PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

ECON 2302 – 02

Summer II, 2020 (July 9 – August 14)

Method of Instruction: Full Online
Instructor: Jean-Baptiste Tondji
E-mail: jeanbaptiste.tondji@utrgv.edu
Web page: Jean-Baptiste Tondji Google Website
Zoom live office hours: MW 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, or by appointment
Office Phone: (956)-665-2825
Office: ECOBE 218A

Response Time

Generally, I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. If I plan to be away from my computer for more than a couple of days, I will let you know in advance. Please, for any technical questions, contact Blackboard Support.

Course Description

The primary purpose of this class is to provide students with an introduction to the significant issues facing the world's economies, to the methods that economists use to study those issues, and to the policy problems that those issues create. Broadly, this class will answer the following questions: What is Economics? Why study Economics? What is the economic problem? How do firms make choices when facing conflicting interests? How do individuals make choices under uncertainty? How are prices determined in markets? Who benefits and who loses from government policies? To answer these questions, we will cover topics that include consumer demand, the firm’s supply decision, analysis of the market system (including market failure) and its regulatory aspects, resource allocation and efficiency, and international linkages (such as comparative advantage). In so doing, we will make greater use of mathematical and some graphical tools to illustrate critical concepts in economics.

Prerequisites

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2301).

Textbook


Note: given that I do not have access to previous editions of the textbook, I strongly recommend that you get the 13th edition.
Course Learning Objectives

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

A. Describe the six key ideas that define the economic way of thinking and use the economic model of production possibilities frontier to illustrate the concepts of scarcity, choice, and opportunity cost.
B. Employ the economic model of demand and supply to make predictions about prices, quantities, and profits in competitive and non-competitive markets.
C. Explain the effects of government regulation in markets.
D. Explain the mechanism through which the firm's output decision affects its costs in the short-run and the long run.
E. Describe the three principles that rational agents follow when deciding with an uncertain outcome.

Material and Rules

All the class material is available through Blackboard Learn. Please make sure you thoroughly read the class rules information. In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Lecture Schedule

Please see the detailed class schedule posted on Blackboard Learn. The tentative summary of the class schedule is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Activities Due (US Central Time)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 – Part 1</td>
<td>Module 0: Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>• Post to Discussion Forum • Complete Self-Assessment questionnaire</td>
<td>Friday, July 10, @ 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9 - 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 – Part 2</td>
<td>Module 1: Introduction &amp; The Economic Problem (Chs. 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td>• Complete SoftChalk Lesson 1 • Complete Quiz 1 • Complete SoftChalk Lesson 2 • Complete Quiz 2 • Post to Discussion on Specialization and Trade</td>
<td>Friday, July 17, @ 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10 – July 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Module 2: Standard Economic Models and Applications (Chs. 3,4,5,6)</td>
<td>• Complete SoftChalk Lesson 3 • Complete Quiz 3 • Complete SoftChalk Lesson 4 • Complete Quiz 4 • Complete SoftChalk Lesson 5 • Complete Quiz 5 • Submit an essay on the economic effects of the government policies in perfectly competitive markets</td>
<td>Friday, July 24, @ 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16 – July 22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Expectations

What should students do during the course?
- Read and review assigned readings, for example, SoftChalk lessons or articles (if applicable).
- Work on quizzes.
- Work on essays and make revisions if necessary, and when finalized, submit the revised version (if applicable).
- Work and submit your initial posts on discussion boards and interact honestly with peers.

What should the instructor expect from students during the course?
Students in this course are expected to complete different tasks assigned by the instructor within a given time frame.

- **Quizzes:**
The instructor will assign quizzes for each chapter in each module. Quizzes are used for formative assessment, and they allow students and instructors to keep track of the achievement of learning objectives. For this reason, the instructor strongly recommends students to solve those exercises. There will be no make-up for a missed quiz. In case you completely miss a quiz, you will receive a score zero for that assessment.

- **Discussions:**
Students will respond to discussion forum questions, and they will be evaluated according to the expectations given in the Discussion Forum Rubric. These discussions will allow students to discuss topics presented within the module and elaborate and share ideas of how they can apply new knowledge in a real-life setting. There will be no make-up for missing to post or respond to your peers in a discussion forum. A discussion rubric allocates zero points to a student who does not participate at all in a discussion forum.
Essays:
Students will submit short essays, and they will be evaluated according to the expectations given in the Essay Rubric. These essays will allow students to demonstrate analytic skills on specific topics presented within the module and elaborate and share ideas of how they can match theoretical knowledge to practical applications for modern societies. There will be no make-up for a missed essay. Students will receive zero points for missing to submit an essay on the due date.

Grading Policy

Grading Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Questionnaires (2 total)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SoftChalk Lesson (10 total)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz (10 total)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions (4 total)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays (2 total)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading System

Once you divide the points you obtained by 300 and then multiply by 100, the cutoffs for the A-F grading system are given by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.00 - 100.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.00 - 89.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.00 - 79.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.00 - 69.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 60.00</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
Students must have a valid University excuse in order to take a make-up assessment. You need to schedule your make-up assessment at the time you first know that you will not be taking the assessment. Otherwise, the student will receive either zero points for that assessment.

