

**KSGA-10002: Principles of Economics
Syllabus, Fall 2020**

Instructor information

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Office hours

Please email me in advance
Time: Friday 11am – noon
Meeting ID: 985 1603 1618
Passcode: 3MLgG!

Lecture hours and location

Times: Tues/Thurs 11:10-12:25pm
Location: Jenkins and Nanovic Hall 1030AB
Meeting ID: 920 8214 1730
Passcode: 5837168905

Overview of the course

This course introduces students to the discipline of economics and the principles and methods of micro- and macro-economics. "Principles of Economics" covers topics such as scarcity, demand and supply, elasticity, consumer choice, competition, monopoly, labor markets, poverty and inequality, financial markets, GDP and economic growth, unemployment, money and inflation, monetary policy and exchange rates, and government policy.

Health and Safety Protocols

In this class, as elsewhere on campus, students must comply with all University health and safety protocols, including:

- Face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth will be worn by all students and instructors;
- Physical distancing will be maintained in all instructional spaces;
- Students will sit in assigned seats throughout the semester, which will be documented by faculty for purposes of any needed contact tracing; and
- Protocols for staged entry to and exit from classrooms and instructional spaces will be followed.

We are part of a community of learning in which compassionate care for one another is part of our spiritual and social charter. Consequently, compliance with these protocols is an expectation for everyone enrolled in this course. If a student refuses to comply with the University's health and safety protocols, the student must leave the classroom and will earn an unexcused absence for the class period and any associated assignments/assessments for the day. Persistent deviation from expected health and safety guidelines may be considered a violation of the University's "[Standards of Conduct](#)," as articulated in [du Lac: A Guide for Student Life](#), and will be referred accordingly.

Health Checks and Attendance

Every morning, members of the Notre Dame Community will be asked to complete a daily health check and submit their information via the Return to Campus Advisor application. The health check application will indicate one of the following:

- a) Student is cleared for class and should attend class in person; or
- b) Student is advised to stay home to monitor symptoms and should participate in class virtually and complete all assignments and assessments; or
- c) Student must consult a healthcare provider and should contact University Health Services (UHS) for an assessment. In the meantime, the student should participate in class virtually and complete all assignments and assessments. Depending on the medical assessment, UHS will follow the University's standard protocol for obtaining an excused absence for medical reasons.

Disability services

It is the policy and practice of the University of Notre Dame to provide reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students who have questions about the Office of Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability are invited to contact the Office of Disability Services for a confidential discussion in the Sara Bea Center for Students with Disabilities or by phone at 574-631-7157. Because the University's Academic Accommodations Processes generally require students to request accommodations well in advance of the dates when they are needed, students who believe they may need an accommodation for this course are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services at their earliest opportunity. Additional information about Disability Services and the process for requesting accommodations may be found at disabilityservices.nd.edu.

Textbooks

The course will rely on two textbooks, each of which will be of use at specific points of the course:

- Mankiw, N. G. (2021). *Principles of Economics*. Cengage Learning. The e-book is available for purchase at <https://www.cengage.com/c/principles-of-economics-9e-mankiw/9780357038314PF/?filterBy=Student>.
- Bowles, S., Carlin, W., & Stevens, M. (2017). *The Economy*. Oxford University Press. Available for free online at <https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/>.

Other useful introductory textbooks in case you are interested in further reading are the following:

- Krugman, P., Wells, R., & Graddy, K. (2018). *Economics*. Macmillan.
- McDowell, M., Thom, R., Frank, R., & Bernanke, B. (2019). *Principles of Economics*. McGraw-Hill.

Marking scheme

The marking scheme is designed to match other general education courses. Final marks will be based on the following components:

Participation and attendance	10%
Problem sets	20%
Midterm examination	30%

Final examination	40%
Total	100%

Attendance and participation

Students are required to attend two lectures each week. Attendance will be monitored through Poll Everywhere. Please register at <https://PollEv.com/alejandroest256/register>. At the beginning of each lecture, students will take an online quiz designed to test their knowledge of simple concepts from previous lectures. These quizzes are NOT designed to be challenging and should take less than five minutes to complete. They are designed to provide a first gauge of how well students understand the material of the course, as well as provide explanations where they might have gaps in understanding. To complete the attendance and participation requirement, students can go to the address <https://pollev.com/alejandroest256> at the beginning of each lecture and fill in their answers.

Problem sets

There are seven problem sets. They are designed to be challenging and increase students' understanding of the material of the course beyond the direct applications of simple concepts. Each problem set typically consists of five short true-or-false questions and two long-answer questions or graphs to be answered on paper and handed in online. Although students are strongly encouraged to discuss the problem sets among themselves, each student should submit their own solutions. Two or more identical solutions will be penalized with a zero mark. All parts of all problem sets are graded. The table below contains the post and due dates for the problem sets.

Number	Problem set topic	Post date	Due date
1	Supply and demand	18-Aug	27-Aug
2	The theory of the firm	1-Sep	10-Sep
3	Market failure	10-Sep	24-Sep
4	The labor market	1-Oct	13-Oct
5	The real economy	13-Oct	22-Oct
6	Monetary economics	22-Oct	3-Nov
7	International trade	3-Nov	12-Nov

Midterm & final examinations

Exam materials will be taken from lectures. Both exams are closed-book examinations. Communication between students during examinations is strictly forbidden. Calculators are not allowed. It is important that students are able to explain the reasoning behind their examination answers. Information and preparation materials will be posted on the course website near the time of the exams. Only absences due to COVID-19 infections, self-isolation, and other related causes of force majeure will be tolerated. The written approval of the university will be required to justify any absence. Any unjustified absence will receive a zero mark. The mid-term exam will be on the **29th of September** during class time. More information on the date of the final exam will be provided once the Office of the Registrar completes all university accommodations in response to COVID-19.

