

COURSE SYLLABUS

Honors ECON 201

Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2022

Course Introduction

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: none

Instructors: Monica Moses, Graduate Instructor, Economics Department

Cathleen Johnson, Ph.D. Economics, Assistant Chair, Economics Department

Class Meets: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 11:30am-12:45pm

We will meet in OGLEBAY HALL RM. 110, as well as ONLINE AS NEEDED.

**In the case of an online class, I will notify you the class prior to the online meeting.*

**You will receive an email with the Zoom link prior, as well.*

Course Introduction: This course is designed to introduce WVU students to the principles of microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of the behavior of individual economic units, such as households and business firms, and of their interactions in markets. Almost 100 years ago, the economist Alfred Marshall described microeconomics as the study of men and women in the “everyday business of life.”

Faculty Contact Information

Office Hours: ZOOM - 11:30-12:45pm Mondays & Wednesdays

Link: <https://wvu.zoom.us/j/95247902387>

Additional Office Hours: The large section of ECON201 holds office hours every day. These can be found on our eCampus page under “LIVE Help Hours.”

Communication Policy: If you have any questions about the course content or activities at any point in the course, please save them for class or come to office hours. I expect class to end a bit early each day. Students are expected to communicate questions about grades, course requirements, and content in a live setting. I am available daily during the week from 11:30-12:45pm Monday-Thursday.

Additional email communication is reserved for students who absolutely cannot make our hours throughout the week, or require an appointment to discuss extenuating circumstances or grades. Email should be directed to the instructor, mmm0110@mix.wvu.edu, with the subject line, “Econ 201, request for an appointment.”

I will reply to emails within one business day! On the weekends and/or breaks, I cannot guarantee a response in the same day but will answer within 72 hours (max!).

Instructional Materials

Required Instructional Materials:

Reading the text is highly encouraged. I have selected the Openstax Microeconomics text. All relevant sections of the text are uploaded to **TopHat** (www.tophat.com) and associated with relevant and required videos and self-check quizzes. You may download the whole book here:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-microeconomics-2e>

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the **Packback Questions** (packback.co) platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. (*see below*)

Optional Instructional Materials:

Each module will contain numerous instructional videos related to concepts helpful to answering the questions in the problem sets and exams. These are not truly optional. Students are expected to watch the videos, check for their understanding with the included topical quizzes, and keep up with the reading for each module. If you do these things and attend the online sessions, you will have the opportunity to learn quite a lot in this class. Graded Quizzes and Assignment questions will be directly and indirectly related to the reading, Tophat “quizzes”, session discussion, and video content.

Course Learning Outcomes

The course will introduce students to the university-level study of microeconomic principles and the application of those principles to the world around them. Having completed this course:

- 1) Students can investigate economic relationships using graphical analysis.
 - 2) Students can state the basic theories behind consumer behavior (demand) and producer behavior (supply) constrained by the scarcity of valuable resources.
 - 3) Students can analyze how world events affect market equilibrium prices and quantities using supply and demand.
 - 4) Students can describe the role of prices and profit and loss in coordinating economic activity.
 - 5) Students can describe the nature of competition in markets.
 - 6) Students can assess the efficiency of competitive market outcomes relative to alternative arrangements.
 - 7) Students can outline the theory of the firm and its implications for prices and production under both perfect and imperfect competition, including monopoly.
 - 8) Students can solve simple analyses of markets for production inputs, including labor and capital.
 - 9) Students can examine the potential roles for government in the economy.
 - 10) Students can explain externalities and where and when they are likely to occur.
 - 11) Students can analyze outcomes associated with government interventions into markets.
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Assessment

Short Descriptions of and Grading Criteria for Major Assignments/Assessments:

The class runs from January 11th - April 28th. The final exam is scheduled during the week of May 2nd - 6th.

