

Introductory Microeconomics and Social Issues
Economics 231-72
Spring, 2002

Professor: Mr. Keith Stiles
Office: 550 HFR Admin Bldg
Office Phone: 227-3043
Office Hours: MWF 9:00 – 10:00 AM – Or By Appointment
TR 9:30 – 11:30 AM – Or By Appointment
E-mail: kstiles@wcu.edu
Class Web Site: <http://www.kstiles.com/economics.htm>

Required Text: Microeconomics: Principles, Problems, and Policies, 15th Edition,
Campbell R. McConnell and Stanley L. Brue
Study Guide to Accompany Microeconomics, 15th Edition,
Bingham and Walstad

Optional: Wall Street Journal; BusinessWeek

The study of economics and economic institutions is an exciting and ever-changing subject. To gain a more complete understanding of economics, students should not only read the text, but should become familiar with publications such as the Wall Street Journal, BusinessWeek, and Barron's. Students should also use the class web site to access on-line information dealing with economics and economic institutions. I do not foresee this class as a lecture-based course alone. We will engage in a significant amount of “discovery-based” learning, and we will be utilizing technology frequently. The focus of this class is microeconomic principles, the market system, supply and demand, pricing, market structures, and resource markets. As such, we will be examining the role of the market in all its many capacities. We will also examine some current issues in the marketplace and how they fit into what we are learning about the market system in a capitalist system.

Handicapped Students: If you have a handicap which requires special consideration, notify me immediately so that we can make special arrangements.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Since we meet at night, missing one class means that you have missed a week of required coursework. Poor attendance will ensure a poor grade in the course.

Exam Policy: Exams **must** be taken at the scheduled times. Make-up exams will be scheduled for university-authorized absences only. University policy on absences can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog: 2001-2002 on page 63. There will be **no** exceptions to this policy. There will be three (3) regularly scheduled exams and one (1) comprehensive final exam.

Homework: Students will receive periodic homework assignments to be completed before the next class meeting. Late assignments will be accepted, but these assignments will receive a 10 point penalty per day late. No late assignments will be accepted after 5 days have passed since its due date.

Final Presentation and Papers: Working in groups of no more than five (5), students will be expected to complete a final group paper and give a final group PowerPoint presentation to the class on a topic of their choice. **Each group will submit their proposed topic and a list of group members to me in writing by February 11, 2002 (submittals may be made via e-mail).** I will schedule group presentations once all topics have been finalized. Your PowerPoint presentation should be no more than 20 minutes long and should involve all group members. **Additionally, the group will submit a group paper discussing their research topic no later than April 22, 2002.** Students should use **MLA Style** for citing sources. I will also be glad to read rough drafts and offer suggestions to any group interested in such assistance.

Grading: The final course grade will be determined by the following weighted average of course activities:

Examinations (3)	25%
Homework/Class Activities	10%
Final Group Paper	20%
Final Group Presentation	20%
Comprehensive Final Examination	15%
Attendance/Class Participation	10%

Course grades will be assigned based on the university's +/- grading scale:

A	93
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	<60

Course Outline

Date	Discussion Topics	Assignments
01/14/2002	Course Introduction	Read Chapters 1 and 2
01/21/2002	Martin Luther King Holiday	Read Chapters 1 and 2
01/28/2002	Discuss Chapters 1 and 2; Graphing Activities	Read Chapter 3
02/04/2002	Discuss Chapter 3; Supply and Demand Activity	Study for Exam #1; Read Chapter 4; Prepare Paper Proposals
02/11/2002	Exam #1 ; Discuss Chapter 4; Paper Proposals Due	Read Chapters 5 and 6
02/18/2002	Writing Exercise (Introductory Paragraphs and Thesis Statements); Discuss Chapters 5 and 6	Read Chapters 7 and 8
02/25/2002	Discuss Chapters 7 and 8	Read Chapter 9
03/04/2002	Discuss Chapter 9; Discuss MLA Style	Read Chapter 10; Study for Exam #2
03/11/2002	Spring Break – NO CLASS	Read Chapter 10; Study for Exam #2
03/18/2002	Exam #2 ; Discuss Chapter 10	Read Chapter 11; Complete Study Questions for Chapter 10
03/25/2002	Discuss Study Questions for Chapter 10; Discuss Chapter 11; Paper Writing Workshop	Read Chapter 12; Prepare answers to Study Question #13 on page 227 for discussion in class
04/01/2002	Discuss Chapter 12; Group Presentations Begin	Complete Study Questions #14, 15 on page 251; Read Chapters 14 and 15; Prepare for Exam #3
04/08/2002	Exam #3 ; Discuss Chapters 14 and 15	Read Chapter 17
04/15/2002	Discuss Chapter 17; Paper Writing Workshop; Group Presentations	Read Chapters 22 and 23
04/22/2002	Discuss Chapters 22 and 23; Group Presentations; ALL PAPERS DUE	Review For Comprehensive Final Exam
04/29/2002	Group Presentations; Final Exam Review	Review for Comprehensive Final Exam
05/06/2002	Final Examination	