

**Course Syllabus****Professor Information** Steven S. Shwiff, Ph.D., CPF

Phone: 903.886.5679

Fax: 903.886.5601

**E-mail:** [Steven\\_Shwiff@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:Steven_Shwiff@tamu-commerce.edu)

Office Hours: M-F 9-12 or by appointment.

Office: BA 102b

**Course Material** **Text:****REQUIRED COURSE TEXT**

Microeconomics with MyEconLab course access

ISBN 1256975141

By Hubbard and O'Brien

**Course Objective**

*Introduces the student to the basic concepts and tools of analysis in microeconomics. Focuses on the operation of markets, with emphasis placed on the analysis of current problems such as health care, the environment, crime, education and regulatory reform. A major concern is how prices of individual goods and services are determined and how prices influence decision making. But perhaps most importantly is that you will learn that economics is everywhere and all you have to do is look and understand.*

**About the Course****STUDENT OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the student will:

- Grasp technical language
- Ability to solve typical numerical problems
- Ability to understand and apply key micro principles as outline in assigned chapters
- Ability to connect micro principles and arrive at appropriate conclusions relating to personal, social, and civic issues.

**E-mail communication: If you communicate with me by e-mail please use your university account. I will not respond to any e-mail that does not**

have an .edu extension.

**You will need to study at least seven hours a week.**

**No kidding.** There is just too much material to cover to do otherwise. I will also be assigning self-worked and taught problems for some material. This material will not be covered at length in class.

**How to proceed in the class?**

You have the time line below. You must read all of those chapters each week. I may provide some additional materials in the document sharing section of your class page. Make sure to attend or watch the Webinars to add to your understanding and or be able to ask questions. READ THE BOOK. It is not bad. Exchanging e-mails is a poor way for you to learn. See sample study week at the end of your syllabus. Asking your classmates to explain theory they may not understand is also a poor strategy

**Exams** There will be three MC/TF examinations linked to the major micro parts of the text. Exams will be taken online in class.

Each class will begin with the discussion of an economic "issue" question. You will be expected to participate in these discussions. Regardless of what the questions seems to be about, you must assume it is always about economics.

**Exam  
Dates and  
Suggested  
Study  
Schedule**

**ESTIMATED SCHEDULE**

*Any special accommodation requests (not related to disabilities – see below for those issues) must be made in a memorandum to me with documentation attached.*

*\*\*This schedule is subject to change. If I feel the material has not been covered sufficiently, we will push tests back.*

**Week 1:**

Chpt 1 – Foundations and Models

- Discussion.
- MEL homework

**Week 2:**

Chapter 2 – Focus on PPC, opportunity cost, and the principle of voluntary trade

- Quiz

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- MEL homework

**Week 3:**

Chapter 3 – Supply and Demand - This chapter is a stepping stone for the rest of the course.

- MEL Homework

**Week 4:**

Chapter 4 – Economic Efficiency

MEL Homework

**Week 5:**

Chapter 6 - Elasticity

MEL Homework

**Week 6:**

Chapter 5 & 7 – externalities and health care.

MEL Homework

**Week 7:**

Chapter 8 – Firms

MEL homework

**Week 8:**

Chapter 9 – international trade

MEL Homework

Exam 2

SPRING BREAK

**Week 9:**

Chapter 11 – Technology and production

MEL Homework

**Week 10:**

Chapter 17– Labor and other factors of production

MEL Homework

**Week 11:**

Chapter 10 – Consumer choice

MEL Homework

Exam 2

**Week 12:**

Chapter 12 Perfectly competitive firms

MEL homework

**Week 13: 4**

Chapter 13 - Monopoly

MEL Homework

**Week 14:**

Chapter 14 & 15 Oligopoly and antitrust policy

Discussion.

MEL Homework

**Week 15:**

Chapter 17 Labor Markets

Exam 3

The posted schedule is *tentative and may be changed based*

**Grade:**

All grading will be >90% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C and so on with <60% = F

Please also note that if this is required for your major, you will not graduate with a D -- so plan accordingly when deciding the effort to dedicate to the class.

Tests: 3 exams worth 100 points each = 300 points

MyEconLab =100 points

\*The lowest test OR myeconlab grade will be dropped.

Total points\* =400 points

It is critically important that you follow the instructions for submission of work. I will not search for your work, if it is not submitted correctly it may not be graded.

**TESTS**

Three exams will be given, The lowest score on an exam (or the MyEconLab score if it is lower) will be dropped. No makeup exams will be given except for school sanctioned events, but again, the lowest score will be dropped. If there is evidence that you cheated on an exam, you will receive a zero for the exam.

SAMPLE STUDY WEEK

Step 1. Read Assigned chapters and study. Simply putting time in is not enough.

Step 2. Use any slides or power points from the companion site for your text to help you keep track of key concepts in each chapter. There may also be spreadsheet problems you may be able to work through.

Step 3. Review Study Plan in MyEconLab

Step 4. Ask questions in class and do not be passive.

	<i>demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the issue being examined</i>	<i>understands the major points of the issue being examined but does not understand all the details of the issue</i>	<i>demonstrates knowledge of some, but not all, of the major points of the issue.</i>	<i>demonstrates knowledge of some, but not all, of the major points of the issue.</i>	<i>no understanding of the issue being examined.</i>
Grasp of technical language(1)					
Ability to solve typical numerical problems reflecting and understanding of how the micro					

economy works(1)					
<b>Exam #1</b> *Econ Way of Thinking *opportunity costs *marginality *voluntary exchange *diminishing returns *demand *supply *market clearing					
<b>Exam #2</b> *Price elasticity *predicting change with elasticity *elasticity and revenue *other elasticities *consumer surplus *market clearing, again *taxes *utility *Consumer choice *demand					
<b>Exam #3</b> *family of cost curves *AC,MC, TC *Long and short run *competitive firm in SR *competitive firm in LR *the monopolist					

*social costs *price discrimination					
<b>Exam #4</b> *the effects of market entry *monopolistic comp. *what is oligopoly *game theory <b>Exam #5</b> *moral hazard *insurance *public goods *external costs and benefits *optimality and pollution					
Ability to connect micro principles and arrive at appropriate conclusions relating to personal, social, and civic issues.(1)					

Grading Rubric

**STUDENT CONSIDERATIONS**

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities.

Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library**  
**Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

- “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”
- Students enrolled in on-line courses have the same rights and responsibilities as students in live-taught courses.
- Refer to Student’s Guide Book located at:

[www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm)