Instructor: Dr. Denise Robson  E-mail: robson@uwosh.edu
Office Hours: 9:30 - 11:30 P.M. on Tues, Thurs and by appointment (Use email).
Office: Sage 2475  Phone: 424-7152

Required Course Materials:
Microeconomics - Core Microeconomics, Gerald Stone, 2012, Worth.
EconPortal  http://courses.bfwpub.com/stoneMicro2
D2L  www.uwosh.edu/d2l
Current periodicals and other materials as assigned

General Course Objectives

The broad objective of this course is to help develop a reasonable perspective of economic behavior, an understanding of basic principles, and an appreciation for the complexity of the micro economy.

In this course students will:
• apply the economic way of thinking to every day situations
• answer the core economic questions
• become proficient in the use of marginal analysis
• account for why decisions may vary for different groups within an economy
• comprehend the ramifications of market failures
• understand the lure of competitive markets
• evaluate the competitiveness of a market and its structure
• appreciate the tradeoff between efficiency and equity
• make connections between product markets and the factor markets
• explore the international dimension of the economy
• evaluate the role government in various markets
• identify whether “good” economics is being used in making decisions by business, households, and the government
• contemplate how politics and ideology affects economic policies
• knowledgably analyze and discuss current economic events

Course Structure

Economics is a discipline that on the surface seems deceptively easy, when in actuality it is quite complex. While the nature of a large class often dictates a predominately lecture type course, I often use in-class activities designed to help you understand the theories. I also encourage you to work with classmates both inside and outside of class. Having to explain concepts and theories to each other or just discuss the pros and cons of different applications helps you internalize your understanding of the course material.
Remember, whatever you put into this course determines what you take away from it. The goal is to acquire knowledge and skills that will help you throughout your life, not just pass the course.

Grading

- Grades are based the following three components -
  1. Examinations (4 exams) 75%
  2. Course work (Econportal, Problem sets, writing) 20%
  3. Miscellaneous (Pre-post course tests, participation, etc.) 5%

- Grade determination: based on the percentage of total points (weighted) you have earned; a minimum of each percent given below is the cutoff for the various grades. Pluses and Minuses will be determined at the end of the course.
  
  A  90%  B  80%  C  66%  
  D  51% (D- is not given)  F  50% or lower

- Grade Interpretation
  A  Student demonstrates a level of knowledge relevant to the course that is beyond expectations and has the ability to use this knowledge in unfamiliar situations.
  B  Demonstrates a level of knowledge relevant to the course that is beyond expectations. Will be able to use and extend this knowledge in some situations.
  C  Demonstrates an acceptable level of knowledge relevant to the course and should be able to continue learning in this field of study.
  D  Demonstrates a barely adequate level of knowledge relevant to the course; unlikely to be able to neither apply knowledge on any level nor continue studies in this direction.
  F  Demonstrates insufficient knowledge to be given credit for this course.

Exams: The exams will be predominantly multiple-choice, although there may be some short problems included. Even though most of the questions are multiple choice, my exams emphasize the application and evaluation of the theories and models you have learned in class. During exams only simple calculators, no graphing or memory functions may be used. Cellular technologies and computers are expressly prohibited. All ball caps need to be removed or turned backwards during exams, hoods need to be lowered and both hands need to be visible at all times.

Course work: Course work will consist of both problem sets, EconPortal quizzes and assignments, and writing assignments.

- Problems: Each unit will have at least one problem set designed to help you learn the mechanics of economic analysis (graphs, equations, etc.). Some assignments will also be turned in to me and graded in its entirety or just certain questions.
- EconPortal: Each week you can expect at least one quiz and/or assignment. You will also be required to use the Learning curve application to help you prepare for the course and the exams. Details on Econ Portal will be forth coming.
• **Writing assignments:** You will be required to write a brief economic analysis of a current event related to the material being. For the article analysis you must choose an article from a reputable news source (Wall Street Journal, NY Times, etc.). For each assignment you will briefly describe the main points of the article and then apply the economic tools used in class to explain the article.

**Miscellaneous:**

• **Course Pre/Post Tests:** The department has a policy that every principles student takes both a pre and a post test. You will receive the average of your two scores and if your post test score is higher than your pre-test score you will get a bonus point (if your score is lower you will lose a point). The bonus point is not available to anyone not taking the pretest. You will find the assessments on D2L under the Microeconomics (206) Assessment. The pretest will be available the first two weeks (9/5 at 8 am to 9/19 at 5 pm) of the semester and the posttest will be the last two weeks (11/30 at 8 am to 12/14 at 5 pm). End time for the assessments are not negotiable.

• **Participation:** Participation is not the same as attendance. It will include whether you are prepared for class, keep up with current events, and participation in class discussions.

