

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECON 101-003: INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

Summer I 2013

M - F 11:30AM - 1:00PM, GA 308

Instructor: Hanwei Liu

Office: Gardner Hall 414

E-Mail: hanwei@live.unc.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays (2:00pm - 3:00pm) and Wednesdays (2:00pm - 3:00pm) or by appointment

Website: <https://www.unc.edu/sakai/> - contains course calendar, announcements, and supplementary materials

<https://www.saplinglearning.com/> - contains homework assignments

This course is the gateway course for the major of Economics; if you wish to major in Economics you must have at least a C in this course. It also meets the General Education requirement for an “Approaches” course in social and behavioral sciences.

Course Objectives: We will cover a significant amount of material in a very short period of time. The key objectives are to introduce you to: 1) the economic way of thinking; 2) some basic economic models and how economists use models to explain the world around us; and 3) the impact that government policy has on our communities. Most importantly, I hope to increase your overall interest in economics and the role it plays in your everyday decisions.

Important Course Dates:

| | |
|---------|---|
| May 23 | First Midterm Exam, 11:30 AM |
| June 6 | Second Midterm Exam, 11:30 AM |
| June 17 | Final Exam, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM |
| June 18 | Make-up Final Exam for students with excused absences for the final, 11:30 AM |

Required Materials:

- Cowen, Tyler and Alex Tabarrok. **Modern Principles of Economics**, 2nd edition, Worth Publishers, 2013.
- Sapling Learning (online homework website) – please follow registration instructions on the last page of the syllabus.
- Basic calculator (~ \$1). A picture of an acceptable calculator is provided on Sakai. You should bring your calculator with you to each class, including exams. Cell phones, scientific calculators, financial calculators, etc. are prohibited. Basically, your calculator should only have 4 or 5 functions. If you want to know if your calculator is acceptable, then please do not hesitate to ask me. ***Unacceptable calculators will be confiscated during exams.***

The Student Store is selling a package that includes a copy of the textbook along with a pre-paid access code to Sapling Learning. If you bought the textbook on the used book market, then you can buy an access code directly from Sapling Learning for ~\$30. Registration instructions are provided on the last page of the syllabus.

Furthermore, I strongly encourage you to read a newspaper such as *The Wall Street Journal* or *Financial Times* on a daily basis. *The Economist*, a weekly publication, is also highly recommended. All of these publications are available electronically via the library's e-research tools.

·*The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ). For free access to the WSJ, go to <http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/eid/>. Under "By Title", click on "P", scroll down to "ProQuest Newspapers", and click on the link. If you are off-campus, then you will need to provide your onyen and password. Once you are in the ProQuest database, click on the "Publications" tab, and then click on the link entitled "Wall Street Journal; Eastern edition" to access the complete text.

·*The Economist*. For free access to the complete text of *The Economist*, go to <http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/eid/>. Under "By Title", click on "E", and scroll down to "Economist.com". If you are off-campus, then you will need to provide your onyen and password.

Course Requirements: This course is designed to be very rigorous and demanding. You are expected to work hard, actively participate, ask questions when you have any doubts, and perform to the very best of your ability. Still, the purpose of this course is to teach you something about economics, not to destroy your GPA.

Evaluation for this course will be based upon two mid-term exams (20% each), a cumulative final exam (40%), and "other graded activities" (20%). "Other graded activities" include your scores on Sapling Learning (SL) problem sets, writing assignments, and in-class quizzes. I do not distribute any grades via email or over the telephone.

A Sapling problem set will be assigned for each chapter covered. **All SL problem sets must be completed on time.** SL assignment grades will be 10% of your final grade. I will drop your lowest two scores on these problem sets.

Writing assignments (5%) are graded on a check+/check/check- scale. Late submissions will receive no credit.

In-class quizzes (5%) will be given on a weekly basis. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Grading Scale (as a percentage of total points)

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A = 93-100 | C = 73-76.99 |
| A- = 90-92.99 | C- = 70-72.99 |
| B+ = 87-89.99 | D+ = 67-69.99 |
| B = 83-86.99 | D = 60-66.99 |
| B- = 80-82.99 | F <60 |
| C+ = 77-79.99 | |

There is no maximum number of A's or B's.

Exam Format: There will be two mid-term exams given during the session (**May 23rd** and **June 6th**) and a cumulative final exam (**June 17, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm**). Each exam will cover material presented in class, readings scheduled outside of class, SL assignments, and suggested problems from the textbook. The exam format will be provided in the class prior to a given exam. You should bring a pen/pencil, your UNC ID, and a basic calculator with you to each exam. Students that arrive more than 15 minutes late for an exam will not be permitted to take the exam. I will hold extra office hours during the week of the exam.

Missed Exams: There are no make-up midterm exams. You are forewarned well in advance to properly schedule your time and make proper arrangements for other potential conflicts. If you must miss a midterm exam due to an extenuating situation, you may be allowed to transfer the missed credit to the final examination. To qualify for a transfer of credit, you should contact me in advance to provide me with an acceptable explanation for missing the exam. If the reason for your absence could not be foreseen, please make the request as soon as possible thereafter. All such requests should be in writing. You may be required to support your explanation with suitable documentation.

