ECO 23.500 Principles of Microeconomics  
Fall 2018, Fully Online Course

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**Office Hours:** Online office hours will be Mon – Thurs from 7pm – 8pm, but I will check email and messages frequently so feel free to contact me anytime.

**Course Description:**  
An introduction to the behavioral science of economics which focuses on the behavior of individual consumers, firms, government agencies and resource owners. Topics covered include basic price theory, market allocation of resources, consumer behavior, theory of the firm, government regulation of business, and comparative economic systems.

**Prerequisites:** None  
**Important Skills:** The Appendix to ch. 2 gives a good review of graphing for students.

**Text:** Greg Mankiw; *Principles of Economics* 8th Ed, South-Western. The online homework tool Aplia is also required. If you have already taken ECO231 and used Aplia you will not need to pay again if you bought the 2-semester code. Instructions on signing up for Aplia are provided on D2L.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on 2 review quizzes worth 50 points each (23% of your overall grade), ten Aplia assignments worth 10 points each (23% of your overall grade), six discussion posts and content quizzes worth 5 points each (8% of your overall grade), a mid-term exam worth 100 points (23% of your overall grade), and a cumulative final exam worth 100 points (23% of your overall grade). This gives a total of 430 available points in the class.

A: At least 387 points  
B: At least 344 points.  
C: At least 301 points.  
D: At least 258 points.  
F: Below 258 points.

**Review Quizzes:** Review quizzes are like mini exams that help make sure you are progressing well through the class. They will be opened early in the morning on Review Quiz day and stay open until midnight. You can start the quiz anytime during this period but only have 70 minutes to complete it once you start it. Review quizzes will be opened on Sept 21st, and November 9th.

**Mid-term Exam:** The mid-term exam is similar to the other exams except that it is proctored and will include all material covered so far in the course. The mid-term exam will be split up over 2 days and take place on October 10th and October 11th.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is similar to the mid-term exam. The Final exam will be split up over 2 days and take place on Monday December 10th and Tuesday December 11th.
**Aplia Assignments:** A total of 12 Aplia assignments will be given with 10 counting toward your grade. The Aplia assignments will allow you to have 3 attempts at each assignment with the *average of these attempts counting toward your grade, we will use “Do No Harm Grading”*. Be sure to complete these assignments well before when they are due since the deadlines will not be moved for any reason.

**Discussions/Assignments/Quizzes:** You will be required to post comments on 6 discussion topics over the semester, and often will be asked to respond to others’ posts. I grade these very strictly and am looking for in depth and insightful posts and comments. Something that shows me you have spent some time thinking about the topic and wrote out a full response. There will also be a short online quiz and homework assignment worth 5 points each.

**Participation:** Participation will not be worth any direct points in the class but it is greatly encouraged and is something I monitor. I will post non-graded thought questions throughout the term that I hope people comment on. I do monitor overall course usage by each student. Participation can be used to “bump” a student that is only a couple points from the next letter grade up.

Tentative Course Calendar *(for more specific dates see the Timeline in D2L):*

**Week 1:** What is Economics (Chapter 1) and Thinking Like an Economist (Chapter 2)
**Week 2:** Specialization and Gains from Trade (Chapter 3)
**Week 3:** Demand and Supply (Chapter 4)
**Week 4:** Elasticity (Chapter 5)

**Review Quiz**

**Week 5:** Efficiency, Equity and Economic Systems (Chapter 7 and 20)
**Week 6:** Government involvement in Markets (Chapter 6)
**Week 7:** Taxes (Chapter 8)

**Mid-term Exam**

**Week 8:** Production and Cost (Chapter 13)
**Week 9:** Perfect competition (Chapter 14)
**Week 10:** Monopoly (Chapter 15)

**Review Quiz #2**

**Week 11:** Monopoly continued (Chapter 15)
**Week 12:** Monopoly continued (Chapter 15)
**Week 13:** Thanksgiving Break

**Week 14:** Monopolistic Competition (Chapter 16)
**Week 15:** Oligopoly (Chapter 17)

**Final Exam**
General Student Policies:

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf.

Course Grades (University Policy 5.5)
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Room 325 in the Human Services Building, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4)
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at (http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.