ECON 201: Microeconomics

Tuesday/Thursday, 6 pm – 7:50 pm, Benton Center 204

Spring 2019

**Cassie Finer**

**Office:** Albany campus – MKH 112; Benton Center – 223

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday: Benton Center 4:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Thursday: Albany Campus 11:15 am - 12:45 pm

Email me if other times are needed!

**Phone/Text:** (541) 917-4267 (LBCC Google Voice)

**Email:** [finerc@linnbenton.edu](mailto:finerc@linnbenton.edu)

**Text and Required Resources:**

1. Online ebook: Microeconomics, Hubbard & O’Brien, 7th Ed, Pearson, © 2018
2. Calculator (single-use device)
3. Blank paper, colored pencils or multiple colors of pens, and a straight-edge for graphing

**Prerequisite:** MTH 111, College Algebra or higher

## Why Study Microeconomics?

Microeconomics helps us to understand how people and firms make choices, how markets are organized, why and how markets behave differently, and the effects government interventions have in market outcomes.

## Grading

Final course grades will be determined based on the following point system:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Percent of Total |
| Midterm | 20 |
| Final Exam | 25 |
| Class participation | 20 |
| Online Homework (Best 10 out of 14) | 35 |
| Total | 100 |

A (90 points and up), B (90 < 80 points), C (80 < 70 points), D (70 < 60 points), or F ( 0 < 60 points)

## Course Outcomes

* Discuss the role scarcity plays in defining economic choices and how individuals, companies and nations resolve these issues.
* Describe and apply marginal analysis, principle of opportunity cost, principle of diminishing returns, comparative advantage, elasticity.
* Analyze the relationships between production costs and cost curves.
* Explain the mechanics of supply and demand and apply the supply and demand model to evaluate markets.
* Discuss the efficiency and equity of both competitive and non-competitive markets and how both are impacted by government intervention.
* Explain, compare and contrast, and apply in context each of the basic market structures – i.e. perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly and monopolistic competition.

## What this Class Will Be Like

Economics is fun when it is applied, and we will be doing lots of applied work in class to help you really own the material. This means that I will not be doing as much traditional lecture, and thus you are responsible for reading the material that I don’t “cover” in class. I will emphasize what you are responsible for knowing that we will not be spending time on.

I expect you to be in class every session and will take attendance. Your success in this class (as well as your participation grade) requires your frequent attendance and engagement on individual and team work in class. If you cannot be in class, please email or text me in advance.

A lot of this material will be very new to you. In my experience, students who read the textbook chapter before lecture are more successful. Even if you don’t have time to read all of the chapter, reviewing the introduction, summary, and key terms before class will help you grasp the material more quickly.

The textbook publisher also provides numerous ways for you to practice the material. I highly recommend taking advantage of the Pearson practice problems/study guides found through the link on Moodle.

## Your Study Routine

You are expected to study at least six hours per week outside of class time. Studying means working problems, reading for understanding in our text, doing homework in MyEconLab, coming to office hours, and so on. Find a good study spot on campus and develop a fixed time to study!

## Moodle/MyEconLab Homework

You will be using MyEconLab through your Moodle account to submit homework assignments during this class. Your ten best homework scores will count in your grade. Late homework will be accepted, but your score will be docked. To avoid 25% per day late penalty for homework, it must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date.

## Question of the Day

You will be assigned one short answer/essay question most days we meet. These questions are designed to prepare you for the short answer section of the midterm and final exams. They are open note, open neighbor – they are intended to be a low stress way for you to practice our course material in a group setting. **There are no make-ups for these in class assignments.**

## Class participation

Your success in this class greatly depends on your full participation in class. Our class time will be a mix of traditional lecture, group activities, and practice exercises. Please come to class ready to listen and participate – this includes silencing and storing cell phones. I do allow laptop use in class, but if at any time they become a distraction I will ask that they be put away. Remember that your actions in class impact the learning ability of those around you!