Participation Grades. There are 15 modules of content. Two or three modules are assigned at a time. Tophat module checks are graded based on completion. Each module contains the following:

- Readings (Tophat)
- Videos (Tophat),
- Checks for understanding (short “quizzes” in Tophat), and
- Participation (Packback).

Every Sunday at 11:59 p.m. at least one module is due in Tophat.

Every other Friday at 11:59 p.m. participation in Packback is due (One original question and two responses). More on Packback below.

Quizzes and Graded Assignments. There are five quizzes and four graded assignments. In addition, being an honors course you will be required one writing assignment at some point in the semester (this will be announced further along into the semester). The final exam is comprehensive and may substitute for a missed quiz. If you are pleased with your quiz grades, the final may be considered optional. If you score lower than your lowest quiz on the final exam, it will not substitute for your low quiz grade. We recommend doing all the graded quizzes to reduce the pressure on requiring a high-performance on the final exam. The best three of four graded assignments will be used to calculate your final grade. If you are pleased with your first three assignment grades, you may forego completing Assignment #4. Graded assignments will be administered in class.

Weight/Distribution of Course Points:

GRADE DISTRIBUTION	Relative Weights without Final	With Final Exam
Checks for understanding (Tophat)	5%	5%
Original questions and responses (Packback)	15%	15%
Graded Assignments (best 3 of 4)	30%	30%
Honors Writing Assignment (TO BE ANNOUNCED)	5%	5%
Quizzes (5)	45%	35%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	0%	10%
Total	100%	100%

Expected Timeline of Major Assignments/Assessments and Topics/Units:

Note:

- All quizzes and graded assignments will be IN CLASS on THURSDAYS.
 - For anyone who may have extenuating circumstances, if you let me know ahead of time you may schedule a make-up during the SAME week of the class quiz/assignment.
 - **IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT ME BEFORE 4PM THE DAY PRIOR TO THE MISSED QUIZ/ASSIGNMENT, A MAKE-UP WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.**
- All Packback deadlines are FRIDAYS at 11:59 p.m.
- All Tophat deadlines are on SUNDAYS at 11:59 p.m.
- I RECOMMEND completing both Packback and Tophat during the week by Friday night! Tophat's Sunday deadline is for anyone who may need extended time that week on the content, but I don't recommend completing it all last minute.

SPRING 2022 TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE *subject to change throughout the semester*

January 10 – 16	<i>10 – First day of WVU spring semester 10 – Open modules 1 & 2 (Intro and economic concepts) 11 – First class, housekeeping discussed 13 – Lecture 14 – Last day to register, add new courses, make changes, change pass/fail/audit</i>
January 17 – 23	<i>17 – University Holiday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day 18 – Sign up for Packback and Tophat by today 18 – Lecture 20 – Lecture 21 – Packback #1 due (1 question 2 responses) by 11:59pm 23 – Tophat modules 1 & 2 due by 11:59pm</i>
January 24 – 30	<i>24 – Open Modules 3-5 (Equilibrium, demand, and supply) 25 – Review 27 – QUIZ 1 TODAY (modules 1 & 2) in class 30 – Tophat module 3 due by 11:59pm</i>
January 31 – February 6	<i>1 – Lecture 3 – Lecture 4 – Packback #2 due by 11:59pm 6 – Tophat module 4 due by 11:59pm</i>
February 7 – 13	<i>8 – Lecture 10 – GRADED ASSIGNMENT #1 IN CLASS 13 – Tophat module 5 due by 11:59pm</i>
February 14 – 20	<i>15 – Go over assignment #1 // review 17 – QUIZ 2 TODAY (modules 3, 4, & 5) in class 18 – Packback #3 due today</i>
February 21 – 27	<i>21 – Open modules 6 – 8 (Elasticity, applications of elasticity, and markets) 22 – Lecture 24 – Lecture 27 – Tophat module 6 due by 11:59pm</i>

