Economics 130 Principles of Economics: Microeconomics 03

INSTRUCTOR: Paul Briggs
COURSE CODE: 60008
MEETING TIMES: Class is online
OFFICE: Na’auao 118

OFFICE HOURS: July 3 and 10, 10-11 AM in Na’auao 118. For the other weeks via email. I will respond to you within 24 hours of your email.

TELEPHONE: 236-9218 E-MAIL: pbriggs@hawaii.edu
WEBSITE: http://laulima.hawaii.edu and enter in your UHPORTAL username and password. www.aplia.com and enter in your APLIA username and password.

CLASSROOM: ONLINE
EFFECTIVE DATE: SUMMER 2012

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Study of how individuals make decisions which affect their income and wealth; how firms make decisions which affect profits and production. Relationship to demand, supply and prices of goods and natural resources.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will translate important microeconomic terms and theories into various forms.
   a. Skills needed to achieve this outcome.
      i. Writing ability, ability to translate econ terms into their own words.
      ii. Mathematical ability, ability to translate and interpret econ theories in a two dimensional graphical space.

2. Students will explain the basic underpinnings of consumer and producer behavior.
   a. Skills needed to achieve this outcome.
      i. Research skills
      ii. Interview skills
iii. Ability to formulate a hypothesis.
iv. Ability to use the scientific method.

COURSE TASKS AND REQUIREMENTS:

COURSE WEBSITE: On the LAULIMA website (http://laulima.hawaii.edu), I will have a detailed time-line for you to follow that will include tasks to perform and all of the due dates for the various assignments via the schedule tool. This timeline will also be available via APLIA as well. Your MYUHPORTAL username and password will connect you to the LAULIMA website for this course. On the website, I will also post instructions for the various assignments that are due.

APLIA PROBLEM SETS AND NEWS ANALYSES: (50% of your grade). For this online course, you will be doing problem sets, news analyses and exams through an online course management system called APLIA (www.aplia.com). APLIA is meant to be a user-friendly interface and is used by thousands of students in the United States to help supplement their learning in economics. Instructions on how to set up your APLIA account are on the LAULIMA website (http://laulima.hawaii.edu). Access to Aplia will cost you $90, but this includes access to the Aplia problem sets as well as an electronic copy of your textbook. You will need a separate APLIA username and password to access your APLIA account. It would be a good idea to use the same username and password as your MYUHPORTAL account. You will have two types of APLIA assignments: PROBLEM SETS, NEWS ANALYSES and EXAM ASSIGNMENTS
  • APLIA PROBLEM SETS-These are homework assignments that are to be completed online and are graded by APLIA. There is one problem set for each chapter of the course, although there are a couple of problem sets at the beginning to help get you started. **You will have three attempts to do these problem sets and your final grade will be the highest of the three attempts.** Keep in mind that the problems are randomized, so that you will not see the exact same problem in your next attempt.
  • APLIA NEWS ANALYSES-These are news articles that you will read that will give some application of the chapter material you have just studied. After you read the article, you will then answer questions online based on the news article. **There will be one attempt to do the News Analysis Problem Set.**
  • Grades will be given automatically for the APLIA PROBLEM SETS, and given after the due date for the APLIA NEWS ANALYSES.
  • **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR THE APLIA ASSIGNMENTS.**

TESTS AND EXAMS-There will be two midterms and one final exam. Each midterm will be worth 10% of the total grade and the final will also be worth 10% of the total grade. The final exam will not be cumulative and thus will cover the last third of the course. There will be review sheets to help you succeed in taking the exams and I will include APLIA problem sets from the APLIA assignments in the exams as well. All
three exams will be given through APLIA. THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR THE EXAMS.

READING THE TEXTBOOK AND NARRATED LECTURES: You will really need to read and pay attention to the textbook during this course as it is online. To assist you with the material, I have narrated lectures to go along with each of the chapters, you can access these narrated lectures on my LAULIMA website. These narrated lectures are located under the Modules tab of LAULIMA. The textbook (Principles of Economics by Mankiw, Sixth Edition) is available on the Aplia site in an electronic version.

LAULIMA ASSIGNMENTS (10% your grade)

• LAULIMA DISCUSSION FORUMS: These forum assignments will have you state any questions, issues or concerns regarding your Aplia work for the week. There will be five of these assignments. You will first state a topic (due on Thursdays) and then a response to another person’s topic (due on Saturdays) through Laulima Forums. There is a 50-word minimum for topics and a 25 word minimum for responses to those topics.
• THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR THE FORUM ASSIGNMENTS.

INTERVIEWS/PORTFOLIO: 10% of your grade. I am going to require that you interview people in the community that play a particular role in the economy. It need not be anyone “special”; we all play a role in the economy, the most typical roles being consumer and producer. The two basic roles in any economy are consumer (demand) and producer (supply).

Your job is to interview one person, with that person representing the consumer role in the economy. This paper will be due on August 6. I will give you a specific handout for the interview that will contain possible interview questions as well as general guidelines for conducting interviews (in a couple of weeks). The due dates for each interview will be included as well. The interview will count for 100 points, for 10% of the grade.

There is a specific handout for you on the LAULIMA website. The due dates for each section of this assignment will be listed in this syllabus. Papers will be turned in via Laulima Dropbox, if you do not turn in your paper by the due date I will deduct late points. Please keep in mind that all work must be turned in by August 10.

