ECO 2302.500 Principles of Microeconomics
2nd Half of Fall 2021, Fully Online Course

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Office Hours: Online office hours will
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesdays 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Thursdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
I am also happy to set up an appointment to meet in my office anytime, or to make an appointment for ZOOM office hours.

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

Text: Greg Mankiw; Principles of Economics 9th Ed, South-Western. The online homework tool Aplia is also required for this course (explained in detail later in this syllabus).

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<th>Grading</th>
<th>Points needed to earn each letter grade</th>
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<td>The course grade will be based on 2 exams worth 50 points each (22% of your overall grade), ten Aplia assignments worth 10 points each (22% of your overall grade), three discussion posts and 1 syllabus quiz worth 5 points each (4% of your overall grade), ten content quizzes worth 4 points each (8% of your overall grade), a mid-term exam worth 100 points (22% of your overall grade), and a cumulative final exam worth 100 points (22% of your overall grade). This gives a total of 460 available points in the class.</td>
<td>A: At least 414 points</td>
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<td>B: At least 368 points.</td>
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<td>C: At least 322 points.</td>
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<td>D: At least 276 points.</td>
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<td>F: Below 276 points.</td>
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Discussions/Assignments/Quizzes: You will be required to post comments on 3 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. Make sure response posts go beyond agreeing with the original poster, and include concepts and terms related to the class. I hope people get interested in the topics and are occasionally willing to disagree with each other in a constructive way in these discussions.
Details on Online Homework Tool Aplia/Mindtap

The online homework tool called Aplia/Mindtap is required for this course. It is almost impossible to pass the course without having access to this tool. The good news is that when you pay for Aplia you also get free access to the e-book for this course. If you took ECO231 last semester and used Aplia you will be able to use it again for this course for free, just use your same log-in information. Below are some very important points regarding Aplia, read each one carefully.

1. **Access:** You must only access Aplia through the links I provide in D2L. If you try to access it from the Cengage website directly it will lock you out of the course. Don’t ask me why this happens, it is annoying so let’s just try to avoid this problem.

2. **Free Trial:** There is a free trial of Aplia for roughly the first week of class so sign up right away. Also, try to pay for it as soon as possible since occasionally there are issues with the payment link.

3. **Assignments:** A total of 13 Aplia assignments will be given with 10 counting toward your grade. This means your 3 lowest Aplia scores will be dropped.

4. **Attempts:** 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” which means your average cannot be pulled down by poor scores on your 2nd or 3rd attempts, it can only be pulled upward by higher scores.

5. **Deadlines:** The due date for each assignment is listed on the Timeline for the course. These assignments are due by 11pm on these dates, however, be sure to start your assignments far in advance. Deadlines will not be moved or extended for any reason (this includes power outages, illnesses, the Aplia website crashing…. ) Starting the assignment early gives you time to troubleshoot any problems that may arise. I also drop your 3 lowest Aplia assignments in case you do get sick, have internet issues, or just forget an assignment.

6. **Technical issues** – I cannot resolve any technical issues with Aplia, if you run into a problem you can check the FAQ at the bottom of the discussion forum on D2L or contact Aplia tech support. You can email them or call at 866-994-2427. If they are slow to respond to you let me know and I can nudge them.

Exam Details

**Normal Exams (50 points each):** Normal exams help make sure you are progressing well through the class and help prepare you for the Midterm and the Final exams. They will be opened early in the morning and stay open until midnight. You can start the exam anytime during this period but only have 60 minutes to complete it once you begin. The normal exams are open book and open note exams, but you still need to study hard before each to try to maximize your grade. Exams will be opened on **Oct 26th**, and **Nov 17th**.

**Mid-term Exam (Proctored exam worth 100 points):** The mid-term exam is a 75 minute online exam that is proctored and will include all material covered until that point in the class. To see exactly which chapters are covered you can look at the Timeline on D2L, all material listed before the exam will be included on the test.

You will either need to use the online proctoring tool called “Proctorio”. This requires you to have a webcam and access to the Google Chrome browser. The midterm is a closed book and closed notes exam, but you are allowed a 1-page “cheat-sheet” with writing on one side only. The cheat-sheet can be a standard 8.5 by 11 inch piece of paper, and you cannot use microscopic writing. The mid-term exam is on **Nov 5th – Nov 7th**.
Final Exam (Proctored exam worth 100 points): The final exam is similar to the mid-term exam except that it only covers material in the class since the midterm. You can use a cheat-sheet again, identical in structure to the one for the midterm. You will again need to use Proctorio for this exam. The final exam is on Dec 6th – Dec 9th.

General Education Core Curriculum
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. By enrolling in ECON 2302 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Social/Behavioral Science requirement. The chart below indicates: (a) the core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) how the required core objectives will be addressed.

Core Curriculum Objective Table

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<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
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<td>Critical Thinking Skills (CT)</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Students are taught the underlying assumptions of economic models and how to apply the models. These skills are taught through lecture and assigned readings. Students apply these skills on both exams and assignments completed outside of lecture. These assignments require students to use and interpret economic models and manipulate graphs to communicate economic ideas.</td>
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<td>Communication Skills (CS)</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>A significant component of the course is not only the development of an economic vocabulary and ability to communicate using economic terminology, but also the ability to communicate using visual representations of various economic models. These include (but are not limited to) the supply and demand model and the visual representation of welfare economics and government policy in this model, the short-run cost curves, and the visual representation of market structures such as perfect competition and monopoly. Students apply communication skills on both exams and assignments completed outside of lecture.</td>
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<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills (QS)</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Areas of emphasis include the calculation of equilibrium prices and quantities, the calculation and interpretation of various elasticities and their use in the real world, and the mathematical derivation of a firm’s cost curves. Students will demonstrate their understanding and use of these skills by completing exam questions and through the completion assignments outside of class.</td>
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<td>Social Responsibility (SR)</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Basic economic literacy helps students to be better informed participants in important discussions about how resources are allocated in our society. Class lectures and readings from the focus on several issues regarding social responsibility such as their role as consumers and the role of firms in markets, the tradeoff between an efficient and equal allocation of resources, the appropriate role and impact of government policies on markets, and the general development of the theory of welfare economics. Students apply these skills on both exams and assignments.</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes (with relevant Core Objectives in parentheses):
Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of how society’s basic resource allocation decisions are made under different economic systems [CT, SR, CS]
- Show how market structure influences firm and consumer decisions over resource allocation [CT]
- Show how production costs behave when firms alter their production levels [CT, QS]
- Show how governmental regulation and taxation affects the market allocations of resources [CT, CS, QS, SR]
- Determine equilibrium price and quantity in a single market [CT]
- Calculate and use elasticity measures to describe consumer expenditure behavior [CT, QS]
- Identify profit-maximizing output and input and price levels for firms operating under various market structures, and to correctly predict changes in production costs as output levels change for the firm [CT, QS]

Program Learning Outcomes:
Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses in the Curriculum Management Handbook at http://www.sfasu.edu/academics/colleges/business/welcome/faculty-resources.

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)  
Specialization and Gains from Trade (Chapter 3)
**Week 2:** Demand and Supply (Chapter 4)  
Elasticity (Chapter 5)

Review Quiz

**Week 3:** Efficiency, Equity and Economic Systems (Chapter 7 and 20)  
Government involvement in Markets (Chapter 6)  
Taxes (Chapter 8)

Mid-term Exam

**Week 4:** Production and Cost (Chapter 13)  
Perfect competition (Chapter 14)  
Monopoly (Chapter 15)

Review Quiz #2

**Week 5:** Monopoly continued (Chapter 15)  
Monopolistic Competition (Chapter 16)
**Week 6:** Monopolistic Competition continued (Chapter 16)  
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.