February 28 – March 6	1 – Lecture 3 – GRADED ASSIGNMENT #2 IN CLASS 4 – Packback #4 due today 4 – mid-check grades due 6 – Tophat module 7 due by 11:59pm
March 7 – 13	8 – Go over assignment #2 // review 10 – QUIZ 3 TODAY (modules 7 & 8) in class 12 – First day of spring break 13 – Tophat module 8 due by 11:59pm
March 14 – 20	14 – Open module 9 (Price Controls) 14 – Last day to drop a class // withdrawal from the University 15 – NO CLASS 17 – NO CLASS 18 – PACKBACK #5 DUE TODAY
March 21 – 27	21 – Open module 10 (Monopoly) 22 – Lecture 24 – Lecture 27 – Open module 11 (Monopolistic Competition/ Oligopolies) 27 – Tophat modules 9 & 10 due by 11:59pm
March 28 – April 3	29 – Lecture 31 – GRADED ASSIGNMENT #3 IN CLASS 1 – Packback #6 due today 3 – Tophat module 11 due by 11:59pm
April 4 – 10	5 – In-class assignment #3 today 7 – NO CLASS TODAY 10 – Tophat module 11 due by 11:59pm
April 11 – 17	11 – Open modules 12, 13, 14, & 15 (Price Discrimination / Taxes / Labor Market) 12 – Lecture – finish lecture on market structures 14 – Lecture – review for quiz #4 15 – Packback #7 due today 15 – University Holiday
April 18 – 24	19 – QUIZ 4 TODAY IN CLASS 21 – GRADED ASSIGNMENT #4 IN CLASS 24 – Tophat module 12 & 13 due by 11:59pm
April 25 – May 1	26 – Go over assignment #4 // FINISH ANY MODULE 12-14 CONTENT 28 - last minute final exam review 29- FINAL PACKBACK #8 DUE TONIGHT 29 – Last day of classes 1 – TOPHAT MODULES 14 & 15 DUE BY 11:59PM
May 2 – 5	Final Examination Week 5 – Thursday 5/5 from 8am-10am Final Exam for ECON201

Final Grading Scale:

The course grade will be assigned with the following distribution.

Percentage	Grade
98% +	A+
90% and above	A
80% - 89.9%	B
70% - 79.9%	C
60% - 69.9%	D
less than 59.9%	E/F

Tophat:

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) system for this class.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PURCHASE TOPHAT PRO. THE FREE TRIAL WILL NOT LAST LONG ENOUGH FOR THIS COURSE.

Unique Course URL: <https://app.tophat.com/e/198514/>

Course Join Code: 198514

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Packback:**Discussion Each Week - deadline every other week****Packback Questions**

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you

can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Packback Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward 15% of your overall course grade. There will be a Bi-Weekly Friday at 11:59PM EST deadline for submissions

In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, worth 33.33% of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, worth 66.67% of each assignment grade

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"

Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.

2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.

Community Lookup Key: **7aa95697-9da5-43bc-aa00-a7b67a26f237**

3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback will require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

Course and Institutional Policies

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is encouraged. Quiz and graded assignments require mandatory attendance. In extenuating circumstances, you may contact me prior to 4pm the day before to schedule a make-up.

Participation Policy:

Participation is required for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Late Assignment and Missed Exam Policy:

All the materials for this course are posted in advance, only sanctioned absences will be considered for early release of materials/exams. Sanctioned absences require advance notice before 4pm the prior evening.

Academic Integrity:

The following free tutorials allow students to better understand academic integrity at WVU. If you are unfamiliar with WVU policies concerning Academic Integrity, the University has produced a couple of easy-to-follow tutorials. The following free tutorials allow students to better understand academic integrity at WVU.

- [WVU Academic Integrity Tutorial](#)
- [WVU Plagiarism Avoidance Tutorial](#)

Institutional Policies:

Students are responsible for reviewing [policies](#) on inclusivity, academic integrity, incompletes, sale of course materials, sexual misconduct, adverse weather, as well as student evaluation of instruction, and days of special concern/religious holiday statements.