

Principles of Microeconomics

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Course Meeting Times

Section 1
202S-16446
Constant Hall 1064
TR 1330 – 1445
Final: Dec 15, 1230 – 1530

Office Hours:

Constant Hall 2048
Monday 1300 – 1600,
Tuesday 1000 – 1200,
And by appointment.

Course Description

An examination of how individuals and businesses interact in a market economy. Emphasis is placed on consumer behavior, price and output decisions of firms, the economic efficiency of the resulting allocation of society's resources, and the gains from international trade and impact of trade barriers.

Some of the objectives of this course are: (1) to build a foundation for understanding human economic behavior, (2) to introduce some useful decision-making tools, and (3) to develop critical and analytical thinking skills.

Prerequisites

Completion of MATH 102 (*College Algebra*) or higher, or GNST 098, or an SAT math score of 460 or higher, or an ACT score of 24 or higher, or a math placement test (COMPASS) score of 3 or higher.

Any student seeking exemption from these prerequisites must contact the Chief Departmental Adviser, Dr. Anderson: eanderso@odu.edu; Constant Hall 2051.

Text

McConnell, Brue, & Flynn, *ECONOMICS*, 20TH ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Irwin. (*Hard-cover text; covers both Macroeconomics and Microeconomics, usable in both courses OR Soft-cover text; covers only Microeconomics*)

Grading

There are 400 possible points to earn in this course.

First Midterm	100 pts
Second Midterm	100 pts
Final Exam	140 pts
Journal Entries	60 pts

Final Grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	380+	B+	350 to 359	C+	310 to 320	D	220 to 279
A	370 to 379	B	330 to 349	C	290 to 309	F	Below 220
A-	360 to 369	B-	320 to 329	C-	280 to 289		

Midterms will be 50-minute closed-book closed-note multiple-choice examinations with one short-answer essay question, covering only material from the preceding weeks of the course. Midterms will be administered during class times noted on the schedule below.

The final exam will be a 3-hour multiple-choice examination with multiple short-answer essay questions, comprehensively covering material from the course, with a focus on the weeks after the second midterm.

There will be no make-up exams for this course. Unexcused absences will be marked with a 0 in the ledger. Appeals to excuse a student's absence must be submitted as soon as reasonably possible once the student is aware of the necessity for absence, and must be accompanied with corroborating documentation. I am more receptive to appeals before the exam date than after. I will adapt that student's grade formulation on an *ad hoc* basis.

In the event foul weather or locusts prevent an exam being held on the assigned date, I will reschedule the exam to the earliest possibility on an *ad hoc* basis.

The journal is a weekly writing assignment where the student responds to a writing prompt posted at the beginning of the first meeting of the week; prompts will be made available on Blackboard. Journals are to be submitted for review at each examination, and will be returned with the midterms.

IMPORTANT: I will respond to any and all questions regarding midterms sent to me **by email** until 1900 hours Sunday evening the week of the midterm. I will respond to any and all questions regarding the final sent to me **by email** until 1900 hours the night before the final. The first time you visit my office hours and greet me with, "Roll Tide" will earn you 10 extra credit points. All emails with a timestamp after the 1900 hours deadline will receive encouragement to attend office hours or schedule an appointment. I will respond to any and all questions during office hours or appointments, either in person or over the phone. I prefer in person. I encourage you to be conscientious: *this does not mean I will not help you after Sunday*; it means that you will need to accommodate my own schedule given the short notice.

Test Retention Policy

Students in ECON 201 and ECON 202 are **not** allowed to keep any exam that includes questions from the McConnell-Brue-Flynn test bank. However, students are allowed to study the test bank. Department policy requires that all students in ECON 201 and 202 be given access to the relevant parts of the McConnell/Brue/Flynn test bank to use as a study aid. Therefore, early in the semester the Chief Departmental Advisor will upload Microsoft Word files containing the test bank questions for each of the chapters in the standard course outline above to each course's Blackboard page. Instructors must enable student access to their course Blackboard pages and should announce the availability of the test bank files to their students.

All final exams must be retained for one year.

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit by attending presentations to the undergraduate Economics Club by faculty and selected invitees throughout the semester, and submitting a brief response to the material presented. Presentation times and topics are forthcoming, and will be announced *via* Blackboard.

Honor Code

The Old Dominion University lists its student responsibilities online here: [<https://online.odu.edu/policies-and-student-responsibilities>]; if you have not done so, please read them carefully. The pledge you have committed to regarding academic integrity is:

“I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violations of the Honor Code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.”

If you have any questions about potential issues, *please ask them before submitting work for grading.*

For my part, as a member of the faculty I am obliged to report evidence of dishonesty to the Office of Student Conduct. Breaches will receive a zero in the ledger for the assignment, and may result in an F for the course. This holds for all assignments, including extra credit assignments.

Classroom Behavior

If you expect to need to depart mid-class, either for an appointment or a runny nose or whatever, please sit in the back.

Questions are welcome; specific questions grounded in the text are encouraged; vague questions or digressions are less so. If you ever feel I have not answered a question with clarity to your satisfaction, please come see me after class.

If it rings, I get to answer it. You probably don't want this to happen.

Contacting Me

I will respond to emails **during the week** within 24 hours; during the weekend I will try to be timely but will not promise the same turnaround time. Voicemails will be treated similarly.

When you contact me via email, please observe professional decorum in your writing, and use this format for the subject line:

ECON 202S Section 1 Question about [Chapter/page #/topic]

Information regarding professional decorum may be found here:

[How to Email Your Professor](#)

Blackboard

I will be using Blackboard to contact you and to post your midterm grades. I will also make my lecture slides and journal questions available. Use your Monarch Login at www.blackboard.odu.edu

Tutoring Assistance

ODU offers tutoring free-of-charge at the Peer Educator Program. You may find them at www.odu.edu/peereducator. There you may schedule a tutoring session; they are aware of when my courses' exams are.

Students with Disabilities

This course is ADA compliant, and as such will accept all direction from ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility. You may find their resources at www.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility.

Semester Calendar

(Chapter numbers within the parenthesis are for the hardback combined text.)

	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Week 1	Aug 30, Sep 1	Choice and Constraint	Ch. 1
Week 2	5-Sep Sep 6, 8	Labor Day Coordinating Production and Consumption	NO CLASSES Ch. 2
Week 3	Sep 13, 15	Supply and Demand	Ch. 3
Week 4	Sep 20, 22	Coordination Failures	Ch. 4
Week 5	Sep 27, 29	Elasticity	Ch. 6
Week 6	Oct 4, 6 Oct 4	Utility ***First Midterm, Weeks 1 – 5***	Ch. 7
Week 7	Oct 10 - 11 Oct 13	Fall Holiday Cost of Production	NO CLASSES Ch. 9
Week 8	Oct 18, 20	Pure Competition in the Short Run	Ch. 10
Week 9	Oct 25, 27	Pure Competition in the Long Run	Ch. 11
Week 10	Nov 1, 3	Pure Monopoly	Ch. 12
Week 11	Nov 8, 10 Nov 10	Resources ***Second Midterm, Weeks 6-10***	Ch. 14
Week 12	Nov 15, 17	Wage Determination	Ch. 15
Week 13	Nov 22 Nov 23 - 25	Inequalities and Discrimination Thanksgiving Holiday	Ch. 21 NO CLASSES
Week 14	Nov 29, Dec 1	Immigration	Ch. 23
Week 15	Dec 6, 8	International Trade	Ch. 24

*****Final Exam, Dates Listed Above*****