Economics 130 (Online)
Principles of Economics: Microeconomics
Windward Community College
3 Credits – CRN 60027

INSTRUCTOR: Jeremy Dulatre
OFFICE HOURS: Laulima Chatroom: Monday & Wednesday, 8:00am ~ 9:00am
Because this is an online class, the best way to contact me is through email. I am generally available for chat at the times above, but I can also accommodate other times by request.

EMAIL (preferred): jdulatre@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2015

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

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 economic 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. Writing skills
      iii. Ability to formulate a hypothesis.
      iv. Ability to use the scientific method.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.
LEARNING RESOURCES

Internet Access
- Strong and reliable internet access is very important to this class. All of the lessons and assignments are conducted and submitted online, and an internet–accessible computer (with the ability to play audio and video files) is necessary to complete this course.
- Some assignments and tests may require continuous and uninterrupted access to the internet. All students are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient internet access to complete their work in a timely manner.

Internet Browser
- All online materials for this class require an internet browser to view course materials and complete course assignments. Mozilla Firefox is the preferred internet browser for Laulima, but this course should be usable with any internet browser.

PDF Reader
- Some materials that originate from an in–person class are normally printed, such as this syllabus. These materials are available in the Resources section of Laulima in PDF format. In order to view these materials, you will need a PDF Reader, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader for the PC (a separate PDF Reader is not needed for Apple computers).

Laulima <http://laulima.hawaii.edu/>
- Laulima is the University of Hawaii’s course management system. Laulima will be the main tool for class communication, and it will house several vital tools of the class (announcements, gradebook, calendar) and graded components (discussion boards, some quizzes, paper submission).
- All students can access Laulima by logging on with their UH username and password. Students should visit Laulima frequently to stay up–to–date with their class requirements.

Aplia <http://www.aplia.com/>
- Aplia is an online software package for economics courses and will be the main source for economics content and lessons. Aplia is a combination of an online textbook, weekly assignments, and major tests.
- All students are required to purchase an Aplia subscription that provides access to the software for the entire semester. Instructions for purchasing Aplia are provided at the end of this syllabus.

Text
- N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics, Seventh Edition
  Note: This text is available electronically as a part of your Aplia subscription. You are NOT required to purchase a paper copy.
- If you do prefer to also purchase a paper copy, I recommend purchasing an older edition (5th or 6th, including the larger book “Principles of Economics”) from online sources. The price is significantly cheaper and the differences between these versions are minimal.

Email Announcements
- Students are also responsible for reading all e-mails related to the course. Weekly emails are sent every Sunday, providing guidance for the upcoming week’s activities.
- Additional announcements will be sent as necessary, often as mid–week reminders of upcoming assignments or tests.
COURSE TASKS AND REQUIREMENTS

Laulima Discussion Board (10 weeks x 10 pts)
- The purpose of the Laulima Discussion Board questions is to explore some of the overarching philosophical concepts in the weekly lessons. In some ways, the content of this course is directly applicable to today’s world. The discussion board allows us to see how these concepts are present in our actual lives, free of the specific definitions and framework of the lessons.
- Each week’s Discussion Board question requires an initial response. The initial question sometimes has several parts, and a full–credit response will require at least 30 words.
- I will give input and feedback to each initial response, giving follow–up questions and further inquiry. Students need to respond to my follow–up questions, and a full–credit response will require at least 50 words.
- Each student will need to respond to another student’s post. The Discussion Board question will be open–ended, with a variety of interesting answers. A full–credit response to another student’s post will require at least 20 words, and it gives the students a chance to view their classmates’ opinions and generate more discussion.

Textbook Chapters and Lecture Notes (not graded)
- The textbook is available electronically through Aplia, and reading these chapters is vital to success in this class. Economics is not a “common sense” course, and students who attempt the graded assignments without reading the chapters will not perform very well. Reading the textbook is essential to success in this class, especially because the Aplia assignments and tests are based on the information presented in the textbook.
- Even though some lecture notes are available in the Resources section of Laulima, students are strongly advised to take their own notes. Handwritten notes are the best way to ensure that you are truly learning the lessons in the chapters; students who passively read the textbook or lecture notes will be poorly prepared for the assignments and tests.

Aplia Problem Sets (14 assignments x 20 points, open book/notes)
- Aplia Problem Sets are the first way to test your understanding of the material in the chapter. In each week (except test weeks), students are required to complete an Aplia Problem Set before midnight on Saturday night. Aplia Problem Sets will test a variety of concepts in the chapter, using multiple–choice questions.
- Students will have three attempts to do these problem sets, with the best score recorded as the final grade for that assignment. Students are strongly suggested to attempt the problem set once well in advance of the deadline. Aplia uses randomized questions for the problem sets, and the questions change significantly between attempts.

