

ECONS 101 – FUNDAMENTALS OF MICROECONOMICS  
SPRING 2009 – JANUARY, 12<sup>TH</sup> TO MAY, 8<sup>TH</sup>

<http://classes.ses.wsu.edu/EconS101/sp2009-Munoz/index.htm>

**Instructor:** Felix Munoz-Garcia  
**Lectures:** Todd Hall 216, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:10-10:25 a.m.

**Office hours:** Thursdays 10:45a.m-12p.m., and by appointment.  
**Office:** Hulbert Hall 103G  
**Phone:** 509-335-8402  
**e-mail:** [fmunoz@wsu.edu](mailto:fmunoz@wsu.edu)

**TA:** Tak Wong  
**Recitations:** Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00p.m.,  
Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00p.m., and  
Thursdays, 3:00-6:00p.m.,  
All of them in CLAR 149 (See page 3).  
**Office hours:** Mondays 3:00-5:00p.m.  
**Office:** Hulbert Hall 323B  
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*Course Rationale*

This course analyzes the individual behavior of individuals, consumers, and firms. We will discuss theories and policies of individual responses to scarcity; how firms compete, and how their decision affects consumers' welfare. Several applications and empirical implications will be discussed.

*Course Objectives*

The main objective of the course is to make students be able to apply the fundamental tools of microeconomic theory to understand and model individual decision making. In addition, the tools learned in the course will set strong foundations for analyzing economic problems, not only from a microeconomic perspective but also in other fields in economics, such as labor economics, environmental economics, and industrial organization.

*Prerequisites:* High school algebra and graphing skills. I strongly recommend that you do *not* enroll in this class if you are currently taking the Math 099 course (or if you failed the Math Placement test and you are going to take the Math 099 course in the future).

*Required Text:*

Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (KW) *Microeconomics*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers with Aplia, 2009. (Second edition) ISBN: 0-7167-7159-4. You may purchase the book bundled with the Aplia software in a bookstore OR you may register with Aplia and have access to Aplia and a virtual copy of the text. The virtual copy of the text may be downloaded to your computer and printed on a printer. (For an additional fee, you can also purchase a hard copy of the text from Aplia.) DO NOT purchase the bundled book AND also pay to register with Aplia.

Everyone must register with Aplia ([www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com)). To register with Aplia, follow the instructions at the class website given when you click "On-line Textbook," or follow the directions given on the last page of this syllabus.

### *Recommended Reading:*

- Elisabeth Sawyer Kelly. Study Guide to accompany Microeconomics (Krugman and Wells, Second edition). Worth Publishers, 2009. [Good for practicing many exercises, with solutions]
- David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam. *Microeconomics*. Wiley. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. [Extremely good for your Intermediate Microeconomics classes. A very gentle introduction to applications of algebra and calculus to microeconomics].

### *Lectures:*

Lectures will be held in Todd Hall 216, on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:10 – 10:25a.m. Attendance is very important to your success in this class.

### *Grading:*

Your grade for the course will be based on:

- Problem sets (40%),
- Two midterms (20% each),
- Quizzes. Only the highest grade among all the quizzes you take will count (8%, or 0% if dropped), and
- Final exam (12%, or 20% if quizzes are dropped).

Short quizzes will be distributed at the end of every recitation session (see the section on Recitation Sessions below). The highest individual quiz grade will count for 8% of your class grade. At the end of the semester, I will computer your class grade with the 8% corresponding to quizzes (final exam only counting for 12% of your class grade), and without the quizzes (final exam then counting for 20%), and I will choose the highest.

### *Exam dates:*

Midterm I: Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, in class

Midterm 2: Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, in class.

Final: Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10:10a.m. to 12:10p.m., in class.

Make-up exams will only be given if you have a note from a doctor indicating that you were unable to take the exam at the scheduled time.

### *Attendance and Participation:*

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class times, as attendance and participation contribute significantly to learning in this course. If you feel miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from an informed student what occurred in class, what handouts may have been given, etc.

### *Recitation Sessions*

The Teaching Assistant (Tak Wong) will be holding 50 minutes recitation sessions on:

- Tuesdays 4:00-4:50p.m. and 5:00-5:50p.m.,
- Wednesdays 4:00-4:50p.m. and 5:00-5:50p.m, and
- Thursdays 4:00-4:50p.m. and 5:00-5:50p.m.

