

**The University of Maine  
School of Economics**

**ECO 410: Accelerated Principles of Economics, Fall 2012**

**COURSE BASICS**

**Instructor Contact Information**

Caroline L. Noblet, School of Economics

Office: 207 Winslow Hall

Phone: (207) 581-3172

Email: Blackboard Mail system

Office Hours: To Be Announced

- During office hours, I will be available to speak with you over the phone. If the line is busy or if I do not pick up the phone, please leave a message and I will return your call.
- Along with these office hours, I will be available for “on-line chats” via Blackboard. Times for these chats, if students express an interest in participating, will be announced on the course website throughout the semester.

Course ID information: ECO 410-0990 (4173) OR ECO 410-P701 (9335)

Secretary: Karen Moffett, 206 Winslow Hall, 581-3154

*Offered on-line via Blackboard through Continuing and Distance Education at the University of Maine*

**Course Information:**

Number of Credit Hours: 3

URL for Course: [www.courses.umaine.edu](http://www.courses.umaine.edu)

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to introduce students to the concepts, terminology and theory of microeconomics and macroeconomics, and demonstrate to students how economic analysis can explain (and contribute to solving) current issues. We will develop an understanding of how markets work to allocate limited resources and will focus on the conditions necessary for an outcome to be efficient (and what it means when those conditions are not met).

**Course Learning Objectives:**

This course may be included in some program of studies for graduate students. However, students should always confirm course acceptance with their program for either undergraduate or graduate degrees.

The objectives of this course include:

- Expand your understanding of the economic relationship existing between individuals, firms and social institutions such as the government.
- Introduce you to essential tools of economic analysis, including equilibrium for markets, optimal choices for individuals and firms, and understanding prominent indicators of economic performance.
- Reveal the important role that economics plays in everyday life – and help you explain everyday phenomena from an economic perspective.

**Course learning outcomes**

Therefore, it is expected that by the end of the semester you should be able to:

- 1) Use the basic terminology of economics, including a brief definition of micro- and macroeconomics.
- 2) Apply the concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost in discussing consumer and firm decision-making.
- 3) Identify market equilibrium, and the impact on consumer and firm welfare.
- 4) Identify changes in supply and demand, and their impact on market equilibrium.
- 5) Discuss demand and supply elasticities, and their impact on consumer, producer and government choices.
- 6) Understand how different market structures affect market equilibrium and welfare outcomes.
- 7) Identify the causes of inflation and recession (and how policies may be used to respond to these circumstances), and how these impact the price level and/or output and employment.
- 8) Explain the origins of money and the role of the banking system in the economy.
- 9) Identify and explain the basic causes of economic expansion and recession.
- 10) Describe and discuss advantages and disadvantages of different economic systems in the world today, including how economic history may impact current decisions.

*The above stated objectives and outcomes address the learning outcome goals for the University of Maine's general education requirement for the area of Social Context and Institutions which state:* Courses included in the Social Contexts and Institutions category focus upon the ways in which social contexts shape and limit human institutions. The specific focus may be upon ways in which social contexts and institutions interact with human values, the role of institutions in expressing cultural values, or the social and ethical dimensions attendant upon particular academic disciplines.

**Required Text and Materials:**

1. Mankiw, N. Gregory. *Essentials of Economics*. Fifth Edition (there is a 6<sup>th</sup>, which is also fine).  
→ Available at University of Maine bookstore and other places where books are sold  
→ Ebooks may also be available for this text at <http://login.cengagebrain.com/>
2. We will be reading popular media (ex: The Economist, Time, Wall Street Journal) but these are all available via the library (on-line or in print), or will be provided.

**Lectures and other course materials will be available via Blackboard  
([www.courses.maine.edu](http://www.courses.maine.edu)).**

## **Special Information for On-Line Course:**

Course Infrastructure and Access: The lectures are available as “streaming videos” via Blackboard. The multiple-choice homework assignments will be completed and submitted via blackboard. For extra credit, or other written assignments, you may complete the assignment using a word processor, and then submit (i.e., cut and paste) the assignment via Blackboard. The midterm exams and final exam will be completed and submitted via Blackboard, they will not be proctored. Students will have one hour to complete each exam. I will post homework and exam grades on Blackboard.