Laulima Graded Quizzes (6 quizzes x 20 points, open book/notes)
- Laulima Graded Quizzes are a comprehensive way to test several related concepts in the course. I authored the Laulima quizzes as a way for students to focus on major themes of the course, and the Graded Laulima Quizzes are highly similar to questions that are found on the midterms and final exam.
- Students will have only one attempt to do these quizzes, although there are (ungraded) practice quizzes, in the exact format as the graded quiz, to prepare for the graded quizzes.
- Students can also prepare for these quizzes by completing a worksheet available in the Resources section of Laulima. These worksheets contain a step–by–step process to complete every part of the upcoming quiz, and I can provide assistance easily through email or the online office hours.
Written Assignments (2 essays x 100 points)

• The purpose of written assignments is to demonstrate applied knowledge, combining the classroom concepts with the events of the world at–large. Written assignments allow the students to show their understanding of economics ideas in the topic of their choice.

• These written assignments emphasize creativity, originality, analytic thought processes, applied knowledge, and lucidity. Polished writing can be achieved after a great deal of rewriting, editing, and revising several drafts, and grades reflect the quality of both the content and the presentation of the writing assignment.

• In order to receive a grade, all written assignments must be submitted to the Laulima Dropbox by the stated deadline. Printed copies of electronic documents are not acceptable and will not be graded. Half credit will be given to late assignments.

• Several examples of written assignments, complete with comments about their strengths and weaknesses, will be available in the resources section of Laulima. Reading these examples (and avoiding their mistakes) is the easiest way to succeed on these article reports. These examples are chosen because they contain common and avoidable errors.

• Each article report will require a full bibliographic citation. Students can use the citation format of their choice, but an incomplete or missing citation will incur a significant penalty. A web address is not a bibliographic citation.

• For article reports that are taken from the local newspaper (Honolulu Star–Advertiser), I will be able to find the article with the web access that comes with my personal subscription. For any other newspaper, I will need a valid, non–subscription web address to read the article described in the written assignment.

• Each assignment will have a required length (measured in words) and a required Flesch–Kincaid Readability score (measured in “grade level”). Minimum requirements in these areas will be printed on the checklist for the writing assignment, and written assignments that fail to meet these standards will be penalized.

• Each written assignment will contain a summary section where students identify economic concepts that occur in the real world. This section should only contain information given in the news article, with no discussion of information gained from outside of the article. Students should discuss only those specific economics concepts that apply directly to the events described in the article.

• Each written assignment will contain an analysis section where students apply economic mechanisms learned in class to the situation described in the article. Once the economics concepts are identified in the summary section, the student should be able to analyze or explain the behaviors or actions taken by the people or companies portrayed in the article.

• Each written assignments will contain an inferences section, where students apply their lessons learned in class to predict future actions or describe the environment outside the scope of the article. This section may contain information taken from outside of the article in order to provide greater context and demonstrate fluency in economics concepts not specifically described in the article.

• Students are highly encouraged to turn in a rough draft of their writing assignment or use the discussion board as a workshop for their ideas. Rough drafts should represent a serious effort at a complete essay, and suggested revisions to the rough draft will provide guidance for a high grade on the final submission.
Midterm Tests (2 tests x 100 points, open book/notes)

- Midterm Tests are a compilation of many economics concepts that represent a major section of the course. Many questions will take the exact same form as the Graded Laulima Quizzes and Aplia Problem Sets, but some questions will test the economics concepts in formats not seen in previous classroom exercises. The purpose of these tests is to ensure retention of the economics concepts, as well as measure a deeper understanding of the material.
- Midterm Tests are administered through Aplia and may include multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank style questions. Tests are timed and broken into two parts, allowing students to take the test in smaller bites.
- Midterm Tests are not cumulative, and all material will come from the chapters in the current unit of study. A breakdown of topics will be available in the Resources section of Laulima, and students are highly encouraged to use the study materials in the Resource section to prepare for the test.

Final Exam (1 test x 100 points, open book/notes)

- The final exam is strictly multiple-choice and administered through Aplia. The final exam requires comprehensive knowledge of all topics contained in the class. The test will be timed and broken into two parts, just like the midterms.
- The first part of the test is cumulative, and questions from previous units will be given in the format of the worksheets and quizzes previously given in the semester.
- The second part of the test relates to the most recent section of the course. The course ends with topics covering “Theory of the Firm,” Cost of Production and Market Structure, and the second part of the final exam will involve these topics exclusively.
- A breakdown of topics will be available in the Resources section of Laulima. The final exam leans very heavily on practice quizzes and worksheets, and students are strongly encouraged to fully understand those resources before starting the test.

