

ECON 10A

Introduction to Microeconomics

Syllabus (1st Draft)

Meeting Times

Summer Session 1: June 1 – July 3, 2020

Classes: 1:50 PM – 4:20 PM Eastern Time on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

Contact Details

Instructor: Kyeongah Lee

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

ECON 10A is the Introduction to Microeconomics which is an introductory undergraduate course in economics. This is the first economics course that you can study the behavior of individual economic entities: the consumer and the firm. This course will introduce you to the basic economic tools that help you analyze the decisions of consumers and firms, the determination of prices in the market, and economic policies. Topics will include the consumer behavior, firm and market structure, general equilibrium, and welfare economics. You will be able to understand the basic microeconomic theories and apply the economic tools to think about the economic issues in the real economy.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the demand and supply model
2. Explain consumer and firm behavior in the markets
3. Compare and contrast different market structures (competitive, monopoly, oligopoly market)
4. Evaluate the effects of economic policies

Textbook

The textbook for this course will be *Principles of Microeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw. Feel free to work with older editions but make sure the relevant material matches up.

Class Preparation Time

I expect students will spend a minimum of 3 hours out of class preparing (readings, studying for quizzes/exams, etc.) for each hour of class meeting time.

Course Requirements

Academic Integrity

Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. Infringement of academic honesty by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions (see section 20 of R&R). Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Citation and research assistance can be found at Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources (<https://guides.library.brandeis.edu/c.php?g=301723>).

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm will take place in June 15, 2020. The final exam will be cumulative but mostly focused on the materials not on the midterm. I will notify the students of the final exam schedule later. The midterm and the final exam will make up 20% and 30%, respectively. I will not offer make-up exams, with one exception: if you notify me as soon as possible of a serious reason (such as hospitalization) for missing an exam. In the case of no notifications, no make-up will be allowed.

Problem Sets and Pop Quizzes: There will be pop quizzes and five problem sets. The problem sets will be posted on LATTE. You will be asked to turn in five problem sets during the term. Late assignments will not be accepted. Make-up quizzes will not be given. Pop quizzes will make up 15% of your grade. The five problem sets will be 25% of your grade.

Presentation: Each student will prepare a short presentation on case study in the textbook. More details about the presentation will be announced in class. Your presentation will make up 10% of your grade.

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Essential Resources

Accommodations

Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, 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 <https://www.brandeis.edu/accessibility/>) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

Course Materials

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.

LATTE

LATTE is the Brandeis learning management system: <http://latte.brandeis.edu>. Login using your UNET ID and password.

In ECON 10A, you will be responsible for checking the website frequently as most of the problem sets, answer keys, etc. will be posted there and available for you to download.

Tentative Course Outline

Class	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	June 1 (Mon.)	Introduction to the course Basic concepts of microeconomics	Chapters 1-3 PS1 assigned
2	June 2 (Tue.)	Supply, demand, and elasticity	Chapters 4 and 5
3	June 4 (Thur.)	Supply, demand, and government policies The theory of consumer choice	Chapters 6 and 21 PS1 due PS2 assigned
4	June 8 (Mon.)	The theory of consumer choice	Chapter 21
5	June 9 (Tue.)	Consumers, producers, and the efficiency of markets The costs of taxation	Chapters 7 and 8
6	June 11 (Thur.)	The costs of taxation International trade	Chapters 8 and 9 PS2 due PS3 assigned
7	June 15 (Mon.)	Midterm	
8	June 16 (Tue.)	The costs of production Firms in competitive markets	Chapters 13 and 14
9	June 18 (Thur.)	Firms in competitive markets Monopoly	Chapters 14 and 15 PS3 due PS4 assigned
10	June 22 (Mon.)	Monopolistic competition Oligopoly	Chapters 16 and 17
11	June 23 (Tue.)	Externalities Public goods and common resources	Chapters 10 and 11 PS4 due PS5 assigned
12	June 25 (Thur.)	The design of the tax system The markets for the factors of production	Chapters 12 and 18
13	June 29 (Mon.)	Earnings and discrimination Income inequality and poverty	Chapters 19 and 20 PS5 due
14	June 30 (Tue.)	Presentations	