Computer and Digital Literacy Skills

Computer Skills
To be successful in this course you are expected to be proficient with the following:
- Using Blackboard
- Using and sending an email with attachments
- Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Copying and pasting
- Downloading and installing software
If you are not familiar with Blackboard, please visit the Blackboard Orientation course.

**Digital Literacy Skills**

Digital literacy involves your ability to find and consume; create and communicate using digital content in a responsible and informed way. In this course you are expected to:

- Use the [UTRGV library database](#) and online search tools (I.e. [Google Scholar](#)) for academic purposes
  - Library Database Video Tutorial
  - Google Scholar Video Tutorial
- Properly cite sources in APA Format
  - [Purdue OWL Citation Guides](#) (APA, MLA, Chicago)
  - [APA Citation Video Tutorial](#)
- Properly paraphrase work
  - To Paraphrase means formulating someone else's ideas in your own words. To paraphrase a source, you must rewrite a passage without changing the meaning of the original text and cite the source you used.
- Know what plagiarism is and avoid plagiarism.
  - Plagiarism means to steal and pass off someone else's ideas or words as your own.
  - It also means using another's work without crediting them as your source.
  - Trying to present someone else's ideas/work as your own original work

**Important University Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw for a 100% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Summer II classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Last day to add a class or register for Summer II classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw and receive a 50% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Census day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>Study day (no classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>Final Exams (for face-to-face classes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**College of Business and Entrepreneurship Learning Goals and Objectives**

**BBA Learning Goals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BBA Learning Goals</th>
<th>This course contributes to the following College of Business and Entrepreneurship learning goals:</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate foundational knowledge of functional area concepts and theories.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate practical business communication skills.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Discussion boards and Essays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apply sustainable practices (economic, social, and ethical, and environmental) to business decision-making. | Yes | Discussion boards and Essays
---|---|---
Demonstrate an understanding of how globalization, including conditions on the US-Mexico border, shape effective business decision making. | Yes | Essays, Quizzes, and Discussion boards
Apply quantitative analytical skills to business decision-making. | Yes | Quizzes, Essays, and Discussion boards
Demonstrate the ability to analyze business issues critically. | Yes | Quizzes, Essays, and discussion boards

**BA and BBA in Economics Major Learning Objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA and BBA in Economics Major Learning Objectives</th>
<th>This course contributes to the following Department of Economics and Finance learning objectives:</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written communication skills</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Essays and Discussion boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical skills</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Essays and Discussion boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current global awareness</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Quizzes, Essays, and Discussion boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of Economics</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Quizzes, Essays, and discussion boards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Netiquette Guidelines**

Netiquette is internet etiquette or a set of expectations that describe appropriate behaviors when interacting online. It is essential to understand that you will be held to the exact same standards of students taking a face-to-face course. In fact, for 100% online courses, your online classroom behavior may be the only interaction you have with your faculty and classmates, therefore making your netiquette even more critical. Remember, you only get to make a first impression once, irrespective of the course delivery method.

**Be courteous.**

You only get one chance for an online first impression. Make it count. Do not say or do anything in an online classroom that you would not do in a face-to-face class. This includes not “YELLING” (typing in all caps), not “flaming” (attacking someone, such as insults and name-calling), or not dominating the Discussion.
Be a good classmate.
Remember your role as a student. Always follow your instructor’s directions. Be authentic and collaborative with fellow students. Be aware of cyberbullying and make every attempt to eliminate it. Appreciate the diversity and different communication styles of your peers. Remember, since this class is online, you may have classmates from all over the world.

Be professional.
Proofread your writing for spelling, grammar, and punctuation to prevent miscommunication. Avoid slang, sarcasm, or emotionally charged writing, as tone can be challenging to translate online. Profanity and offensive language will not be tolerated. Do not use abbreviations (2moro, 2T, B@U) or emoticons in your online class unless your professor approves and supports such writing styles.

When sending an email:
When using and sending an email, please keep the following in mind:
• Use your UTRGV email (this helps instructor identify who you are)
• In the subject line include the Course Number you are enrolled in + Short Summary (Ex. ECON-2302- Module 1 Quiz 1)

UTRGV Policy Statements

Mandatory Course Evaluation
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account. You will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available between **August 8 and August 15**. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Students with Disabilities
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
Scholastic Integrity
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity, and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, Discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

Course Drops
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty, earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the course should be aware of the "3-peat rule" and the "6-drop" rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

Student Services
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor's office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center, and the Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
• Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

Note
❖ The UTRGV disability accommodation, mandatory course evaluation statement, and sexual misconduct statement are also accessible through UTRGV Institutional Policies.
❖ The UTRGV student resources, including technical, academic, and student support services, are also accessible through UTRGV Academic Support Services.