

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY –COMMERCE  
**College of Business**  
DEPT. OF ECONOMICS & FINANCE

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**Syllabus  
Econ 2302 01 W  
CRN# 40003**

**COURSE TITLE**

*Principles of Micro Economics*

**PROFESSOR**

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**COURSE MEETING DAY/TIME/ROOM**

This is an online course. We will meet in eCollege, ClassLive Pro on Monday nights and Tuesday nights starting promptly at 7PM and adjourning by 10PM or earlier depending on progress.

If you have not previously taken an online course, you really should work through the tutorial for eCollege. Doing so will save you time and frustration at the beginning of the session which is really short. Don't ask me about navigating your way around. It's in the tutorial.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the student to the basic concepts and tools of analysis in microeconomics. The focus is 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 in an environment of private property rights, how prices influence decision making and ultimately the allocation of productive resources including you and me (labor).

At the heart of societal structure are three questions, namely, what to produce, how to produce it and who is going to get what is produced. Every argument or debate about the state of the economy or how it should be managed is about one or all of these three questions. At the end of the day, the way we answer those questions determines how much stuff there is to divide up (a lot or a little) and what the divide will be between the haves and the have nots. In every society wealth and income are determined by the degree of control one has over the allocation of scarce resources. We will examine these issues and the conflict they create between individual liberty and control by the collective.

**STUDENT OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES**

ECO 2302.01	Understand the core concepts of scarcity, opportunity cost, and how markets function.
ECO 2302.02	Understand how firm and household choice is modeled as supply and demand in microeconomics.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXT****MICROECONOMICS (LOOSE)-W/ACCESS**

Author            HUBBARD  
Edition            5TH 15  
ISBN                9780133827057

Your best bet is to get this package from the campus bookstore. The software used in this course requires an access code from Pearson Publishing and is tied directly to the text. You are provided a temporary access code in the webpage that is good for 14 days. After day 14 you will need your own access code to continue the course. The package above contains the access code you will need for the duration of the course. If you lose access to the course because you don't have the required access code, any work you miss while you try to get one will receive the same grade as any other material not completed by its due date, a zero.

**NUMERIC GRADING RANGES and WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

All grading will be  $\geq 90\%$  = 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.*

**EXTRA CREDIT CRITICAL THINKING PAPER – MAX. POINTS = 5 ADDED TO YOUR MEL OVERALL SCORE – THAT’S HALF A LETTER GRADE**

Critical Thinking Paper-- to exhibit intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Assignment:

1) Pick an article that has appeared in an online news source (other than some blog put together by some person of unknown expertise) within the past five years. Your selection of an appropriate article will constitute a portion of your grade (See row 1 in the rubric below).

- The article should discuss an issue related to patent protection/property rights or corporate mergers. The article should have global implications.
  - The policy can be passed or proposed, federal or state, domestic or foreign.
- The article should be from a credible source (blogs are not credible sources), and should be cited in a recognized format (APA, MLA, Turabian, etc). Make sure to include the url as part of the citation.
- Your paper must discuss the article you selected. However, you are not limited to the article as a source of information. You can and should use Bing (or other search engine) to find background information about the topic. In some cases it may be useful to read articles from sources that write from a different perspective.

2) Write a response to the article that will be submitted to the Social Responsibility Paper dropbox in the course webpage. You will write your response in Word (or other word processing software capable of filing your paper in one of the .doc formats). Do not write your response in the comment section of the assignment dropbox. Your response will discuss the societal or civic issues and the global implications related to the issue in the article you selected.

1) The first paragraph should explain the issue discussed in the article. This paragraph

should the reader enough background information to follow the arguments you make in subsequent paragraphs, but this should be a synopsis of only the most important information, not a re-write of the article. Make sure to provide basic details that answer the reader's questions of who, what, when, where and why. More importantly, you will need to explain the economic issues involved. Are property rights issues affected? Does this create a situation of market power? How would you characterize the market structure involved? Is there a problem with time-inconsistency of preferences? How is consumer surplus affected? Discuss any efficiency/equity tradeoffs. Make sure to use economic vocabulary as you describe the issue in your article.

2) The second paragraph must discuss the societal and/or civic issues involved in the article you selected. What are the immediate implications for society? What are the short term and long term implications? Who will gain from the policy? Who, if anyone, will lose from the policy? Are there efficiency or equity issues involved? If you were consulted by policy makers related to the issue, what would your recommendations be?

3) The third paragraph should discuss the global implications. World-wide or large magnitude implications are not a requirement, but you should pick an event that will have implications for at least 2 or 3 countries. Discuss the international connections. Will the patent/merger discussed in the article affect trade and how? How will country-to-country relationships be affected? How will this affect citizens within affected countries?

Just as an example, perhaps China moves to devalue the Yuan. Which countries other than China are likely to feel an impact from that change? All of them? America and the EU primarily? Just Pacific Rim countries? Sub-Saharan Africa? Why?

**This example is just that, an example. It is not a suggestion as to topic.**

4.) The listing of three paragraphs should not be license to write three paragraphs each of which consumes multiple 8.5x11 pages, single spaced. That will lose you points for lousy grammar and wasting my time. Good business prose is crisp and to the point, but consisting of actual sentences. Think of this as a briefing paper for an executive whose most valuable asset is his or her time. No bullet points. Prose. But you are not writing the great American novel.

