Econ 2a – A Survey of Economics
Brandeis University
Summer Session II: July 8 to August 9, 2019
Syllabus

Instructor: Yaxuan Wen (yaxuanwen@brandeis.edu)
Office Hours: TBA
Class Time: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 11:00 AM-1:40 PM
Class Location: TBA

I. Course Description:
An introduction to micro- and macroeconomics. The course is intended for students who want to learn essential economic tools used in a variety of contexts, such as managerial decisions and public policy design. We will develop intuitions for economic models and will study their real-world applications. The history of economic thought will be introduced and discussed throughout the course. For students who eventually choose to take further economics courses, this course will prepare them with the theoretical tools and knowledge of economic terminology to be successful.

Brandeis Graduation Requirement Fulfilled: SS, QR. May not be taken for credit by students who took ECON 10a in prior years.

II. Prerequisite:
Familiarity with high school algebra will be sufficient for success in this course. Knowledge in calculus and statistics will enrich your understanding of the material but not necessary.

III. Textbook:
The main textbook for this course is Principles of Economics, 8th Edition by N. Gregory Mankiw. An older version may be used if currently owned. Several copies of the textbook will be made available on reserve at the library.

In addition to the text, everyone is required to sign up for Sapling Learning, which is the source of the electronic problem sets. More information about how to register for Sapling will be announced.

Supplementary materials will be posted in LATTE throughout the course. You are also encouraged to keep up with current economic events by reading journals (e.g. the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, and The Economist) or following economics blogs and websites. A book list of various economics topics will be provided. These materials will help you identify potential topics for the presentation assignment.

If you are having difficulty purchasing course materials, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options and/or textbook alternatives.
IV. Assignments and Evaluation

(1) Presentation (10%). Each student will prepare a short (15-minute) presentation about one economic topic of their choice. Dates of presentation will be announced.

(2) Problem sets (25%). Electronic problem sets will be assigned for each chapter through Sapling and should be completed before the deadline. Credit will not be given for late submission. Additional practice problems will be distributed in class. The problem sets and practice questions will be good preparation for the quizzes and the final exam.

(3) Quizzes (15% x 2). There will be two in-class, closed-book, 50-minute quizzes: July 18 (Thursday) and July 30 (Tuesday).

(4) Final exam (30%). A cumulative closed-book final exam will take place on August 8 (Thursday), 1:00-4:00 PM. Absence from the final examination and the right to take a makeup examination are only permissible for documented medical reasons. More information about the summer school final exam policy can be found here.

(5) Participation (5%). Attendance sheet will be circulated in class. Active participation in class is highly valued. If you miss a class, please be sure to ask a friend for their lecture notes to make up the missed material.

V. Tentative Course Plan (subject to updates as the course progresses):

Part 1: Microeconomics (Weeks 1-3)

Theory and Models
- Consumer Choice
- Production and Cost
- Demand and Supply with Applications
- Elasticity
- Markets, Maximizing Behavior, and Efficiency
- Competitive Markets for Goods and Services
- Monopoly
- Imperfect Competition

Applications (due to time limitation, the class will collectively choose one to two topics to discuss in-class)
- Labor Markets
- Capital Markets
- Public Finance and Public Choice
- Antitrust Policy and Business Regulation
- Environmental Economics
- International Trade
- Inequality, Poverty, and Discrimination

Part 2: Macroeconomics (Weeks 4-5)
- Measuring Total Output and Income
- Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
- Economic Growth
- The Nature and Creation of Money
- Financial Markets and the Economy
- Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- Inflation and Unemployment
- Investment and International Finance (if time permits)

VI. Other Information

Accommodations
Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please talk with me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can. I want to support you.

In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

Academic Integrity
You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University’s policies on academic integrity (see http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai ). Faculty will refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to failure in the course, failure on the assignment in question, suspension from the University and/or educational programs.

Communications
LATTE is the Brandeis on-line course website. Course related announcements and any and all syllabus changes will be communicated via LATTE.

http://latte.brandeis.edu. Login using your UNET ID and password.

Workload Statement
Success in this five-week, four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 36 hours of in-class and outside-of-class study time per week (e.g., doing the reading, reviewing lecture notes, working on problem sets).