

Economics 101: Introduction to Economics

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Summer I 2018
MTWThF 9:45am – 11:15pm
Kenan Laboratories B125

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Course Objective:

The objectives of the course are to introduce you to:

- 1) The way economists think about the world;
- 2) Some basic economic models and how to use these models to investigate the world;
- 3) How economists analyze whether policy will have its intended – or an unintended – outcome in the context of our basic models.

This course covers a considerable amount of material in a short period. Students should expect to do problem sets and self-directed reading each day.

Required Materials

- Cowen and Tabarrok, *Modern Principles of Economics* 3rd Edition
- Sapling Learning (<http://saplinglearning.com>) for homeworks. \$40 – access code bundled with text!
- A 4-function calculator (Scientific, graphing, financial, etc are not permitted in exams)

Students will be responsible for the material in the assigned chapters, even when the material is not explicitly covered in lecture. Students may use earlier editions of the text but are responsible for making sure they have access to all relevant information.

Exam Dates

Midterm 1: May 29

Midterm 2: June 11

Final: June 20-21 (TBA by UNC)

Missed Exams

There are **no make-up** midterm exams. If you must miss a midterm exam, you may be permitted to transfer the missed credit to the final exam. You must contact me before the start of midterm with an acceptable explanation – examples include a doctor's note, funerals, or other emergencies. If the reason for your absence could not be foreseen, please get in contact with me as soon as possible.

Final exam make-ups can only be granted through the **Academic Advising Office**. Contact the office immediately if you have a conflict. Details: <http://advising.unc.edu/policies-and-procedures/final-exam-excuse/>

Exams

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, and a basic 4-function calculator with you to each exam (an example calculator is provided on Sakai – if in doubt about yours, ask!). Students who arrive more than 30 minutes late will not be permitted to take the exam.

Homeworks and Writing Assignments

Problem sets will be assigned through Sapling Learning (saplinglearning.com). You'll do these assignments online. Each assignment is due by 11:00pm on the due date. Account setup is fairly self-explanatory. Detailed instructions on Sakai!

Additionally, each problem set will be paired with a small writing assignment. These will be short (less than 250 words) papers about a current news article or relevant economic idea.

I will assign the homework about a week in advance and give recommended problems at the end of each lecture. The problem sets will be long, so it is my intention that you work on them as we cover the material through the week. I recommend you look at all assignments ahead of time and plan accordingly.

You are free to work with your peers on the homework, but you each must turn in an individual assignment reflecting your own work.

Grading

Writing Assignments:	10%
Homework:	15%
Lowest Midterm:	15%
Highest Midterm:	25%
Final Exam:	35%

Grading Scale

A	93%-100%	B-	80%-82.9%	D+	67%-69.9%
A-	90%-92.9%	C+	77%-79.9%	D	60%-66.9%
B+	87%-89.9%	C	73%-76.9%	F	<60%
B	83%-86.9%	C-	70%-72.9%		

Final averages are rounded to the nearest tenth. This scale is tentative, and I may move the thresholds during the semester – I will only do this in a way that **favours** students' final grades.

Attendance

Regular attendance at lectures is strongly recommended. I will take roll each lecture and give a small amount of bonus credit to students with who have fewer than two absences (excused or unexcused).

This course is designed to cover a considerable amount of material in a short time, and because this is a summer session, we will move very quickly. Students should not expect to consistently miss lectures and still be able to keep up in class.

Students are responsible for any missed announcements and assignments. Students who are not willing or able to regularly attend lectures should drop the class. Students that anticipate missing at least three consecutive classes due to extenuating circumstances should notify me and the Dean of Students immediately. If some emergency should arise, arrangements may be made for potential make-up work and adjustment of grades.

Class Participation and Electronics Policy

Class participation is an important component of learning, and so students are encouraged to ask and answer questions during class. It's likely that any concept you do not understand is also difficult for your peers!

Students are expected to behave with respect towards their peers and instructor. To this end, students are expected to arrive to class on time with their phones silenced. You will not need cellphones or laptops in this class, so please keep them put away during lecture.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code: <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/>

You may work with your classmates and use your notes and textbooks to complete the problem sets, but each student must submit his/her own assignment. No assistance is permitted on exams.

Accessibility

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.

All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office, Tel: 919-962-8300 or Email: accessibility@unc.edu.

Course Outline

I intend to follow this schedule as closely as possible. Since time is tight, we may need to deviate - changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

Students are expected to (lightly) read the relevant textbook material before the class in which the material will be presented. The entire chapter is to be read unless otherwise noted.

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
Wed, May 16	Intro, Economic thinking, and Gains from Trade	1,2	
Thurs, May 17	Supply and Demand	3	
Fri, May 18	The Market System and (brief) Review (1-4)	4	
Mon, May 21	Elasticities	5	Problem Set 1
Tues, May 22	Markets under Taxes and Subsidies; Tariff & Trade	6,9	WA 1
Wed, May 23	Pricing and Markets under Price controls	7,8	
Thurs, May 24	Externalities, Public goods, and Policy Suggestions	10,19	
Fri, May 25	Review (1-10,19)		Problem Set 2, WA 2
Mon, May 28	Holiday (I will hold office hours)		
Tues, May 29	Exam 1		
Wed, May 30	Intro to Macro; Measuring Output and Growth	26, 27	
Thurs, May 31	Solow Growth Model	28	
Fri, June 1	Savings, and the Market for Loanable Funds	29	
Mon, June 4	Employment	30	Problem Set 3
Tues, June 5	Inflation and Quantity Theory of Money	31	WA 3
Wed, June 6	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	32	
Thurs, June 7	The Federal Reserve, Monetary and Fiscal Policy	34, 35, 37	
Fri, June 8	Review (26-32, 34, 35, 37)		Problem Set 4, WA 4
Mon, June 11	Exam 2		
Tues, June 12	Firm Level Decisions and Perfect Competition	11,12	
Wed, June 13	Monopoly	13	
Thurs, June 14	Special Topic: Oligopoly and Game Theory	15	
Fri, June 15	Special Topic: Monopsony and Review (11-15)		
Mon, June 18	Review: Content from Exams 1 and 2		Problem Set 5, WA 5
Tues, June 19	No Class (I will hold office hours)		
June 20-21	Final Exam – TBA by University		