I cannot help you in any way outside this document. I cannot help you select an article or a topic. This assignment is a requirement of AACSB, the accrediting bureau for colleges of business. As noted above, selecting an appropriate article on an appropriate subject is part of the assignment. Please be guided not only by this assignment description but by the rubric below on all aspects of this assignment. This assignment is worth 5 extra points added to your MEL Overall Results. Stated differently, it is worth an additional half a letter grade. For what it's worth, my advice is don't take it lightly and don't skip it.

	<b>1 – Failing/Poor (D or F)</b>	<b>2 – Emergent (C)</b>	<b>3 –Successful (B)</b>	<b>4 – Mastery Level (A)</b>
Article Selection	The article does not fit the requirements.	The article has limited societal/civic impact, or has limited global impact.	The article meets the requirements, but is overly simplistic in approach.	The article is from a credible source and covers the needs of the assignment in sufficient depth.
Citation*	Failed to cite the article	Only pasted the url	Cited the article, but not using accepted format	Correct citation
Economic Discussion*	Does not discuss economic implications, or discussion shows a lack of understanding	Discussion correctly identifies the market structure and gives some details but does not demonstrate understanding of economic consequences.	Correctly identifies market issues, discusses economic choices/consequences.	Demonstrates a solid grasp of economic implications. Makes correct use of economic terms. Recognizes the tradeoffs inherent in policy choice.
Global implications	Student does not discuss/understand and global implications	Student attempts to discuss global implications, but some confusion is apparent.	Student can identify the global issues, basic premise of arguments demonstrates understanding.	Student identifies global implications, can identify costs and benefits to international relationship from patent/merger. Can identify effects of a policy on foreign citizens.
Critical Thinking	Student relies on simple summaries, or takes superficial positions	Ideas are one-dimensional and a lack of investigation is evident	Student presents their own position, but is inconsistent or unclear in their justification of position	Student is able to discern bias. Student draws from personal experience and/or supplemental research, not limited to the summarized article. Student identifies assumptions made in the article, identifies context, and the perspective of the author. Student is able to support their own assertions

### MAKING YOUR GRADE

Three Tests will be given worth 100 points each. Homework is graded for each chapter. Homework and Tests will each be weighted 50%. The combined points earned for Homework and Tests will determine your MEL Overall Score. The table below shows you the overall schedule. This schedule is detailed in the MEL Calendar in the eCollege webpage. Be sure to read the announcement in the eCollege webpage when you login. More details are there about how to navigate the course and the software.

You will find something in the MEL material called Study Plan. There are questions and exercises there for you to work with but that work has no relationship to your grade except that you might actually learn more the more you work with the material. Only Homework, Tests and the Social Responsibility Paper will be graded and the points you accumulate on all three will determine the letter grade you earn.

### LATE WORK

**Make up tests will not be given. Due dates for Tests and Homework will not be extended. There is not enough time in the summer to fool around with the schedule. Due dates missed will be assigned a zero.**

### ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

The posted schedule is *subject to change only in accordance with acts of God or my health*. Changes are unanticipated but will be made if necessary.

Week Beginning	Text Material	Subject(s)	Exam Date And Chaps Covered
Jun. 8	Chap. 1 Chap. 2 Chap. 3	Foundations of Economics, Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, Markets, Supply, Demand and their Interaction	Test I Jun. 7 & 8; Ch. 1-3
Jun. 15	Chap. 4 Chap. 5 Chap. 6	Economic Efficiency, Government Intervention in Price Setting and Taxes; Externalities, Environmental Policy and Public Goods; Elasticity of Demand and Supply	
Jun. 22	Chap. 10 Chap. 11 Chap. 12	Consumer Choice and Behavior; Technology, Production and Choice; Perfectly Competitive Markets	Social Responsibility Paper Due in Dropbox June 20  Test 2: Chaps. 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11 Jun. 21 & 22
Jun. 29	Chap. 13 Chap. 14 Chap. 15	Monopolistic Competition; Oligopoly; Monopoly	
Jul. 5	Chap. 18	Public Choice, Taxes, Distribution of Income	Test 3: 12, 13, 14, 15 & 18 July 2 & 3

### STUDENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Students are required to use the email address above for email communication. **Any emails sent from outside the university domain will be deleted without being opened.** The IT folks require this action as a security precaution.
- If you have an issue that needs urgent attention, use email first. If you have an exercise that you can't work, use the Ask Your Professor feature embedded in every homework item. If that doesn't work, schedule a face to face in LivePro in eCollege.
- Cheating on exams or plagiarizing assignments will absolutely not be tolerated. You must read the TAMU-Commerce Academic Honesty Policy posted in the first week. Continuing in the class is an implicit agreement to abide by the terms of the Honesty Policy. If you are caught cheating in this class, you and anyone else involved will receive an F for the class. I take this VERY seriously and do a fair amount of research into any suspicious results or similarities. Online cheating is actually much easier to detect than you would expect. Depending on the severity of the offense,

- you may be expelled from the University for Academic Dishonesty.
- The deadline for dropping a class is listed under the academic schedule.
- Refer to Student's Guide Book located at: [www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm)

### **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@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**