

**Sonoma State University**  
**Department of Economics**

**Econ 205, Introduction to Microeconomics, Fall 2013**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Daniel Diaz Vidal
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Friday 11am to 12pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Friday 12:00PM-3:40PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	STEV1002

**Course Description**

The objective of this course is to expose students to the language common to economics and to provide them with an elementary ability to analyze various microeconomic problems common in our economy and society, along with being able to think through everyday microeconomic problems. Models and theories studied will help you to understand how producers could best allocate scarce resources to produce goods and services. Likewise, you will gain insight into what drives consumers to give up resources to obtain goods and services produced by others. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to apply learnt tools not only to business situations but also to problems and situations in your everyday life.

**Required Texts/Readings**

Textbook

N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics, 5th edition. South-Western Publishers

*Students are allowed to use other editions of the required text as its main contents do not vary much across editions. However, students should be aware of the inconvenience caused by different side materials provided in the book which might be discussed in the class and different page numberings.*

**Other media**

We will be listening to specific shows from NPR radio and other media will be recommended in class. Any topics discussed in class are fair ground for exam questions.

## Classroom Protocol

In order for all of us to enjoy an optimal learning environment I will request we all observe certain basic ground rules. If you consistently violate these, I shall find out who you are and penalize your grade. Here are the basic ground rules:

- Please do not start whispering or gathering up your materials before the lecture is completely over. It is very distracting. I shall stare at you and that will delay the end of the lecture.
- If you are attending the lecture, plan on being there for the entire duration of the class. If you absolutely must leave early for a good reason, on any given day, please send me a prior email, sit near the door and leave quietly.
- Do not use laptops or other electronic devices for anything during class time except to take notes or research a topic related to class.
- Prolonged conversations between students will not be tolerated. If you have a question related to the course, ask me instead – Others may have the same question and your question will add to lecture instead of being a distraction.
- Small snacks and drinks are allowed within reason. No obvious distractions, please.
- **Very Important**: It is always fine and welcome to interrupt with questions related to the material being covered.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/registration/addclasses.shtml](http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/registration/addclasses.shtml). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## Grading Policy

The final grade will be determined based on the following individual component weights. Grades will be curved at the end of the quarter. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and you will be required to bring a green scantron to class.

Midterm 1: 20%

Midterm 2: 20%

Midterm 3: 20%

Final Exam 40%

## Missed Exams

Only “**excused absences**” under University guidelines will be considered as valid excuse for missing an exam. To know about these, talk to an advisor. No other excuses will be accepted. The student must be prepared to substantiate his/her excuse for absence with documents (such as a physician’s letter, note from a family member or a University authority), if he/she is excused from an exam, the weights of the other exams will be appropriately increased to add up to 100 total % points.

No make-up exams will be arranged. Unexcused absences will be graded zero. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

### **Academic integrity**

Students should know that the University's [Cheating and Plagiarism policy is available at http://www.sonoma.edu/UAffairs/policies/cheating\\_plagiarism.htm](http://www.sonoma.edu/UAffairs/policies/cheating_plagiarism.htm). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at Sonoma State University and the University's policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work..

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.

### **Campus Policy on Disability Access for Students**

"If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require accommodations, please register with the campus office of Disability Services for Students (DSS), located in Salazar Hall - Room 1049, Phone: (707) 664-2677, TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958. DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. This authorization must be presented to the instructor before any accommodations can be made." [The policy can be found at http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/disabilitypolicy.htm](http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/disabilitypolicy.htm)

### **Emergency Evacuation**

If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require assistance evacuating a building in the event of a disaster, you should inform your instructor about the type of assistance you may require. You and your instructor should discuss your specific needs and the type of precautions that should be made in advance of such an event (i.e. assigning a buddy to guide you down the stairway). We encourage you to take advantage of these preventative measures as soon as possible and contact the Disability Services for Students office if other classroom accommodations are needed.

## **Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Exams</b>
1	08/23/2013	Chapters 1-2 Ten principles of Econ, Thinking Like an Economist
2	08/31/2013	Chapters 3-4 Gains from trade, market forces
3	09/06/2013	Chapters 5-6 Elasticity, Demand and Supply
4	09/13/2013	MIDTERM 1
5	09/20/2013	Chapters 7-8 Consumers and Producers, Taxation

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Exams</b>
6	09/27/2013	Chapters 9-10 International Trade, Externalities
7	10/04/2013	Chapter 11 Public Goods
8	10/11/2013	Chapters 12 The design of the tax system
9	10/18/2013	MIDTERM 2
10	10/25/2013	Chapters 13-14 The Costs of Production, Firms in Competitive Markets
11	11/01/2013	Chapters 15-16 Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition
12	11/08/2013	Chapters 17 Oligopoly
13	11/15/2013	Chapter 18-19 Factors of Production, Earnings and Discrimination
14	11/22/2013	MIDTERM 3
15	11/29/2013	---No Class---Thanksgiving---
16	12/06/2013	chapter 20 Income Inequality and Poverty
Final	12/11/2013	Friday 12/11/2013----2 p.m.-3:50 p.m.---- (To be confirmed)