Reconsideration of marks

If you think there is a substantial mistake in any of your problem set or exam marks, you may write me an email with a written explanation of your request. I will go over your entire problem set or exam again, so your mark may go up or down. The deadline to submit reconsideration requests is within one week of the distribution of the marked problem set or exam.

Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites. The only mathematics used is elementary high school algebra. Course slides will not use calculus. Students considering a concentration in economics are strongly encouraged to take this course in their freshman year and then seek registration in more advanced courses at the Department of Economics.

Academic integrity

In line with the Academic Code of Honor of the University, any assignment or exam students submit is presumed to be original work. Whenever making use of the ideas of others, students should make sure to adequately cite them and acknowledge them. Any violation of the honor code will be directly reported to the Provost as a dishonest offense.

Classroom policy

Laptops and cell phones during class are only allowed for class participation in online polls and quizzes. Avoid side conversations at all times. Students should leave the classroom for emergencies only.

Online resources

The Sakai site for the course will host the syllabus, lecture notes, problem sets, problem set answer keys, exam preparation materials, exam solutions, course announcements, and reminders.

Course schedule

Lecture No.	Day	Date	Topic	Textbook reading * means mandatory
<i>Unit I. What is Economics?</i>				
1	Tue.	11-Aug	Introduction, micro vs. macro, economic models, normative vs. positive analysis	* Mankiw, Ch. 1 & 2 Carlin, Ch. 1, 2.2-2.3, 3.3
<i>Unit II. Supply and Demand</i>				
2	Thurs.	13-Aug	Market competition, the demand and supply curves, equilibrium	* Mankiw, Ch. 4 Carlin, Ch. 8.1-8.4
3	Tue.	18-Aug	Elasticities and their applications	* Mankiw, Ch. 5 Carlin, Ch. 7.7 & 7.8
4	Thurs.	20-Aug	Consumer and producer surplus, market efficiency, deadweight loss	* Mankiw, Ch. 7 Carlin, Ch. 8.5 & 8.6
5	Tue.	25-Aug	Taxes, subsidies, controls on prices and quantities	* Mankiw, Ch. 6 & 8 Carlin, Ch. 8.7
<i>Unit III. The Theory of the Firm and Industrial Organization</i>				

6	Thurs.	27-Aug	Costs of production, production functions	* Mankiw, Ch. 13 Carlin, Ch. 7.1-7.3
7	Tue.	1-Sep	Profit maximization and the supply curve	* Mankiw, Ch. 14 Carlin, Ch. 7.4-7.6
8	Thurs.	3-Sep	Monopoly and market power	* Mankiw, Ch. 15 Carlin, Ch. 7.10
9	Tue.	8-Sep	Monopolistic competition, duopoly, cartels, and oligopoly	* Mankiw, Ch. 16 & 17
<i>Unit IV. The Theory of Consumer Choice</i>				
10	Thurs.	10-Sep	The theory of consumer choice	* Mankiw, Ch. 21. Carlin, Liebnizes 3.2.1
<i>Unit V. Market Failure</i>				
11	Tue.	15-Sep	Externalities	* Mankiw, Ch. 10 Carlin, Ch. 12.1-12.4
12	Thurs.	17-Sep	Public goods	* Mankiw, Ch. 11 Carlin, Ch. 12.5
13	Tue.	22-Sep	Asymmetric information	* Mankiw, Ch. 22 Chapters 12.6-12.7
14	Thurs.	24-Sep	The role of the public sector	* Mankiw, Ch. 12 & 20 Carlin, Ch. 12.8-12.10
15	Tue.	29-Sep	MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
<i>Unit VI. The Labor Market</i>				
16	Thurs.	1-Oct	Labor supply and labor demand	* Mankiw, Ch. 18 Carlin, Ch. 9.1-9.2
17	Tue.	6-Oct	Wages, compensating differentials, human capital, signaling	* Mankiw, Ch. 19 Carlin, Ch. 9.3.-9.5
18	Thurs.	8-Oct	Unemployment	* Mankiw, Ch. 28 Carlin, Ch. 9.6-9.7
<i>Unit VII. The Real Economy</i>				
19	Tue.	13-Oct	Measuring production (GDP), savings and investment	* Mankiw, Ch. 23 & 26 Carlin, Ch. 13.1-13.4
20	Thurs.	15-Oct	Long-run economic growth	* Mankiw, Ch. 25 Carlin, Ch. 16
21	Tue.	20-Oct	Short-run fluctuations, the AS-AD model, fiscal policy	* Mankiw, Ch. 33 & 34 Carlin, Ch. 13.5-13.7
<i>Unit VIII. Monetary Economics</i>				
22	Thurs.	22-Oct	Money, the cost of living, inflation	* Mankiw, Ch. 24, 29 & 30 Carlin, Ch. 15.1-15.2
23	Tue.	27-Oct	The Phillips curve, monetary policy, AS-AD continuation	* Mankiw, Ch. 34 & 35 Carlin, Ch. 15.3-15.13
24	Thurs.	29-Oct	The financial system	* Mankiw, Ch. 26 Carlin, Ch. 10.7-10.13
<i>Unit IX. International Trade</i>				



25	Tue.	3-Nov	The gains of trade, specialization, comparative advantage	* Mankiw, Ch. 3
26	Thurs.	5-Nov	International flow of goods and capital, exchange rates, purchasing power parity	* Mankiw, Ch. 31
27	Tue.	10-Nov	Open economy Macroeconomics	* Mankiw, Ch. 32
28	Thurs.	12-Nov	Wrap-up	