

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECON 101-002: INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

Summer I 2017

M - F 9:45AM - 11:15AM

Gardner 307

Instructor: David A. Díaz

Email: diazda@live.unc.edu

Office: Phillips Annex 103A

Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday from 11:30am to 1:00pm, and by appointment.

Course Website: <http://sakai.unc.edu>

The Sakai web site contains the official course gradebook, announcements, and other supplementary materials.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to a new way of looking at the world. We will focus on core economic concepts and introduce you to some basic models that economists use to make sense of what they observe around them. We will also explore how economists analyze the impact of different policies within the context of these models and determine whether the policy will have the intended - or an unintended - outcome. Throughout the course, I hope to increase your interest in economics and the role it can play in your everyday decision making.

Recommended Text: N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Economics, 8th Edition.

Course Weights:

- Participation: 10%
- Homework: 25%
- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

Grading Scale:

A : 93 – 100	C+ : 77 – 79.99
A- : 90 – 92.99	C : 73 – 76.99
B+ : 87 – 89.99	C- : 70 – 72.99
B : 83 – 86.99	D+ : 65 – 69.99
B- : 80 – 82.99	D : 60 – 64.99
	F : < 60

Participation: During class, we may work on various problems both as a class and individually with your classmates. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance in addition to your effort level when these group problems are posed. Browsing the web, talking about non-class related topics, playing on your phone, talking while the instructor is talking, etc. will negatively impact your grade.

Problem Sets: In order for you to practice what we learn in class, there are various problem sets posted on the Sakai course site along with their solutions. You are encouraged to go through these problems both individually and in groups in order to “know what you don’t know.” Note that these problem sets *will not be collected or graded*, but rather are intended to be good study guides for the exams and contain a mix of multiple choice and free response questions similar to what you might expect to see on homework assignments or exams.

Homework: There are six graded homeworks each corresponding to 3-4 topics that will be due during the semester. These assignments are to be completed individually through the Sakai website, but are open book/note. Homeworks are due by 11:59PM on the dates noted in the course outline below. **No late submissions will be accepted**, but your lowest homework grade for the semester will be dropped.

Exams: Each exam will cover material presented in class, readings scheduled outside of class, and homework assignments/quizzes. The exam format will be provided a few days prior to a given exam. You should bring a pencil, scantron, and a **basic** calculator with you to each exam (an example of what constitutes a basic calculator is provided on Moodle – if in doubt about yours, ask!). Students that arrive more than 30 minutes late will not be permitted to take the exam.

Exam Dates:

May 30	Exam 1
June 9	Exam 2
June 21	Final Exam (8:00AM - 11:00AM)

Exam Format: Each exam will cover material presented in class, readings scheduled outside of class, and homework assignments. The exam format will be provided a few days prior to a given exam. You should bring a pencil, scantron, and a **basic** calculator with you to each exam (an example of what constitutes a basic calculator is provided on Sakai – if in doubt about yours, ask!). Students that arrive more than 30 minutes late will not be permitted to take the exam.

Missed Exams: There are no make-up midterm examinations. If you must miss a midterm exam, you may be permitted to transfer the missed credit to the final examination. To qualify for a transfer of credit, you must contact me before the start of the missed midterm examination and provide me with an acceptable explanation. If the reason for your absence could not be foreseen, please make the request as soon as possible thereafter. All requests should be in writing and you may be asked to provide support with suitable documentation. If approved, the weight of the midterm will be placed on the final exam.

Regarding attendance for the final exam, the Chair of the Economics Department asks summer instructors not to change the date of a final exam unless the student has a compelling and documented personal reason. In that case, the make-up exam will be administered on a date later than the scheduled final. It will be set at a date and time that is convenient for both student and instructor.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code (<http://instrument.unc.edu>).

- You may use your notes, textbooks, and classmates to complete homework assignments.
- No assistance is permitted on exams. During the exam, however, feel free to ask your instructor for clarification. The use of cell phones, computers, or any other unauthorized device (e.g., an unapproved calculator) during examinations is an explicit violation of the honor code.

Date	Topic	Readings (Mankiw)	Notes
5/17	Introduction to Economics	Ch. 1; Ch. 2	
5/18	Trade	Ch. 3	
5/19	Supply and Demand	Ch. 4.1 – 4.3	
5/22	Market Equilibrium and Efficiency	Ch. 4.4; Ch. 7	
5/23	Elasticity	Ch. 5	Homework 1 Due
5/24	Gov. Policy and Welfare	Ch. 6, Ch. 8	
5/25	Externalities; Public Goods	Ch. 10; Ch. 11	
5/26	Exam Review		Homework 2 Due
5/29	Holiday		
5/30	Exam 1		
5/31	Costs of Production	Ch. 13	
6/1	Perfect Competition	Ch. 14	
6/2	Monopoly	Ch. 15	
6/5	Monopolistic Competition; Oligopoly	Ch. 16; Ch. 17	Homework 3 Due
6/6	Introduction to Macroeconomics	Ch. 23	
6/7	The Cost of Living; Economic Growth	Ch. 24; Ch. 25	
6/8	Exam Review		Homework 4 Due
6/9	Exam 2		
6/12	The Solow Model	Solow Model videos	Video 1 ; Video 2
6/13	Savings, Investment, and the Financial System	Ch. 26	
6/14	Unemployment; The Monetary System	Ch. 28; Ch. 29	
6/15	Money Growth and Inflation	Ch. 30	Homework 5 Due
6/16	Aggregate Demand and Supply	Ch. 33	
6/19	Monetary and Fiscal Policy; Exam Review	Ch. 34	Homework 6 Due
6/21	Final Exam, 8:00 - 11:00		