GRADING

Grades will be updated weekly, mostly on Wednesdays and Sundays. I will distribute class-wide explanations of the most-missed questions on tests, and I encourage all students to discuss their assignment grades and missed test questions with me through email.

Summary of graded components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laulima Discussion Board</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aplia Problem Sets</td>
<td>(28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laulima Graded Quizzes</td>
<td>(12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Tests</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100%

Grades for this course:

- 90% ~ 100% A
- 80% ~ 89.9% B
- 65% ~ 79.9% C
- 50% ~ 64.9% D
- Below 50% F

The Laulima Gradebook will house the official grades of the class. A few extra credit opportunities are available in the course, mostly within the first two weeks of the class.
Generally speaking, this course will cover one chapter of the book per week. Some chapters are “optional” (and marked with parentheses), and content from these chapters will be included only as extra credit. Students who plan to major in business or economics should explore the optional chapters, as these topics will reappear in later courses.

This course outline is available in the Laulima Calendar. Some changes are possible, but we will likely stick very closely to this schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter(s)</th>
<th>Major Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/24 ~ 8/30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/31 ~ 9/6</td>
<td>Thinking Like an Economist</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/7 ~ 9/13</td>
<td>Comparative Advantage &amp; Trade Graded Laulima Quiz #1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/11, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/14 ~ 9/20</td>
<td>Supply &amp; Demand</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/21 ~ 9/27</td>
<td>International Trade Graded Laulima Quiz #2</td>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>9/25, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Midterm 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>9/26, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/28 ~ 10/4</td>
<td>Elasticity</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/2, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graded Laulima Quiz #3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Assignment #1 (ROUGH DRAFT)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/5 ~ 10/11</td>
<td>Supply, Demand, &amp; Government Policy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/9, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Graded Laulima Quiz #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/12 ~ 10/18</td>
<td>Cost of Taxation</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Design of the Tax System</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Graded Laulima Quiz #5</td>
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<td>10/16, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/19 ~ 10/25</td>
<td>Externalities</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Public Goods</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Assignment #1 (FINAL SUBMISSION)</td>
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<td>10/23, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/26 ~ 11/1</td>
<td>Welfare Economics</td>
<td>(7)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Midterm 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3/21, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/2 ~ 11/8</td>
<td>Cost of Production</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/6, 11:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graded Laulima Quiz #6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/9 ~ 11/15</td>
<td>Perfect Competition</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/16 ~ 11/22</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/23 ~ 11/29</td>
<td>Monopolistic Competition</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/30 ~ 12/6</td>
<td>Oligopoly</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Assignment #2 (ROUGH DRAFT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>12/4, 11:45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/7 ~ 12/10</td>
<td>Income Inequality &amp; Poverty</td>
<td>(20)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Assignment #2 (FINAL SUBMISSION)</td>
<td></td>
<td>12/11, 11:45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>12/11 ~ 12/18</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/17, 11:45pm</td>
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</tbody>
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A TYPICAL WEEK OF CLASS

Weeks of class typically start on Monday and end on Sunday. This follows the format of Aplia (the online book and learning tool) and works pretty well for our purposes. The following outline is a suggestion...there are no graded materials on Sunday or Monday of each week. Also, since this class is conducted online, there are no “holidays” to interrupt the class schedule. Feel free to complete them at your own pace, but be mindful of the weekly deadlines.

Monday
- On Mondays, you should read the weekly announcement, check your grade, and download/print any resources you need for the week. I will hold an online office hours session from 8:00am to 9:00am to answer any questions.
- Also on Mondays, I suggest that you go to the Laulima Discussion Board to answer the week’s discussion question. The initial question will not require any knowledge of the week’s lessons, so you should feel ready to answer the question as soon as it’s available.

Tuesday
- During the middle of the week, you should focus on learning the content of the book chapters. Use the supplemental notes to help you break down some of the more difficult concepts, and look over the practice problems (and practice quizzes) to see if you are on the right track. If you have any questions about the content, feel free to email me or wait for Wednesday’s online office hours.
- Your answer to the initial question in the discussion board is due on Tuesday, so be sure to complete it before midnight in order to get credit.

Wednesday
- By Wednesday, I will look over the discussion board answers and provide input and feedback to your answers. I will also hold an online office hours session from 8:00am to 9:00am to answer any questions about the week’s material.

Thursday ~ Friday
- If you have any questions about the content of the lessons, try to ask them by Thursday. Last–minute questions may not be answered immediately, especially on Saturday.
- Finish all Laulima Graded Quizzes be Friday. These Laulima quizzes are targeted toward a specific type of question from that week's chapter. Use the practice quizzes to help you prepare for the Graded Quizzes, since you only get one chance at each graded quiz.

