

PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

E822 - MICROECONOMICS

Spring 2006

SYLLABUS

Instructor: **Dr. Susan Christoffersen**
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Office Hours: Wed 2-4
or by appointment.
Web Address: <http://faculty.philau.edu/ChristoffersenS>
Class Locations: 9:35 – 10:50 Tuttleman 204
1:05 -- 2:20 Tuttleman 203



Required Text: McConnell, Campbell R., and Brue, Stanley L, MICROECONOMICS, 16th edition, McGraw Hill: New York

Recommended Supplement: Study Guide to Accompany McConnell and Brue, 16th edition (William Walstad, McGraw Hill, 1998).

Suggested Readings: The Economist, Wall Street Journal

Course Objective

To introduce the discipline of economics and to provide a basic understanding of how markets function. This requires a blend of economic theory, institutional material, and real-world applications. International examples will be included throughout the course.

Course Requirements

1. Attend class attentively, *participate* in activities.
2. Listen and *take notes* during lectures.
3. *Take notes* as you read the textbook.
4. *Do exercises* at the end of each chapter and assignments from the study guide.

Course Methodology:

In a typical course, a student is asked to listen to lectures, read material generally found in a textbook, and solve assigned problems. We will still do these core activities but not in the usual ways. Rather than passively sitting in class for a lecture and being frustrated at home with problem worksheets, you will be responsible for having read and understood the reading. This frees up class time previously devoted to lectures, time that can now be used to complete problem worksheets cooperatively in class and engage in active learning experiences. This cuts down on the frustration and allows us to engage in more interesting activities.

Participation in this course is integral to maximizing your benefits. Thus, the student is urged to ask questions (interrupt!) as questions arise.

Students will participate in several game theory exercises, giving meaning to otherwise abstract concepts. Class time will not be used for lecture but rather in applying the concepts and working cooperatively to solve various related problems.

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Model supply and demand relationships to *understand various market dynamics*.
- Forecast changes in *consumer behavior* based on an understanding of the determinants of demand.
- Identify market imperfections and assess the appropriate *role of the government*.
- Disaggregate the *costs* faced by a firm and forecast the impact of changes on the decisions of the firm.
- Analyze industry structure to understand *strategic interactions* involved in pricing, advertising, R&D, etc.

Appropriate grammar and clear expression are expected on writing assignments. To achieve this end, please use a word-processing program to allow adequate editing. Additional support is available from the Writing Center. This requirement is not to be viewed as "fussiness" on the part of the professor but rather an effort to develop skills imperative for your future careers. Thus I urge you to adhere to a "clear writing" policy.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to follow a code of honesty. Cheating on tests is prohibited, as is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using someone's material without attributing credit to that someone (per J. Witt, 1997). If in doubt about the meaning of these violations, please consult the professor. Violation of this code certainly results in failure of the assignment and can result in failure of the course.

Grading

There will be three one-hour exams (one of which is the Final Exam). Occasionally a student will request an optional assignment in order to obtain *extra* credit. This can only be considered for students who demonstrate that they have completed all of the assigned work and need *extra* work, not substitute work.

Schedule

SPRING 2006 SEMESTER SCHEDULE OF DAY CLASS MEETINGS

| Day | Date | Agenda | Day | Date | Agenda |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------|-----|------|------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | T | 3/14 | Read Ch. 9 Fold-Its |
| R | 1/19 | Read Ch 1 - Syllabus | R | 3/16 | |
| | | | | | |
| T | 1/24 | Read Ch. 2 Allocation Exercise | T | 3/21 | |
| R | 1/26 | | R | 3/23 | Read Ch. 10 |
| | | | | | |
| T | 1/31 | Read Ch. 3 - Auction | T | 3/28 | Auction off Dollars |
| R | 2/2 | | R | 3/30 | |
| | | | | | |
| T | 2/7 | Read Ch. 4 | T | 4/4 | Exam #2 |
| R | 2/9 | | R | 4/6 | Read Ch. 11 |

T 2/14 Read Ch. 7
R 2/16 Elasticity Exercise

T 2/21
R 2/23 Exam #1

T 2/28 Read Ch. 8
R 3/2

T 3/7 Spring recess
R 3/9 Spring recess

T 4/11 Read Ch. 12
R 4/13 Pemberton's Dilemma

T 4/18
R 4/20 Read Ch. 18 - Taxes

T 4/25 Read Ch. 15 - Wages
R 4/27 Read Ch. 17- Market Failures

T 5/2 Read Ch. 13 Innovation

Final Exams: Saturday 5/6 to Friday 5/12

Commencement: Sunday 5/21