Your interview handout will be on the LAULIMA course website (Modules).
SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Aplia Problem Sets and News Analyses (50%)
2. Midterms (20%)
3. Final Exam (10%)
4. Laulima Forums (10%)
5. Interviews (10%)
6. **TOTAL**: 100%

Here is a summary of the various assignments/resources, their location and due dates/times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT/RESOURCES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DUE DATES AND TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMAIL COMMUNICATION</td>
<td>MAILTOOL VIA LAULIMA</td>
<td>• When appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION FORUMS</td>
<td>FORUMS TAB VIA LAULIMA</td>
<td>• Post Threads by Thursday at 11 pm</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Post Responses by Saturday at 11 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROBLEM SETS</td>
<td>APLIA</td>
<td>• Designated due date at 11 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWS ANALYSES</td>
<td>APLIA</td>
<td>• Designated due date at 11 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READING AND NARRATED LECTURE</td>
<td>MODULES TAB VIA LAULIMA</td>
<td>• Before you do the Problem Set.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPER (Article Analysis)</td>
<td>• UPLOAD VIA LAULIMA DROPBOX INSTRUCTIONS VIA LAULIMA MODULES</td>
<td>• Designated due date by 11 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDTERMS AND FINAL</td>
<td>APLIA</td>
<td>• Designated due date by 11 pm</td>
</tr>
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Grades for this Course:

90-100%   A
80%-90%   B
70%-80%   C
50%-70%   D
Below 50%  F

Your grades will be available via the Gradebook on the APLIA website.

There will also some opportunities for extra credit throughout the course, most likely it will be at least 20 points.

**LEARNING RESOURCES:**

BOOK: N. Gregory Mankiw (Required), *Principles of Microeconomics, Sixth Edition*

The textbook is available electronically via the APLIA website ([www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com)) for $122. This buys you access to the APLIA problems as well as access to the electronic book. This is in effect a subscription, which will run out at the end of the semester. You can download copies of the text from the APLIA website as well. Please have your email be the UH account or have your email accept forwards from your UH email account. Instructions on how to accept UH email account forwards are in this syllabus.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CHAPTERS TO BE COVERED:

First Section
Chapter 1  Ten Principles of Economics
Chapter 2  Thinking Like an Economist
Chapter 3  Interdependence and the Gains from Trade
Chapter 4  The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
FIRST EXAMINATION (Chapters 1-4)

Second Section
Chapter 5  Elasticity and Its Application
Chapter 13  The Costs of Production
SECOND EXAMINATION (Chapters 5 and 13)

Third Section
Chapter 14  Firms in Competitive Markets
Chapter 15  Monopoly
Chapter 16  Monopolistic Competition
Chapter 17  Oligopoly
FINAL EXAMINATION (Chapters 14-17)

I do reserve the right to cut out portions of the chapters that I may not wish to cover and/or supplement the chapters with readings that will elaborate on points discussed in the chapters. The above schedule is not fixed in stone: if we are running late, I will probably cut out chapters from the course. However, if we are running ahead of schedule, then I might add a chapter or two at the end of the course. **My goal is quality, not quantity!**
HOW YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THIS COURSE:

1. Please read the chapter and listen to the narrated lectures.
2. Complete the associated practice questions with each chapter.
3. Do the APLIA PROBLEM SETS and NEWS ANALYSES by their due dates. Remember that you have three chances to do each APLIA PROBLEM SET.
4. Complete any Forum post and responses by the assigned due date.
5. Do the CONSUMER INTERVIEW by the assigned due date.
6. Please do the examinations!
LAULIMA

The entire UH system is replacing the old WEBCT course management system with LAULIMA starting this academic year. The reasons have everything to do with cost, LAULIMA is an open-source system and thus is technically free. WEBCT, on the other hand, was taken over (swallowed up!) by it’s former competitor BLACKBOARD and now costs three times as much.

So enough context, we will be using LAULIMA for responding to postings that I give you on a weekly basis (both ECON 130 and 131) and to take online quizzes (ECON 130). To get into your LAULIMA course, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the WCC website: http://wcc.hawaii.edu
2. Click on the LAULIMA heading.
3. Enter you’re MY UH PORTAL username and password where it says login and password.
4. Click on your course, you are automatically entered into your course when you sign up in MY UH PORTAL.
5. Click on either Discussions and Private Messages or Tasks, Tests and Surveys
6. Respond to the Discussions and Private Messages topic, we will go through a test run in the first week of class.
7. If you have clicked on Tasks, Tests and Surveys, then take the appropriate quiz (probably a reading check).

I am a beginner using LAULIMA, so there are bound to be glitches. Please be patient and we will work through them together.

To get to my website, do the following:

1. Go to the WCC homepage http://www.wcc.hawaii.edu/
2. Click on Course and Department pages.
3. Click on webpage for Paul Briggs.
4. There you are!
Getting Started With Laulima (for online course material)

Logging In to Laulima
1. Go to the Laulima login page, which is located at:
   http://laulima.hawaii.edu

2. Log in using your UH ID name and password (or if you are not at UH, log in using the name and password you were provided)

Note: your screen will look different from the one pictured below, with other courses and perhaps other tools (the list on the left side)

Choosing Your Course
You are already a member in all of your credit courses.

On the top bar, select your course.

If the course does not appear, select the "more" button and a full list will appear.

There are many tools that could be available, depending on how your instructors have designed their courses.

You can set up your “My Workspace” by clicking on the “Preferences” tool.

You can enter profile information (such as your name, contact information, picture, and so on) by clicking on the “Profile” tool.