BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

Economics 2a
Introduction to Economics

T. Hull
Summer, 2008
06/02/2008

Syllabus (Subject to change)

This course is an introduction to the field of Economics. The course will give you an idea of the range of behaviors that economists investigate, introduce you to the basic tools that are used to analyze microeconomic and macroeconomic behavior, and apply these tools to public policy issues. Perhaps most importantly, this course will introduce you to the "economic way of thinking," -- an approach to decision making that applies to personal decisions, to the decisions of businesses, and to the larger choices that society faces.

This course satisfies the School of Social Science distribution requirement and the Quantitative Reasoning component of the General University Requirements. It is also the first course for any student considering a concentration or minor in Economics.

Class Meetings

The lectures are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Text

The required text is Krugman, Wells, and Olney, Essentials of Economics with the Aplia access card package. The isbn number for the book with the package is 1429203730. Please buy the book with the Aplia package as both are necessary for the course. Also, if you purchase these separately, it will end up costing quite bit more money! YOU MUST REGISTER FOR APLIA IF YOU ARE A PART OF THIS COURSE. Please see below for registration instructions.

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will be held in class at a time to be announced. There will also be a final exam on July 2nd during the regular class time.

Homework

There will be 14 online problem sets, approximately 1 for each week of class. These problem sets will be on Aplia, with exact due dates and times listed on Aplia.

Grading Policy

The midterm will count for 35% of your grade. The final exam will count for 40% of your grade. The remaining 25% of your grade will be based on the problem sets.

Contact Information

The best way to contact me is by e-mail: tyler@brandeis.edu Office hours to be announced.

Information Dissemination

In Economics 2a we will maintain a course website through Aplia. You will be responsible for checking the Aplia website frequently as course material will be posted there and available for you to download. All course slides will be posted on this website, and additional reading that will be necessary for this course will also be on this website. To read such files you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. All computers in the computer labs on campus come equipped with the Reader.

Doing Your Best

Here are some suggestions that may help you to do well in Economics 2a:

1) do the assigned reading before class to get a preview of the material to be covered and to prepare any questions you have about this material
2) take the graded problem sets seriously and do the practice problem sets, because they are the best indication of whether you understand the material and they are the best preparation for the exams
3) keep up with the work

Special Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me right away. Please keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University's policies on academic integrity (http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai/). Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judiciary System. Sanctions may include failure in the course and suspension from Brandeis. If you have any questions about expectations, please ask.

Course Outline

Will be available online and will have dates at the start of the term.

Topics

Introduction to the course	Chapter 1
Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade	Chapter 2
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Supply and Demand Equilibrium	Chapter 3
Supply and Demand Equilibrium	Chapter 3
Supply and Demand Equilibrium	Chapter 3
Consumer and Producer Surplus	Chapter 6 –to p. 152
Price and Quantity Controls	Chapter 4 –to p. 99
Elasticity	Chapter 5 –to p. 126
Elasticity	Chapter 5- to p. 126
The Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs	Chapter 7
The Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs	Chapter 7
Perfect Competition I	Chapter 8
Perfect Competition II	Chapter 8
Monopoly	Chapter 11
Oligopoly	Chapter 12
Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 12
Equity and Efficiency	Chapter 10
Externalities and Public Goods	Chapter 10
Labor Markets	Chapter 9
Labor Markets	Chapter 9
Measuring the Nation's Total Output	Chapter 15
Measuring the Overall Price Level	Chapter 15
Economic Growth & Productivity	Chapter 25 (Aplia)

The Costs of Unemployment	To Be Supplied
The Costs of Inflation	
Unemployment and Inflation	
Aggregate Demand (AD)	Chapter 16
Aggregate Supply (AS)	Chapter 16
Shifts in AD/Liquidity Preference	Chapter 16
How Fiscal Policy Works	Chapter 17
How Fiscal Policy Works	Chapter 17
The Meaning of Money	Chapter 18
The Fed, Banks and The Money Supply	Chapter 18
How Monetary Policy Works	Chapter 18
International Trade	Chapter 13
International Trade	Chapter 13

Aplia Information

APLIA:

Course Name: Econ 2a Summer 2008
Start Date: 06/02/2008
Professor: Tyler Hull
Course Key: 799E-2S88-7ABY

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
- You will save money if you buy these together.
- You have two purchase options.
- You will have free access to the first four chapters of an online copy of your textbook at Aplia. You can access the remaining online chapters as soon as you submit a payment for your Aplia course.
- Don't buy anything until you understand your alternatives.

Registration

Registration Instructions

1. Connect to http://www.aplia.com.
2. Click the **System Configuration Test** link below the **Sign In** and **Register** sections to make sure you can access all of the features on Aplia's website. This takes just a few seconds and tells you how to update your browser settings if necessary.
3. Return to http://www.aplia.com.
    - If you have never used Aplia before, click the **New Student** button and enter your Course Key: **FDFP-8JVK-2JAU**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.
    - If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **FDFP-8JVK-2JAU**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the **Enter Course Key** button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.
4. If you understand your payment options, pay now. Otherwise, postpone your purchase decision by choosing the option to pay later. Your payment grace period ends at the end of the day on 02/04/2008.

Payment

Option A: Pay Aplia Directly

- Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on our website for $70.00 USD. The website includes:
    - Access to an online copy of your textbook.
    - Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.

Option B: Purchase at Bookstore

- Purchase a bundle from your school's bookstore, which includes:
    - An Aplia Access Card containing a Payment Code that you can enter on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.
    - A physical textbook.

Note:(Special thank to K. Graddy for her Econ 2a course materials)