## Exams

You will have a whole class period to complete the midterm, and the entire finals period to complete the final exam. The format for both will include multiple choice, short essay, and/or quantitative problems. The exams will be closed book/notes and you can use a calculator (single-use device; not your phone). All electronic devices must be put away unless by prior arrangement.

Exam dates are indicated on the course outline at the end of this document. Exams must be taken on the date scheduled unless prior (at least one week before) arrangements have been made. Exams can be taken at the testing center by prior arrangement. If the mid-term exam is missed without prior arrangement, the weight of the exam will be added to the final.

## Students Who Need Accommodations

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to me as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to follow College policies regarding academic integrity as articulated in the [Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](http://www.linnbenton.edu/files/dmfile/STUDENT_RIGHTS_Handbook_Fall_2010_with_VOID_Statement___Replaced_Wording_OK_9_21_1012.pdf). You will receive a failing grade on assignments, exams, or the course if you are found to be involved in academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). Since there is a lot of *allowed* collaboration in this class, please ask when you are confused about the rules for a particular assignment.

## LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

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## Tentative Outline by Date\*

\*This is tentative! Any changes will be discussed in class and updated on the assignment in question. **Always defer to the your Moodle/MyEconLab for the most up-to-date deadlines.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Day** | **Lecture Topic** | **Reading** | **Homework**  (in MyEconLab, due by 11:59 pm Sunday or date listed) |
| **Week 1** |  |  |  |  |
| 4/2 | T | Economics: Foundations and Models | Ch 1 | Get Started – 4/3  Chapter 1 |
| 4/4 | Th | Trade-off, Comparative Advantage and the Market System | Ch 2 | Chapter 2 |
| **Week 2** |  |  |  |  |
| 4/9 | T | Where Price Comes From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply | Ch 3 |  |
| 4/11 | Th | Where Price Comes From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply - *Continued* | Ch 3 | Chapter 3 |
| **Week 3** |  |  |  |  |
| 4/16 | T | Economic Efficiency, Gov. Price Setting, and Taxes | Ch 4 | Chapter 4 |
| 4/18 | Th | Externalities, Environmental Policy, and Public Goods | Ch 5 | Chapter 5 |
| **Week 4** |  |  |  |  |
| 4/23 | T | Elasticity: The Responsiveness of Demand and Supply | Ch 6 |  |
| 4/25 | Th | Elasticity: The Responsiveness of Demand and Supply - *Continued* | Ch 6 | Chapter 6 |
| **Week 5** |  |  |  |  |
| 4/30 | T | Comparative Advantage and the Gains from International Trade | Ch 9 | Chapter 9 |
| 5/2 | Th | **Review for Midterm** |  |  |
| **Week 6** |  |  |  |  |
| 5/7 | T | **Midterm Exam:**  **Chapters 1-6, 9** |  |  |
| 5/9 | Th | Consumer Choice and Behavioral Economics | Ch 10 | Chapter 10 |
| **Week 7** |  |  |  |  |
| 5/14 | T | Technology, Production, and Cost | Ch 11 | Chapter 11 |
| 5/16 | Th | Firms in Perfectly Competitive Markets | Ch 12 | Chapter 12 |
| **Week 8** |  |  |  |  |
| 5/21 | T | Monopolistic Competition: The Competitive Model in a More Realistic Setting | Ch 13 | Chapter 13 |
| 5/23 | Th | Oligopoly: Firms in Less Competitive Markets | Ch 14 | Chapter 14 |
| **Week 9** |  |  |  |  |
| 5/28 | T | Monopoly and Antitrust Policy | Ch 15 | Chapter 15 |
| 5/30 | Th | Pricing Strategy | Ch 16 | Chapter 16 |
| **Week 10** |  |  |  |  |
| 6/4 | T | Make-up & Review session for Final Exam |  |  |
| 6/6 | Th | Make-up & Review session for Final Exam |  |  |
| **Week 11** |  |  |  |  |
| 6/11 | T | **Final Exam: Chs. 10-16**  **6:00pm – 7:50pm BC204** |  |  |