If an acceptable explanation is provided, then the percentage (20%) for the missed midterm examination will be added to your final exam. If you miss both mid-term exams, then your final exam will carry a weight of only 70%, i.e. a 10 percentage point penalty applies. If you should be unable to attend the final exam, then you will need to provide me with an "Exam Excuse" from the Dean's Office no later than Thursday, June 13th. The make-up for the final exam will be held at 11:30 am on Tuesday, June 18th.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is strongly recommended. You are responsible for any announcements that you may have missed if you choose not to attend class or if you cannot attend class. You should get the missed notes/announcements from one of your peers. It is expected that you will respect your peers and the instructor with appropriate behavior while in class and that you will arrive to class on time. You should refrain from reading the paper, browsing the web, instant messaging, playing games, etc. during class time. **Students who are not willing to attend regularly should drop the course.**

Tips for Being Successful in ECON 101

- Attend all lectures and exam Q&A Sessions.
- Stick to the deadlines given on the course calendar. This means all assigned readings should be completed before they are presented, problem sets should be done by the due date, etc.
- Dedicate at least three hours of study time outside of class for every hour in class.
- Work through the resources that are available in Sakai. These include extra multiple choice questions, solutions to selected problems from the end of each chapter, and a link to the textbook's website (includes more questions, flashcards, and power point slides for each chapter).
- Read the WSJ, Financial Times, and/or The Economist and think about how the content can be applied to economics.
- If you find that you are having particular difficulty with any of the material in this course, then get help immediately. *Do not let it build up.* It is expected that you will have read the appropriate sections of the textbook and reviewed your notes **before** a scheduled meeting. I will have office hours twice every week, so please take advantage of them.

Academic Integrity: All behavior in this class is governed by the UNC Honor Code. If you do not yet understand your responsibilities and rights under this code, I urge you to learn more from <http://honor.unc.edu>. I take the Honor Code very seriously.

- You may use your notes and textbook to complete SL assignments and polls. No other assistance is permitted. If you need a hint or guidance on the SL assignments, then you can consult with the instructor or a tutor. You may not work on the problems with your classmate(s).
- No assistance is permitted on exams. During the exam, however, feel free to ask your instructor for clarification.
- You will be permitted to discuss the writing assignments with your classmates and/or the instructor, but each student must submit their own assignment in their own writing.

Calendar and Reading List: A detailed outline with a calendar of required readings and assignments can be found in Sakai. You are expected to have all assigned readings completed before the material is presented. The entire chapter is to be read unless otherwise noted.

| Dates | Topic | Reading from Cowen & Tabarrok |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| May 14 | Introduction to Economics; Economic Way of Thinking | Chapter 1 |
| May 15 | Comparative Advantage and Trade | Chapter 2 |
| May 16 - May 17 | Supply and Demand; Market System | Chapters 3 & 4 |
| May 20 | Price Elasticities | Chapter 5 |
| May 21 - May 22 | Market Outcomes in the Presence of Taxes, Subsidies, and Price Controls | Chapters 6 & 8 |
| May 23 | Exam #1 (material through May 22) | |
| May 23 - May 24 | Market Outcomes and Policy Suggestions in the Presence of Externalities | Chapter 10 |
| May 27 | Memorial Day – No Class | |
| May 28 - May 29 | Firm Level Decisions under Perfect Competition Monopoly: Firm Level Decisions and Policy Suggestions under Imperfect Competition | Chapters 11 & 12 Chapter 13 |
| May 30 | Market Outcomes and Policy Suggestions in the Presence of Public Goods and Common Resources | Chapter 18 |
| May 31 | Intro to Macroeconomics; Measuring Economic Output | Chapter 24 |
| June 3 - June 5 | Economic Growth and Public Policy | Chapters 25 & 26 |
| June 6 | Exam #2 (material from May 23 through June 5) | |
| June 6 - June 7 | Savings, Investment, and the Financial System | Chapter 27 |
| June 10 - June 11 | Unemployment and Inflation | Chapters 28 & 29 |
| June 12 | A Model of the Macroeconomy: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply | Chapter 30 |
| June 13 | The Federal Reserve System and Monetary Policy | Chapter 32 |
| June 14 | Fiscal Policy | Chapter 35 |
| June 17 @ 11:30 am | Cumulative Final Exam | |

Disclaimer: Although the instructor intends to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, there may be times when deviations from the material presented herein are necessary. Changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedule.

Registration Instructions for Sapling Learning

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com>
 2. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 5.
 3. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a Sapling Learning account. Click "create account" located under the username box, then click "Login with Facebook". The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password, fill in the remaining information, accept the site policy agreement, and then click "Create my new account". You can then skip to step 5.
 4. Otherwise, click "Register here." Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account". Check your email (and spam inbox) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email to confirm your account.
 5. Find your course in the expandable list (sorted by subject, term, and instructor) and click the title link.
 6. Select your payment options and when prompted, enter the key code: **1130**.
- Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up - and throughout the term - if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor.