

Introduction to Microeconomics

ECO 203-F, 3 Credit Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Harper Center Room 2073

Fall 2025

Instructor:

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Office:

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Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Or by appointment
Open-door policy

COBA's Mission:

Guided by our Jesuit Heritage, we form leaders who promote justice and use their business education to improve the world

Catalog Description:

Nature of economics and the economic problem. Principles and problems of resource allocation and income distribution in a market economy with special reference to the American economic system; basic microeconomics of the household, firm and product and factor markets.

Course Objectives:

To develop the “economic way of thinking”, to learn the fundamental concepts of microeconomics, to begin to apply these concepts to your decision-making, and to understand the decisions made by others.

Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will understand how social scientists examine the world.
2. The student will understand basic economic concepts including scarcity and choice, opportunity cost, marginal analysis, comparative advantage.
3. To develop the student's understanding of the neoclassical theory of microeconomic supply and demand.
4. To help the student see the relevance of microeconomic theory to current issues in government and society.
5. The student will understand the differences between various market structures.

6. The student will understand the circumstances under which the market system will not provide an efficient solution.
7. The student will understand patterns of trade, gains from trade, and the consequences of trade policy.

Course Information

Course Pages:

Materials for this course will be available via BlueLine and MindTap. You are encouraged to check BlueLine regularly, as supplemental material will be posted during the semester.

Textbook:

Microeconomics: Private & Public Choice, Gwartney, Stroup, Sobel, and Macpherson. Cengage Learning, 17th Edition, 2022, ISBN-13: 9780357134115.

Required Material:

MindTap for *Microeconomics: Private & Public Choice*, 17th edition (access through BlueLine); *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* (available free through Creighton – link [here](#)).

To register for MindTap, go to BlueLine and find the module “Getting Started With MindTap.” Then click “Click Here to Register for MindTap” and follow the prompts. Further help can be found under “Cengage Technical Support.” You can also follow the instructions [here](#) to register as well.

Pre-requisites and Time Commitment:

No prerequisites. Nine hours of time commitment per week (class time, reading, quizzes, studying, etc.).

Teaching Method and Class Format:

Lecture.

Grading:

Assignments/Exams	Percent of Grade
Literature Review	10%
Attendance/Quizzes	15%
HW	25%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Literature Review:

You will be asked to write a 1000-to-1200-word (12 pt. Times New Roman font; single or double spaced) literature review on an economic topic or research question of your choice. **This will be due by email after the Fall Recess break on 10/19 by 11:59 PM.** You must only include peer reviewed and published sources in this literature review. You will need to include in-text citations and a list references at the end of your paper. Any citation style is fine (APA, Chicago, etc.) To search for articles, you can use Google Scholar, EconLit, Business Source Complete, etc. (the latter two are available through the university [here](#)). **Email me the topic or question you choose by 09/30.**

On AI: usage of AI platforms such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini WILL be permitted for this project. However, if you choose to use these platforms to help in your writing, I ask that you submit your original work and the AI altered version along with it. You will not lose points for doing this. Writing is not an easy skill to develop, and it requires practice, but AI is a tool that is here to stay. Learning to use it productively will be our challenge going forward. Any sources discovered through AI “deep research” functions must be verified as accurate by the student, and the student is expected to have an understanding of the material they cite. In grading these assignments, I will be looking for the veracity of the sources cited and how they are represented in the context of the literature review.

Attendance Policy/Quizzes:

You are expected to come to every class and as such attendance will be taken every class by a sign-in sheet. Additionally, there will be an unannounced quiz each week either Tuesday or Thursday on either the reading for the class that day, or the pre-class video/audio assignments on BlueLine. These quizzes are to incentivize you to read the chapters as well as watch/listen to the pre-class assignments. I will drop the two lowest quiz scores, which includes those you missed. The quizzes will only be held at the beginning of class and cannot be made up without an excused absence.

Homework:

There will be homework each week a chapter is concluded. For each question area on a homework assignment: (1) you are allowed up to three attempts and (2) are graded based on the attempt with the highest score. **Homework can be found on the class BlueLine and must be submitted by the dates specified in the syllabus by 11:59 PM.** Once you begin a homework assignment, until it is completed you can take as long as you like (within the availability window) and even log-out and then come back to it later. But once the availability window closes (**on Sunday 11:59 PM**) no more work can be done.