All recitation sessions will be held in CLAR 149. You will cover exercises similar to those you will have to solve in your homework assignments, and in your exams; and the TA will go over each step that you have to use in order to solve these exercises. Attendance is strongly recommended. You can attend *any* of the recitation times. However, I recommend that you arrive a few minutes early; if the classroom is full, the TA is allowed to ask additional students to wait until the next session.

### *Students with Disabilities:*

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center at <http://www.drc.wsu.edu/>, stop by their office at the Admin Annex Building, Room 205; or call 509-335-3417. All accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Center.

### *Academic Integrity:*

Please visit WSU's website on academic integrity policy at <http://www.conduct.wsu.edu>.

### *WSU Safety:*

Please familiarize yourself with information regarding campus emergencies/school closing by visiting the website: <http://oem.wsu.edu/emergencies>. You can also register in the WSU Alert system, which sends a text message to your cell phones about possible emergencies, at myWSU.

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Homework:

1. All students are required to register in the Aplia webpage in order to answer problem sets (see the last page of this syllabus for more detail). Problem sets will be completed and submitted on Aplia by the due date, every Wednesday at 11:59p.m.
2. The Homework assignments are designed to help you learn the material and prepare for exams. All homework is to be completed online at the Aplia website, and must be submitted by the day and time listed in the table below. Most assignments come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong, and an explanation of the correct answer. Practice sets are *not* counted as part of your homework grade.
3. The graded homework assignments have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to change your answer or submit new answers. These assignments are posted weeks in advance. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers, and explanations for every exercise.

### Grading scale:

A	88-100	C	55-59
A-	80-87	C-	50-54
B+	74-79	D+	45-49
B	70-75	D	40-44
B-	65-69	F	0-39
C+	60-64		

Note: Grades will not be curved.

### Course Schedule:

The following course schedule is tentative and subject to change depending upon the progress of the class..

1. January 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Introduction to class and Introduction to Microeconomics.
  - Introduction, and Chapter 1.
2. January 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. First Principles, Tradeoffs and Trade
  - Chapters 1 and 2.
3. January 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Supply and Demand
  - Chapter 3.
4. February 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Consumer and Producer Surplus
  - Chapter 4.
5. February 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Government regulation and its effects on welfare.
  - Chapter 5.
6. February 24<sup>th</sup>. First Midterm exam. In class.
7. February 26<sup>th</sup>. Elasticity: definitions and applications.

- Chapter 6.
8. March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Elasticity.
    - Chapter 6.
  9. March 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Taxes: efficiency and fairness.
    - Chapter 7.
  10. March 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The rational consumer.
    - Chapter 10.
  11. March 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Consumer preferences and consumer choice.
    - Chapter 11.
  12. March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Inputs and costs.
    - Chapter 12.
  13. April 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Perfect competition.
    - Chapter 13.
  14. April 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Monopoly.
    - Chapter 14.
  15. April 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Oligopoly.
    - Chapter 15.
  16. April 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Public goods.
    - Chapter 18.
  17. May 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Finals' week.



## Student Registration and Payment Instructions

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**Course Name:** Microeconomics (Krugman), Spring 2009

**Start Date:** 01/12/2009

**Instructor:** Felix Munoz-Garcia

**Course Key:** F3PF-AFCS-V8NN

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

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
  - In most cases, you can save money if you buy Aplia and your textbook together. See payment options below.
  - You will have access to a digital version of your textbook using Aplia.
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### Registration

**If you have never used Aplia before...**

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Click the New Student link and enter your Course Key: **F3PF-AFCS-V8NN**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.

**If you have used Aplia before...**

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **F3PF-AFCS-V8NN**. 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.

*\* You will have different payment options after you register for your course. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 02/01/2009.*

### Payment

**Option 1: Digital Textbook with Aplia Access**

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course from Aplia's website for \$70.00 USD.

**Option 2: Physical Textbook with Aplia Access (also includes digital textbook)**

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course for \$70.00 USD and a physical book for \$50.00 USD from Aplia's website.
- **From Bookstore:** Purchase an Aplia Access Card and a physical book together as a bundle from your campus bookstore.

*\* If you purchased an Aplia Access Card from a bookstore, enter the Access Card's payment code on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.*

*\* You will have access to your digital textbook up until the end of this course.*