

ECONOMICS 101-8: INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS

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Ec 101R, Section _____
 T.A. _____
 T.A. Office _____
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Materials for Purchase:

Required Text: William J. Baumol and Alan S. Blinder, *Economics: Principles and Policy* (13th Edition, 2016). Note: I have ordered two versions of the textbook: (1) the first version is the textbook alone; (2) the second version includes the online course *Aplia* and also includes an E-book of the text. Some students find the web-based instruction useful and some don't. The choice is yours. If you decide that you need *Aplia* later, you can still buy it, but it will be more expensive.

Required Course-Pak: Problem Sets to be purchased at Student Stores

Optional Material: Burton G. Malkiel, *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*, (11th ed., New York: W.W. Norton, 2016). The best single introduction to the stock market of which I am aware.

The Wall Street Journal (Student Subscription). Subscription cards are available at the Student Bookstore. They are valid for scholarship reimbursement.

Administrative Information for Students:

(a) **Internet Browser:** You will be required to download material from the course web site. The official browser for the course is Microsoft's *Internet Explorer*. I believe that *Firefox*, *Chrome*, (and perhaps other browsers) will work as well. Apple users can use *Safari*, but be aware that *Safari* does not automatically refresh the course web page. You must do it manually

(b) **Your E-mail address:** You *must* have a functioning official UNC email address to which I can send messages. Your UNC e-mail address must be the address that accompanies the official UNC on-line class roll. You will be responsible for all course email sent to the address on your official course roll.

This course is an introduction to the study of economics. It has a number of goals: (1) to impart a basic understanding of how a market economy works; (2) to introduce students to the "economic way of thinking" about economic and social problems; (3) to prepare a student to take further courses in economics. It covers a wide range of topics, including (1) the determinants of economic activity, (2) inflation, (3) unemployment, (4) operation of the price system, (4) monopoly and other forms of imperfect competition, (5) the impact of international trade, and (6) the determinants of the distribution of income and wealth.

This course has two lectures per week as well as a weekly 50-minute recitation section. Occasional **lecture supplements** may be posted on the course web site. You are responsible for incorporating them into your notes before the next lecture.

The recitations will begin the week of August 29th. The recitation section is designed to give you the opportunity to clarify the elements of the text and lectures, to introduce new material not covered in the other two sources, to deepen your understanding of the course material through practice problems, and to allow discussion of issues relevant to economics and the course. Your 101R class and your TA should, therefore, become your first point of clarification in this course.

Problem Sets will be discussed in detail in the sections and will be submitted for credit. **NB: Start working on the problem sets immediately; the first exercise will be due very soon.**

Three hour-exams will be given during regular lecture hours in this course. All are required and each will count for 20% of your final grade. *There will be no make-ups for hour exams.* Should you be forced to miss *one* hour exam *with a valid excuse* you will be allowed to use the final exam raw score in place of the missing hour exam. Missing a second hour exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam. The comprehensive final exam will count for 30% of your course grade. 10% of your course grade will be based on the proportion of homework assignments turned in *on time* to your TA and on participation in sections.

The reading assignments are given below. You are *strongly encouraged* to do the reading before the lecture at which the corresponding topic will be covered. All appendices to chapters should be read unless specifically excluded. Reading assignments average about 50 pages per week; *don't get behind!* Lectures and readings, while generally not identical, will be complementary; understanding them both will greatly enhance your probability of success in this course. Part of your job is to integrate the lectures with your reading.

Outline on following page ...

COURSE OUTLINE and SCHEDULE OF READINGS (Approximate)

Dates	Text Assignments	Topic
Aug 23, 25	Ch. 1, 2	Introduction to Economics; Supply and Demand: The Basics
Aug 30, Sep 1	Ch. 3, 4, (9*)	The Problems of Economics; Supply and Demand: Applications (*Stock Market Discussion in Sections)
Sep 6, 8, 13	Ch. 5 (+appendix), 6	Consumer Choice, Market Demand, Elasticity, & Demand Measurement
Sep 15, 20	Ch. 7, 8	The Business Firm, Profits, & Opportunity Cost. Input Decisions and Production Costs
Sep 22		HOURLY EXAMINATION
Sep 27, 29, Oct 4, 6	Ch. 10, 14, 18*, 19* & 20	The Firm and the Industry under Perfect Competition ; The Price System and the Case for Laissez Faire (with some caveats); The Distribution of Income and Wealth [<i>*Chapters 18 & 19 are optional</i>]
Oct 11, 13	Ch. 35, 29*	International trade and Comparative Advantage; Money & the Banking System [<i>*TAs lecture on this topic in sections; don't get behind in the reading!</i>]
Oct 13, 18	Ch. 22, 23	Introduction to Macroeconomics; Unemployment & Inflation
Oct 20		FALL BREAK
Oct 25	Ch 25, 26 (Read App. A*);	Consumer Spending & Demand; Demand-Side Equilibrium; Multiplier Analysis [<i>TAs lecture on this</i>];
Oct 27		HOURLY EXAMINATION
Nov 1, 3	Ch. 26, 27	Demand-Side Equilibrium; Multiplier Analysis / Supply Side equilibrium
Nov 8, 10	Ch 28, 30, 31	Supply-Side Equilibrium: Fiscal Policy; Monetary Policy and the Great Recession
Nov 15	Ch 33	The Budget Crisis and the National Debt
Nov 17		HOURLY EXAMINATION
Nov 22, 29 Dec 1	Ch 11, 12	Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition, Oligopoly;
Nov 24		THANKSGIVING BREAK
Dec 1, 6	Ch. 15, 16, 21	Critique of the Market Mechanism; Course Conclusion

Tentative Schedule for Recitation Sections:

Week of:	Activity	Week of:	Activity
Aug 29	Organization; Gold Prices; *Stock Market Intro.	Oct 31	Hour exam returned and discussed
Sep 5	Discuss Problem Set 1 (Due in class)	Nov 7	Multiplier Lecture by TA; Problem Set 6 Parts A & B are due
Sep 12	Discussion of Problem Set 2 (Consumer theory & demand) (Due in Class)	Nov 14	Problem Set 6 Parts C & D are due Begin Review for Exam
Sep 19	Review for Exam	Nov 21	Exams returned.
Sep 26	Hour exam returned;	Nov 28	Problem Set 7 due; Review for final exam
Oct 3	Discuss Problem Set 3 (The firm: revenue & costs : Due in Class) Discuss the Distribution of Income & Wealth	Dec 5	TBA
Oct 10	Problem Set 4 (Competitive markets: Due in Class)		
Oct 17	Problem Set 5, (Q 1-5) Due in Class; Review for Midterm		
Oct 19	TAs lecture on money and banking system Problem Set 5 (Q 6-10 Due in class)		

⚡ Final Examination: Tuesday Dec 13th @ 8:00 a.m.