Computer Literacy Requirements: A student will require reliable access to a computer, know how to turn the computer on and reboot when necessary, know how to use the Internet, know how to access Blackboard, know how to send and retrieve email messages, etc. In other words, computer literacy requirements are minimal.

Hardware, Software, and Bandwidth Requirements: You will need reliable access to a reasonably fast computer (i.e., one purchased or upgraded within the last 5 years), software programs that provide access to the Internet and Blackboard, and an Internet connection (e.g., 300K broadband speed or higher) that allows you to view the video lectures.

Contact Information for Technical Support: For technical support or other problems involving Blackboard, please call 1-207-581-4591, or 1-877-947-HELP(4357).

Importance of Time Management: Unlike courses that meet in an on-campus lecture hall or laboratory, this on-line course offers you flexibility on the time of day and day of the week that you view lectures and complete assignments (provided that they are completed prior to the due date). For this reason, good time management skills are particularly important for an on-line course. Please view the introductory video lecture titled “Introduction and Expectations” which provides ideas on time management.

## CLASS PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

### 1. How will I (the student) be graded?

#### Grading Percentages:

**Homework Average: 20% (all homeworks will be completed on blackboard)**

**Exam Average: 80% (exams will be completed on Blackboard)**

Exam 1: 20% due by October 1, 2012

Exam 2: 20% due by October 29, 2012

Exam 3: 20% due by November 26, 2012

Final Exam: 20% due by December 21, 2012

*The course outline shows the material that will be covered on each exam*

➔ SEE THE EXTRA CREDIT SECTION FOR WAYS TO BOOST PORTIONS OF YOUR GRADE!

#### Homework

You will have homework problem sets to be completed during the semester. They will consist of about 20-30 multiple-choice questions/fill in the blank/graphing questions, similar to those used on the exams. You may also be asked to contribute or read articles from popular media for discussion/analysis – these will count towards your grade.

**The course outline shows the material that will be covered on each homework assignment and the due date of each assignment. I do not accept late work.**

#### Exams

There will be four exams this semester. There will be 3 midterms and a final, consisting of about 30 multiple-choice questions similar to the homework (the final will be longer). You will have one hour to complete each exam (except the final). For the exams, Blackboard will be set up to display one question at a time. They will not be proctored

#### Final grades

Final grades will be assigned as follows: A (anything above a 90); B+ (87-89); B (83-86.9); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66); D- (60-62); F (59.9 or less).

### 2. What are the course policies?

#### Emailing Policy

Please be considerate when emailing. Use complete sentences, spell-check and express questions clearly. **Please be sure to use the blackboard mail system.** During the weekdays, I reserve the right to have at least 36 hour turnaround time for answering emails and on weekends, the time will be at least 60 hours.

### Disabilities Policy

Students with disabilities who may need services or accommodations to fully participate in this class should contact Ann Smith, Director Disability Services in 121 East Annex, (voice) 581-2319, (TTY) 581-2325 as early as possible in the semester.

### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism and all forms of misrepresentation in academic work, and is unacceptable at the University of Maine. As indicated in the University of Maine's undergraduate on-line "Student Handbook", plagiarism (the submission of another's work without appropriate attribution) and cheater are violations of the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. An instructor who has probable cause or reason to believe a student has cheated may act upon such evidence, and should report the case to the supervising faculty member or the Department Chair for appropriate action.

### **3. Can I earn extra credit? How?**

There will extra credit: The extra credits have deadlines -- THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT ONCE THAT DEADLINE HAS PASSED! Students can elect to participate, or not – your choice. *Please see the Extra Credit folder on Blackboard to read how extra credit will work in this course.*

### **4. How can I get extra help?**

- *Online Text Book Resources*
  - Our textbook provides many on-line resources for you: go to [www.cengagebrain.com](http://www.cengagebrain.com) and look for 'Free Study Tools'.
- *Ask me questions*
- *On campus students:* The School of Economic Lab and Advising Center in 305 Stevens Hall offers assistance (schedule of hours will be posted).