The due dates for each HW assignment are listed below:

HW	Due	HW	Due
Ch 1	2025/08/24	Project	2025/10/19
Ch 2	2025/08/31	Ch 9	2025/10/26
Ch 6	2025/09/07	Ch 10	2025/11/02
Ch 3	2025/09/14	Ch 11	2025/11/09
Ch 4	2025/09/21	Ch 5	2025/11/16
Ch 7	2025/09/28	Ch 16	2025/11/23
Ch 8	2025/10/12		

Exams:

There will be only one **midterm on 10/02 during normal class hours**. The **final exam for this section (Section F) will be on 12/12 from 8:00 AM to 9:40 AM** in our regular classroom (the final exam schedule can be found [here](#)). The midterm is worth 25% of your grade and will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 and any other class material. The final exam is also worth 25% of your grade and **will NOT be cumulative**, covering only chapters 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 16 and any other class material covered from the midterm onward.

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. A basic (non-programmable) calculator is suggested for the exam. Phones are not calculators.

You may not leave the room during an exam. In the event you cannot attend an exam due to health concerns, reasonable accommodations will be made.

Policy on Make-Up Exams/Quizzes:

Make-up examinations will be administered only for university excused absences and in cases of emergency, as deemed by the instructor. In the event that a student misses an exam due to a university-sponsored event or a religious holy day observance, the student must contact me a week prior to the exam and provide me with any necessary documentation.

Extra Credit:

You can obtain one point of extra credit for each MCEI event you attend. The MCEI will be hosting “Food for Thought” seminars with guest speakers. The schedule for these talks is [here](#). To get the extra credit you must write a 250–300-word (12 pt. Times New Roman font; single or double spaced) summary of your thoughts on the talk, or just a summary of the talk itself. **This summary must be written in your own words; use of AI will not be permitted.** If you attend all four seminars during the semester, you will obtain an additional extra credit point on top of the four points earned, for a total of five possible points.

MCEI also offers other events students can participate in, such as the PPE Reading Group (you can read about and apply [here](#)), and the Student Colloquia (you can read about and apply [here](#)). These will be both intense in the reading load and participation expectation. If you intend to

apply, please carefully read the details before you do. If you decide to participate in either of these multi-day events you will earn five points of extra credit for each, in addition to any other extra credit you earn for the Food for Thought talks.

Use of Electronics in Class:

Use of laptops and tablets for notetaking is permitted, provided you are not causing a nuisance to other students in the classroom. **Use of phones is not.**

Grade Scale:

I will update all grades on BlueLine, and I expect you to check your grades weekly to ensure any issues or missed assignments are addressed promptly. If you think that there is a mistake in your grade, send me an email as soon as possible.

Grade	Interpretation (per Creighton University Catalog)	Grade Percentage
A	Outstanding	94-100
A-	Outstanding	90-93
B+	Good	87-89
B	Good	84-86
B-	Good	80-83
C+	Satisfactory	77-79
C	Satisfactory	74-76
C-	Inferior, but passing	70-73
D	Inferior, but passing	60-69
F	Failure	59 and below

Please Note – The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus as time and circumstances dictate. Necessary changes will be announced in class and a copy of the revised syllabus will be posted on BlueLine.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Date	Unit
Week 1	2025/08/19	Introduction/Syllabus
	2025/08/21	Chapter 1(The Economic Approach)
Week 2	2025/08/26	Chapter 2 (Some Tools of the Economist)
	2025/08/28	Chapter 2 (Some Tools of the Economist)
Week 3	2025/09/02	Chapter 6 (Economics of Political Action)
	2025/09/04	Chapter 6 (Economics of Political Action)
Week 4	2025/09/09	Chapter 3 (Demand, Supply, and the Market Process)
	2025/09/11	Chapter 3 (Demand, Supply, and the Market Process)
Week 5	2025/09/16	Chapter 4 (Demand and Supply: Applications and Extensions)
	2025/09/18	Chapter 4 (Demand and Supply: Applications and Extensions)
Week 6	2025/09/23	Chapter 7 (Consumer Choice and Elasticity)
	2025/09/25	Chapter 7 (Consumer Choice and Elasticity)
Week 7	2025/09/30	Review
	2025/10/02	Midterm (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)
Week 8	2025/10/07	Chapter 8 (Costs and the Supply of Goods)
	2025/10/09	Chapter 8 (Costs and the Supply of Goods)
Week 9	2025/10/14	Fall Recess
	2025/10/16	Fall Recess
Week 10	2025/10/21	Chapter 9 (Price Takers and the Competitive Process)
	2025/10/23	Chapter 9 (Price Takers and the Competitive Process)
Week 11	2025/10/28	Chapter 10 (Price Searcher with Low Entry Barriers)
	2025/10/30	Chapter 11 (Price Searcher with High Entry Barriers)
Week 12	2025/11/04	Chapter 11 (Price Searcher with High Entry Barriers)
	2025/11/06	Chapter 5 (Difficult Cases, and the Role of Government)
Week 13	2025/11/11	Chapter 16 (International Trade)
	2025/11/13	Chapter 16 (International Trade)
Week 14	2025/11/18	Chapter 13 (Earnings, Productivity, and the Job Market)
	2025/11/20	Chapter 15 (Income Inequality and Poverty)
Week 15	2025/11/25	SEA Conference Travel (OFF)
	2025/11/27	Thanksgiving
Week 16	2025/12/02	Special Topic 8 (The Economics of Health Care)
	2025/12/04	Review
Week 17		Final Exam at 8 to 9:40 AM for Tues/Thurs Class at
	2025/12/12	9:30-10:45 AM (Chapters 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16)

