

<b>Economics 130 Principles of Economics: Microeconomics 03</b>		
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Paul Briggs	
<b>COURSE CODE:</b>	64089	
<b>MEETING TIMES:</b>	CLASS IS ONLINE	
<b>OFFICE:</b>	Naauao 126	
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Via email. I will respond to you within 24 hours of your email.	
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	236-9218	<b>E-MAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:pbriggs@hawaii.edu">pbriggs@hawaii.edu</a>
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<a href="http://laulima.hawaii.edu">http://laulima.hawaii.edu</a>	
<b>CLASSROOM:</b>	ONLINE	
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	SPRING 2017	

### **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.*

### **WCC DISABILITIES 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 (Ann Lemke) to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, [lemke@hawaii.edu](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by her office (Akoakoa 213) for more information.

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

### **LEARNING RESOURCES:**

**BOOK:** N. Gregory Mankiw (Required), *Principles of Microeconomics, Seventh Edition* (I will accept the sixth edition). Available at WCC Bookstore or Amazon.  
Economics 130 Handout from WCC Bookstore

The textbook is available electronically via the APLIA website ([www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com)) for \$70. 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.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. 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. 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. 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: (20% 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](http://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 approximately \$70, 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 four types of APLIA assignments: PROBLEM SETS, NEWS ANALYSES, EXPERIMENTS and QUIZZES.

- 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 working with APLIA. **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. For each chapter, there will also be a practice problem set for you to work on that will not be graded.

- 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.
- EXPERIMENTS-There will be some EXPERIMENTS that you will be invited to participate in. You have to be present at your computer at the time the EXPERIMENT starts. You do not need to do the EXPERIMENT, but you will be responsible for any PROBLEM SETS in relation to the EXPERIMENT.
- THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR THE APLIA ASSIGNMENTS.

APLIA EXAMS (20% of your grade). There will be 2 timed exams during the course. I will include some APLIA problems on the quizzes. You will have three chances on each problem with the highest score taken. All exams will be given through APLIA. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR THE APLIA EXAMS.**

LAULIMA READING CHECKS: 10% of your grade. I require a reading check for each chapter to be done within a specified period of time on LAULIMA FORUMS. These assignments will be worth 10 points each. You will be required to write a summary of each chapter (50 word min) and then respond to at least one (**one response**) other student's summary (25 words min). The summary will include the main points of the chapter along with anything that you find interesting (i.e real world applications) or confusing about the chapter (**To get full credit, you must address these items**). The summaries will be done on Thursdays and the response will due on Saturday. The responses will be due two days after the summaries are due. The due time will be 11 pm on the specified due date. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

LAULIMA DISCUSSION FORUMS: 20% of your grade. These journal assignments will ask your opinion and/or understanding of some applied areas of economics that we will cover in the course. These journal assignments will be designed to encourage discussion via an Internet forum as there is often not time to cover these areas in class. There will be four of these assignments. Each assignment will be 20 points apiece, with 10 points for a thread posting (start new conversation) and 5 points each for responses to another student's thread posting (**2 responses**). Topic postings need to be at least 50 words in length and responses will be at least 25 words in length. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

INTERVIEWS/PORTFOLIO: 30% 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 two different people, with each person representing a different role in the economy (one person for demand, one person for supply). You will do these interviews at various times during the semester. See the next section of the syllabus for due dates. I will give you a specific handout (part of Laulima Resources) for each 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. Each interview will count for 100 points for a total of 200 points (20% of the total grade, 10% for each interview). You will also turn in a draft for each paper. These drafts will include the hypothesis and interview questions. Each draft will count for 10 points for a total of 20 points (10% of the total grade, 5% for each draft). The first role you will interview for will be a consumer (don't interview yourself, find a friend to interview!).

## SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Item	Percentage of Total Grade (%)
Aplia Problem Sets	20
Exams (done on Aplia)	20
Reading Checks	10
Discussion Forums	20
Interviews	20
Interview Drafts	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading Curve

Percentages	Grade
<b>90-100</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>80-89</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>70-79</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>50-69</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Below 50</b>	<b>F</b>

I know the amount of work in this class may seem overwhelming to you right now, but I will structure the assignments in such a way that you will have plenty of chances to succeed in this course. My style is to have a lot of little assignments as opposed to a few large assignments that consequently put a lot of pressure on your grade. I will always be around to help you complete the assignments in a timely and professional manner.

**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. The textbook (Principles of Microeconomics by Mankiw, Seventh Edition) is available on the Aplia site in an electronic version. Once you have bought the subscription for the APLIA website, you will also have a subscription for the electronic version of the text for the duration of the term.

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

ASSIGNMENT/RESOURCES	LOCATION	DUE DATES AND TIMES
EMAIL COMMUNICATION	MAILTOOL VIA LAULIMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When appropriate</li> </ul>
DISCUSSION FORUMS AND READING CHECKS	FORUMS TAB VIA LAULIMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Threads by Thursday at 11 pm</li> <li>• Post Responses by Saturday at 11 pm</li> </ul>
PROBLEM SETS	APLIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated due date at 11 pm.</li> </ul>
NEWS ANALYSES	APLIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated due date at 11 pm</li> </ul>
READING AND NARRATED LECTURE	MODULES TAB VIA LAULIMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before you do the Problem Set.</li> </ul>
PAPER (Interviews and Interview Drafts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPLOAD VIA LAULIMA DROPBOX</li> <li>• INSTRUCTIONS VIA LAULIMA MODULES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated due date by 11 pm.</li> </ul>
EXAMS	APLIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated due date by 11 pm</li> </ul>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

## HOW YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THIS COURSE:

1. Please read the chapter.
2. Do the APLIA PROBLEM SETS and NEWS ANALYSES by their due dates.  
Remember that you have three chances to do each APLIA PROBLEM SET.
3. Complete any Forum post and responses by the assigned due date.
4. Do the INTERVIEWS and the INTERVIEW DRAFTS by the assigned due date.
5. Please do the exams! You also have three chances to do each exam question,  
since it is in APLIA.

### Use of LAULIMA for Class Assignments

The entire UH system has replaced the old WEBCT course management system with LAULIMA. 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 its former competitor BLACKBOARD and now costs three times as much.

So enough context, we will be using LAULIMA for reading checks and forums that I give you on a frequent basis (both ECON 130 and 131), and to take online quizzes (ECON 130). You will also be taking makeup tests through LAULIMA. 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 the appropriate area in LAULIMA.
6. If you have clicked on Tasks, Tests and Surveys, then take the reading check or the appropriate quiz (either Chapter 5 or Chapter 13) or the makeup exam.
7. Click on Forums to do the LAULIMA Forums.







Economics 130  
Weekly Course Schedule  
SPRING 2017

Week	Dates	Chapters Covered
One	January 9-January 13	Chapter One-Introduction, Intro to Aplia
Two	January 16-January 20	Chapter Two-Thinking Like An Economist
Three	January 23-January 27	Chapter Three-Interdependence and Trade
Four	January 29-February 3	Chapter Four-Supply and Demand
Five	February 6-February 10	Chapter Four
Six	February 13-February 17	Chapter 5-Elasticity
Seven	February 20-February 24	Chapter 5
Eight	February 27-March 3	First Exam (Ch 1-5)
Nine	March 6-March 10	Chapter 10-Externalities, Consumer Interview Due
Ten	March 13-March 17	Chapter 13-Costs of Production
Eleven	March 20-March 24	Chapter 14-Competitive Markets
Twelve	March 27-March 31	Chapter 15-Monopoly
Thirteen	April 3-April 7	Chapter 16-Monopolistic Competition
Fourteen	April 10-April 14	Chapter 17-Oligopoly
Fifteen	April 17-April 21	Producer Interview due on Friday, April 28
Sixteen	April 24-April 28	Chapter 18-Markets for Factors of Production
Seventeen	May 1-May 5 (May 3 is last day of instruction)	Study for Final
Eighteen	May 8-May 12	Final Exam Due.