

Portland State University
EC 201: Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2004
Leopoldo Rodriguez

Office hours:

Cramer Hall 241Q
M W & F: 9:30 to 10:15 am

Class:

Cramer Hall 150
M W & F: 10:15 to 11:20 am

Appointments: 503-725-3929 or leopoldo@pdx.edu

Course Description:

Students will become familiar with concepts central to the study of economics, acquiring in the process the ability to view issues from an economist's perspective. The course content includes opportunity cost, demand and supply, elasticities, consumer choice theory, production and market structures, efficiency, the labor market and comparative advantage. In addition, students will be exposed to perspectives critical of mainstream theories.

Grading:

Homework	20% (2% each)
2 midterm exams	40% (20% each)
Final exam	40%

Assignment	Format	Lectures	Date
Homework	WebCT m. choice	Week's topics	Every weekend until Monday at 10:00 am
Midterm Exam 1	WebCT m. choice	Weeks 1 to 4	Fr April 23, noon to M April 26, 10:00 AM
Midterm Exam 2	WebCT m. choice	Weeks 5 to 7	Fr May 14, noon to M May 17, 10:00 AM
Final Exam	In class m. choice	All	Wednesday, June 9 th from 10:15 to 12:05

Computer Use:

This course will make use of WebCT. You will use a browser to access course information, do homework and take exams (you must enable cookies to enter WebCT). Your WebCT username will be the same as you Odin computer account username (e.g., smithj). Your WebCT password will be the last four digits of your PSU ID number (NOT the same as your Odin password). If you do not have an Odin account, please create one as soon as possible at www.account.pdx.edu/setup. To access the course on WebCT go to www.webct.pdx.edu. If you experience problems call the HelpDesk at 725-HELP or contact me.

Materials:

Joseph Stiglitz and Carl Walsh, *Principles of Microeconomics*, 3rd edition, Norton, NY, 2002.
Amy Offner and Chris Tilly (Eds.), *Real World Micro*, 11th edition, Dollars and Sense, Cambridge, MA, 2003.

Course Civility:

I encourage class discussion and want you to ask me questions during class time. However, I will not tolerate conversations or whispering between students or any other distractive behavior. I also have no tolerance for academic dishonesty. If I detect that a student has cheated in an exam or homework, he/she will be penalized with an F in the course, no matter how small the offense.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact me immediately to facilitate arranging academic accommodations.

Lecture Schedule

Week 1		
Monday, March 28	Introduction to Economics	JS Chapter 1
Wednesday, March 30	Methodology and Scarcity	JS Chapter 2; AO Article 1.1
Friday, April 2	Production Possibilities Frontier	JS Chapter 2; AO Article 1.2
Week 2		
Monday, April 5	Trade	JS Chapter 3; AO Article 1.3 & 1.4
Wednesday, April 7	Demand	JS Chapter 4
Friday, April 9	Shifts in demand	JS Chapter 4
Week 3		
Monday, April 12	Supply and market equilibrium	JS Chapter 4; AO Articles 2.1 to 2.4
Wednesday, April 14	Price elasticity of demand	JS Chapter 5
Friday, April 16	Other elasticities	JS Chapter 5
Week 4		
Monday, April 19	Consumer choice theory	JS Chapter 6 including appendix
Wednesday, April 21	Consumer equilibrium	JS Chapter 6; AO Articles 3.1 to 3
Friday, April 23	Production	JS Chapter 7
Week 5		
Monday, April 26	Costs of Production	JS Chapter 7; AO Articles 4.1 & 4.2
Wednesday, April 28	Perfect competition	JS Chapter 8; AO Articles 4.3 & 4.4
Friday, April 30	Perfect competition in long run	JS Chapter 8; AO Articles 4.3 & 4.4
Week 6		
Monday, May 3	Efficiency	JS Chapter 10
Wednesday, May 5	Imperfect markets	JS Chapter 11; AO Articles 5.1, 5.2
Friday, May 7	Monopoly and regulation	JS Chapters 12 & 13; AO Art. 5.3 & 7.1
Week 7		
Monday, May 10	Role of the state	JS Chapters 13
Wednesday, May 12	Labor as input	JS Chapter 9; AO Art. 5.4 & 5.5
Friday, May 14	Labor control	JS Chapter 9; AO Articles 6.1 to 6.4
Week 8		
Monday, May 17	Labor Unions	JS Chapters 15; AO Art. 7.6
Wednesday, May 19	Income distribution	JS Chapter 16; AO Articles 6.5 to 6.7
Friday, May 21	Government finances	JS Chapter 16
Week 9		
Monday, May 24	Environment	JS Chapter 21; AO Art. 7.2 to 7.5 & 7.7
Wednesday, May 26	Trade Policy	JS Chapter 18; AO Articles 8.1 to 8.6
Friday, May 28	NAFTA	
Week 10		
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day	
Wednesday, June 2	Catch up / Review	
Friday, June 4	Catch up / Review	