Creighton Force Majeure Policy:

Creighton University may modify, suspend, or postpone any and all activities and services immediately and without notice because of force majeure causes beyond Creighton's control and occurring without its fault or negligence including, but not limited to, acts of god, fire, war, governmental action, terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, weather, national emergencies, or other threats to the safety of students or staff. Creighton may, at its option, alter the academic schedule or provide alternate instruction modalities to meet course objectives and competencies and program outcomes, including, but not limited to, distance or remote learning, until such time as Creighton determines normal operations may resume safely.

Statement on Student Accessibility Services:

Students who believe they may qualify or have questions regarding academic accommodations in class are encouraged to visit the website (<https://www.creighton.edu/student-success/student-accessibility-services>) or contact Student Accessibility Services at SAS@creighton.edu. Accommodations are not applied retroactively. Once accommodations are granted from Student Accessibility Services, students are responsible for informing their professors of approved academic accommodations. Accommodation letters are generated and shared with faculty via ClockWork, an accommodation software system. Unless approved by the instructor with written permission, students with accommodations who take exams in the testing center should make every effort to schedule their exams for the same day/time as the in-class exam. Students taking an exam during an alternate day/time should receive approval from the instructor to do so.

Policy on Academic Misconduct:

The Heider College of Business, in alignment with the University mission, seeks to prepare its students to be knowledgeable, forthright, and honest. We expect members of the College to act with integrity in all academic pursuits. Further, we expect all faculty, staff, and students to work collectively to uphold a culture of integrity and eliminate conditions that may give rise to misconduct. For these reasons, the College has established an Academic Misconduct Policy in accordance with the University's regulation on academic misconduct and disciplinary procedures, which are found in the University Catalog and Student Handbook. The Heider College's policy is posted [here](#).

Generative Artificial Intelligence Authorized use Policy:

As future professionals, you will encounter and benefit from these technologies throughout your careers. However, to ensure you develop strong writing skills and a deep understanding of the course material, certain limitations on the use of AI are necessary. The primary goal is to enhance your ability to think critically and communicate effectively—skills that will provide value in all aspects of your lives.

In this course, you may use AI tools for your learning, just as you can collaborate with your peers for things such as brainstorming, getting feedback, revising, or editing of your own work. However, unless it is specifically allowed as part of an assignment, you may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own, and you may not use AI to write any portion of your assignments for you.

Remember bias is embedded in the creation of these systems; it is also possible you may encounter harmful language and ideas. AI platforms can produce inaccurate or false information. It is important that you research any information and sources provided by an AI tool on your own to verify its accuracy. Many of these tools also retain the rights to use your information and the content shared with them in a variety of ways, so also consider possible privacy and copyright issues.

Cite all AI tools when used or referred to in assigned work. See [How to Cite ChatGPT](#) from the APA for examples. Identify the way it contributed to your work. For example, you can include a statement that you asked an AI tool to identify any grammatical or spelling errors in your writing, or that you used it to find thought starters for your assignment. Any unauthorized use of generative AI tools for preparing written assignments—as indicated, for example, by the AI detection tool in Turnitin—will be considered a violation of the University and College academic misconduct policies and will result in disciplinary action.

Statement on Student Wellbeing:

All members of Creighton University recognize that you, as students, may experience stressors that can impact both your academic experience and personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, mental health, alcohol or other drugs, relationships, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. If the source of your stressors is academic, please contact me so that we can find solutions together. For other concerns, Creighton University offers many resources including Student Counseling Services, The Student Success Center, Student Accessibility Services, Student Health Education and Compliance, The Office for Student and Family Support, The Financial Aid Office, The Creighton Cupboard, The Student Leadership and Involvement Center, The VIP Center, The Creighton Intercultural Center, and so many more. All can be found on Creighton University’s website or you can just ask.

It is the intent of the faculty and staff to support you. In the event I suspect you need additional support I will express my concerns and the reasons for them and share resources that might be helpful. It is not my intention to know the details of what might be going on, but simply to let you know I am concerned and that help, if needed, is available.

Congrats on making it to the end of the syllabus! If you made it here, please send me an email with a picture of a cute cat or dog (can be yours or anyone else’s) for 2 whole points of extra credit! (This offer is only available until 11:59 PM on 08/24.)