**Study Groups:** Class assignments and homework are designed to help you learn how to apply the material presented in lectures. I encourage you to work with study groups when you prepare for your assignments and exams, but ultimately you are responsible for your own learning. Working with others is intended to clarify ideas, concepts, or technical questions, NOT to simply get the correct answer. If you do take short cuts, it will catch up with you during the exam. Tutors are available through the economics department, but they are available to help you with your assignments, not do them.

**Academic Honesty:** Though I encourage you to work with study groups when you prepare for your tests, papers and homework assignments, ultimately you are responsible for your own learning.

**Grades are based on individual performance:** cheating is a violation of academic principles and will result in a zero on the assignment or dismissal from the course.

**Course Policies**

**Missed or late assignments:**

• I try to post any assignments on D2L. If you miss class you will need to check it for any assignments.

• Other missed assignments may be turned in late (check with me before you assume it will be accepted); turning assignments in late is unfair to those who respected the deadline. Penalties will be up to 10 percent for each day it is late. For example, if you have an assignment due for class on Wednesday and you turn it in after class on that day it may be subject to a 5 percent penalty; if it is turned in on Thursday (one day after it is due), it is subject to 10 percent; if it is turned in after the beginning of class on Friday, it may be penalized up to 20 percent, etc. There will be no additional penalty for weekend days. No assignments will be accepted after the answers have been posted.
• If you fail to take an exam, or to turn in a majority of your assignments, you will not pass this course. The only exception is for serious and compelling reasons, which are limited to documented and serious illness, death in the family, or equally important reasons. If this occurs, you must notify me as soon as possible and I will try to offer you an alternative to receiving a zero. Notifying me a week later is not considered "as soon as possible".
• Activities done during class cannot be made up no matter what the excuse.

Extra Credit: In general, I do not believe in extra credit. If you put the effort into the course work instead extra work, you will end up better off. Occasionally, though, opportunities arise that will enhance your understanding of economics. Since it would be unfair for me to require you to attend some function outside of class, I offer some extra credit, applied to your course work score, as an incentive for you to attend. If you are aware of an event on campus that you think applies to this course and is accessible to everyone at no monetary cost, please let me know. If there is sufficient notice, I will consider giving extra credit for it.

Classroom etiquette:
• Help create a friendly, inclusive, and rigorous classroom climate in which everyone feels welcome to comment and contribute. Diverse views are welcome and should be respected. Any concerns you may have about your views not being respected, please bring to my attention.
• Cells phones, ipods, etc. should be turned off and headphones are not to be worn during class.
• If you would like to use your lap-top computer, ipad, or the like during class, please make arrangements with me. Any abuse in using these tools that interfere with your classmates' ability to learn will result in you (and possibly the entire class) being prohibited from using it.
• If you sleep and snore, I reserve the right to wake you up. If you sleep quietly, I may let you sleep, it is obviously more important than participating in class.
• At all times, I reserve the right to ask you to leave class should I deem your behavior inappropriate.
• In general, any behavior that interferes with anyone's learning will not be tolerated.
• RESPECT EVERYONE’S RIGHT TO LEARN!

Please come to my office hours or make an appointment to resolve any concerns or difficulties you may have at any point during the semester. The sooner you approach me about concerns the better off you will be and the easier they will be to resolve.

Ask questions!!
Economics can be a confusing and unsettling area to study. It is not like other subjects where answers tend to be black and white. Economics is known as the dismal science -
- be wary!
## Tentative Course Outline

Dates of coverage are subject to change. You are responsible for knowing about any changes.

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<td>Week 1 Jan 28</td>
<td>Course Intro, PPC</td>
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<td>Week 2 Feb 4</td>
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**Exam 1 (17.5% of grade) Chapters 1 - 3+ tentatively February 18th**

| Week 4 Feb 20   | Markets and Government        | Chapter 4          |
| Week 5 Feb 25   | Markets and Government        | Chapter 13         |
| Week 6 Mar 4    | Elasticity                    | Chapter 5          |
| Week 7 Mar 11   | Consumer Choice and Demand    | Chapter 6          |

**Exam 2 (20% of grade) Chapters 4, 13, 5, 6 tentatively March 15th**

**SPRING BREAK March 18th - 22nd**

| Week 8 Mar 25   | Production and Cost           | Chapter 7          |
| Week 9 Apr 1    | Competition                   | Chapter 8          |
| Week 10 Apr 8   | Monopoly                      | Chapter 9          |
| Week 11 Apr 15  | Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly | Chapter 10    |

**Exam 3 (20% of grade) Chapters 7 - 10 tentatively April 17th**

| Week 12 Apr 22  | Theory of Input Markets       | Chapter 11         |
| Week 13 Apr 29  | Labor Market Issues           | Chapter 12         |
| Week 14 May 6   | Poverty and Income Dist.      | Chapter 14         |

**Exam 4 (17.5% of grade) Chapters 11 - 14 May 10th**

Make-up exams will be given only under extreme circumstances and must be approved by me in advanced. If it is not possible to notify me in advance, you have one business day to contact me or you will receive a zero.