Saturday
- Finish all Aplia Problem Sets by Saturday. Because you have multiple chances at the Aplia Problem Sets, I suggest trying them once on Friday. This gives you a chance to regroup if you score very poorly the first time.
- Go back to the Laulima Discussion Board for a second round of responses to the week’s question. You must reply to a response to your original post, as well as a post from another one of your classmates. You have until the following Tuesday to complete this second round of posting, but you could get it out of the way before the end of the week.

Sunday
- I will update the gradebook, but there are no requirements for you on Sunday. So you can rest up or prepare for the next week.

The two writing assignments will require additional time and energy on your part. However, with advanced preparation, there is no reason for these assignments to add a significant burden to the workload in the week they are due.
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

I am pleased you are a member of this class and want you to succeed. Success is based in part on understanding and meeting the following expectations:

- As a student in this course, you are a part of a community of learners. One responsibility as a member of this community is to ‘talk’ to other members through our discussion board. You are an important part of my class and you have ideas, experiences, and knowledge that can enrich our online classroom. We need to ‘hear’ your voice and ‘see’ you in the classroom through comments, questions, and responses to the discussion topics.

- Practice good netiquette. Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. The following bullet points cover some basics to communicating online:
  
  o Be sensitive to the fact that there will be cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs, plus just differences in general.
  
  o Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and profanity is also part of being sensitive to your classmates and should be avoided. Also consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
  
  o Don’t use all capital letters when composing your responses as this is considered “shouting” on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
  
  o Be respectful of your others’ views and opinions. Avoid “flaming” (publicly attacking or insulting) them as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of getting all different types of points of view.
  
  o Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
  
  o Use good grammar and spelling, and avoid using text-messaging shortcuts.

- Students are expected to follow the University of Hawai‘i Student Conduct Code, which spells out professional behavior for students matriculating at the UH Community Colleges and 4-year institutions.

UH EMAIL POLICY

The electronic communications policy adopted in December 2005 establishes the University of Hawai‘i Internet service as an official medium for communication among students, faculty, and staff. Every member of the system has a hawaii.edu address, and the associated username and password provide access to essential Web announcements and email.

You are hereby informed of the need to regularly log in to UH email and Web services for announcements and personal mail. Failing to do so will mean missing critical information from academic and program advisors, instructors, registration and business office staff, classmates, student organizations, and others.
CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR (ME)

E-mail and Laulima discussion boards will be the primary sources of communication for the class. Students with questions about the material or the course are strongly encouraged to post them on the discussion boards so that other students may also benefit from the discussion. Students who need to discuss issues directly with the instructor may contact me directly using the contact information at the top of this syllabus.

Please allow 24 hours for responses to e-mails and discussion questions. This means if you have questions, post them early. This is also why you should not wait until the last day to work on assignments. Although questions posted on the day assignments are due will still be answered, I cannot guarantee that they will be answered before the deadline. Although I make an effort to respond as quickly as possible, and definitely within 24 hours, sometimes it does not happen. If a question goes more than 24 hours without a response, do not hesitate to follow-up with the instructor and remind me to respond!

HOW TO ACCESS LAULIMA

You can access Laulima directly by going to https://laulima.hawaii.edu, type your UH username into the "user I.D." box and password into the "password" box in the upper right corner of the screen and click the "Login" button.

If you are a "Guest" and have been invited to log into a Laulima course, log in using your full email address (example: username@mailhost.com) and the password that was sent to you automatically the first time your account was created. For guests only it is encouraged that you use the Account tool in your "My Workspace" tab to change your password to something secure you can remember and to add a first and last name.

If you are logging in via UH username and password, you can also access Laulima via the Quick Links in the MyUH Portal.

There will be a blue tab bar running across the top of web browser window, this is the Course Tabs area where all your registered courses should be listed. If you have multiple courses (more than 5), you should see a "My Active Sites" tab that will give you access to ALL your active courses. Click on a course title to enter that course’s space.

An important note about downtime: Laulima is unavailable on a daily basis from 3:00am-4:00am HST for server backup and maintenance. There are also other occasions where the server needs to be offline and those times will be announced as much ahead of time as possible on Laulima’s main page.

For tutorials about how to use Laulima, please enter “Laulima student tutorials” into your favorite internet search engine (such as Google), which will direct you to the Laulima tutorials on the UH website.

A detailed Laulima is available on the UH website, allowing new users to learn about the Laulima interface using their computer and mouse. To access this orientation, please enter “Laulima student orientation” into your favorite search engine.