday (or by appointment)

Text: Required: *Microeconomics* 2nd Edition
Krugman & Wells

Class
Website: <http://ramct.colostate.edu>

Course Description

The principles course is a survey of basic economic modeling to help analyze how individuals make their consumption and employment decisions, how business firms make their production decisions, and how these decision-making processes and the corresponding general well being of the private sector are affected by government policies such as taxation, expenditure programs, and regulations. Complex economic relations are synthesized into simple and manageable economic models to provide the building blocks of more powerful economic modeling.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should:

- have a strong grounding in the tools of positive and normative economic analysis
- have a working knowledge of marginal decision making
- be able to make efficiency-equity comparisons of different public policy issues
- be familiar with the theories of comparative advantage, the consumer, and producers in an economy
- further their analytical, research, and writing skills

Teaching Assistants

Section 003:

Dave Carpenter (R07 – R09)
david.carpenter@colostate.edu
Clark C311 A

Office Hours: 11:00 -12:00 Mon, Wed, & Fri
or by appt.

Tony Underwood (R19 – R21)
anthony.underwood@colostate.edu
Clark C311 B

Office Hours: 10:00 – 11:00 Tue, Wed, & Thu
or by appt.

Section 004:

Jamie Johnstone (R10 – R12)
jamie.johnstone@colostate.edu
Clark C311 F

Office Hours: 12:00 – 1:30 Tue & Wed
or by appt.

Jill Schnathorst (R22 – R24)
jill.schnathorst@colostate.edu
Clark C322

Office Hours: 11:30 – 1:00 Mon & Wed
or by appt.

Exams

There will be three midterm exams (25 multiple choice + 2-5 short-answer questions) and one comprehensive final exam. The exams will have questions drawn from lecture, recitation, and reading assignments. In the determination of your final grade, you drop the lowest one of the first three midterm exam grades. Students are not allowed to drop the final exam. There are no early or make up exams given. See policy below.

Aplia

There will be weekly homework assignments using Aplia, a web-based computer program that came with your book purchase. Aplia is a tool to assist your understanding and prepare you for exams. Aplia homework will typically be due Tuesday at 11 pm, with some exceptions, and they are always submitted over the internet. Only the highest 10 (out of 11) Aplia assignments will be counted towards your grade. Each week's homework will carry equal weight. There are no late homeworks accepted.

How to Use Aplia – Register for Your Aplia Course

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>. (there is also a link from RamCT)

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: **SEYL-KV52-2YEN**. 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: **SEYL-KV52-2YEN**. 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 02/09/2009. (DOUBLE CHECK APLIA WEBSITE).

- **Option A: Pay Aplia Directly**

1. Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on the website for \$70.00 USD.

- **Option B: Purchase at Bookstore**

1. You may be able to purchase an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore. An Access Card may be bundled with a textbook or sold separately. Access Cards contain a Payment Code you can enter on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.

Problems with registration or sign in? You can always e-mail Aplia by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper-right corner of any page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com.

Analytical Papers

This is an at-home writing assignment with a due date of **Friday, April 10th or Monday, April 13th (depending on recitation time)**. Further assignment details forthcoming.

Make Ups & Missing Assignments

No make up exams will be allowed. The only exceptions are in cases of documented emergency or conflicts with sanctioned University activities. The lowest one of the three midterm exam scores will be dropped. If a student must miss an exam, the score for that exam will be zero and viewed simply as the lowest of the three to be dropped.

Late Aplia and paper assignments will not be accepted. Again, only 10 of the 11 highest scores are counted in the final grade; the analytical paper is due at recitation on 4/10 or 4/13 depending on your recitation time.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty including (but not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and falsification will be dealt with according to University policy. The instructor reserves the right to assess penalties of zero grades on the assignment/exam or a failing grade in the course if deemed appropriate. See the University General Catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty (www.catalog.colostate.edu).

Grading Schedule

Two highest midterm exams (of 3)	100 pts x 2	= 200 pts
Final Exam		= 100 pts
Ten highest Aplia (of 11)		= 100 pts
Analytical Paper		= 100 pts
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Total Points Available		500 pts

442 - 500	A
387 - 441	B
332 - 386	C
277 - 331	D
000 - 276	F

* Minuses will not be used. However, plusses will be used sparingly and at the instructor's discretion.

Important Dates

2/10	Exam I
3/12	Exam II

----- 3/17 – 3.19 Spring Break -----

4/10 or 4/13	Analytical Paper due at recitation
4/21	Exam III
5/12	Section 003 Final Exam 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
5/14	Section 004 Final Exam 9:10 to 11:10 a.m.

Aplia is due: 1/27, 2/3, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5
Aplia is NOT due: 2/10, 3/17, 3/24, 4/21, 5/12

Course Outline (subject to change)

	READING
I. Introduction & Foundations	
A. First Principles of Economics	Intro., Ch. 1
B. Introduction to Economic Modeling	Ch. 2:
1. Why use simplified models?	
2. Production Possibility Frontier	
3. Circular Flow Model	
C. Quantitative Skills for Economics	Ch. 2 appendix
II. Supply AND Demand	
A. The Basic Supply & Demand Framework	Ch. 3
B. Measuring Welfare	Ch. 4
1. Consumer Surplus	
2. Producer Surplus	
----- EXAM I	
C. The Market Strikes Back	Ch. 5
1. Price Controls	
2. Quantity Controls	
D. How responsive are producers and consumers?	Ch. 6
1. Elasticity	
III. Individuals and Markets	
A. Taxes	
1. Costs and Benefits	Ch. 7
2. The Tax System	
B. Introduction to Environmental Economics	Notes
C. International Trade	Ch. 8
1. Comparative Advantage.	
2. International Trade Policy	
----- EXAM II	
IV. Economics and Decision Making	
A. Introduction to Marginal Analysis	Ch. 9 (skip 239-243)
B. Consumer Theory Basics	Ch. 10
1. Utility and Budgets	
2. Optimality	
C. Producer Theory Basics	
1. Inputs and Costs	Ch. 12
D. Market Structure	
1. Perfect Competition	Ch. 13 (skip 344-350)
----- EXAM III	
2. Monopoly	Ch. 14
3. Oligopoly	Ch. 15
a. Introduction to Game Theory	
4. Monopolistic Competition	Ch. 16
VI. Additional Topics (Time Permitting)	
A. Welfare Economics	Ch. 19 & Notes
B. Uncertainty, Risk, and Information	Ch. 21
----- FINAL EXAM	