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

Given that this is a pre-MBA level, online course, I have built in a little flexibility. I have indicated what homework assignments pertain to what material on a week by week basis; I strongly recommend you complete each homework assignment during the week it is listed.

However, the flexibility is that homeworks associated with material covered on each exam are \*\*due the Friday before each exam (except the final)\*\*. This allows you to use homework in your studying. For example, while I recommend you complete homework 1 during week 1 (9/3) – it is not due until Friday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm, and then Exam 1 is due Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30pm.

**IMPORTANT: I do not accept late work. Please be aware of deadlines for our class. You are welcome to complete material early, but not late.**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**SEE BLACKBOARD 'WEEK BY WEEK' FOLDER (IN COURSE MATERIALS)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
<i>(1) The Building Block of Economics and Applications</i>			
Pre-Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction and Expectations</li> </ul>	None	None
Week 1: 9/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First Principles of Economics</li> <li>▪ Market and Fundamental Questions</li> <li>▪ Production Possibilities Frontier</li> </ul>	Chap 1, Chap 2,	Homework 1
Week 2: 9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demand &amp; Supply</li> <li>▪ Market Equilibrium</li> </ul>	Chap 4, 6, 7	Homework 2
Week 3: 9/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demand Elasticity</li> <li>▪ Supply Elasticity</li> </ul>	Chap 5	Homework 3
Week 4: 9/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taxes &amp; Surpluses</li> </ul>	Chap 8	Homework 4
<b>DUE DATES</b>	<p align="center">*HW due Friday 9/28 *Exam #1 due by Monday October 1 at 11:30pm</p>		<b>Exam #1 and all above homework due</b>

<i>(2) Microeconomics: Firm Behavior and Market Structure</i>			
Week 5 10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market Failure 1 Externalities</li> <li>▪ Market Failure 2</li> </ul>	Chap 10, 11	Homework 5
Week 6: 10/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Firm Behavior Short Run</li> <li>▪ Firm Behavior Long Run</li> </ul>	Chap 12	Homework 6
Week 7: 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market Structure and Competition</li> <li>▪ Competitive Markets 2</li> </ul>	Chap 13	Homework 7
Week 8: 10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monopoly</li> <li>▪ Monopoly and Price Discrimination</li> </ul>	Chap 14	Homework 8
<b>DUE DATES</b>	<p align="center">*HW due Friday 10/26 *Exam #2 due by Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 pm</p>		<b>Exam #2 and all above homework due</b>
<i>(3) Fundamentals of Macroeconomics</i>			
Week 9 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Macro Fundamentals and Gross Domestic Product</li> </ul>	Chap 15	Homework 9

Week 10: 11/5	▪ Real vs. Nominal GDP, Consumer Price Index and Economic Indicators	Chap 16	Homework 10
Week 11: 11/12	▪ Business Cycles and Unemployment	Chapter 20	
Week 12: 11/19	▪ Monetary Policy and Inflation	Chap 21, 22	Homework 11
<b>DUE DATES</b>	<b>*HW due 11/23 *Exam #3 due by Monday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 pm</b>		<b>Exam #3 and all above homework due</b>
<i>(4) Macroeconomics: The Role for Government</i>			
Week 13: 11/26	▪ Aggregate Demand and Supply	Chapter 23	<i>Note: Thanksgiving break is 11/21-25</i>
Week 14: 12/3	▪ The influence of policy on demand (Fiscal Policy)	Chapter 24	Homework 12
Week 15: 12/10	▪ Final Exam Review		
<b>DUE DATES</b>	<b>*Homework AND Final Exam due by Friday December 21 by 11:30pm</b>		<b>Final Exam and all above homework due</b>

**\*\* Instructor reserves the right to modify the contents of this syllabus during the semester\*\***