

Econ 1014
Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2019

Instructor: Eric Parsons
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Economics Department
231 Professional Bldg.
ParsonsES@missouri.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 2-3pm
(and by appointment)

Why Economics?

The discipline of economics provides a rigorous and scientific approach to addressing the most important local, national, and global issues of our times. Economic relations not only shape social and political institutions but are also the primary sources of transformations to these institutions. Therefore, the study of economics is vital to understanding causes and consequences of the disruptive forces of globalization, inequality, and poverty. Moreover, the theoretical and empirical tools of economists are indispensable for competent policy analysis and evaluation. For this reason, economists are often the most prominent and influential policy advisors in Washington, DC and around world.

Goals of the Course:

This course provides an introduction to Microeconomics, the study of decision-making processes of households and firms. Students will learn to systematically and objectively analyze complex and controversial issues relating to equity and efficiency in modern society. The "economic way of thinking" fosters critical thinking and generates insights about the manner in which people interact through markets and business relationships. In the first part of this course, students will become familiar with the workings of markets and the interplay of market forces and policy interventions, such as price controls, quotas, taxes, and subsidies. The remainder of this course examines different sources of market failure and associated public policies. Topics include market power and price discrimination, labor markets and earnings differentials, environmental harms and regulation, and the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality. Throughout this course, students will analyze contemporary and classic public policy debates about market distributions of resources and government redistribution through the lens of equity and efficiency.

Diversity Intensive Requirement:

This course satisfies the DI requirement for students in the College of Arts and Sciences by intentionally and intensively focusing on 1) how markets and government policy interventions in markets affect the well-being of different groups (i.e., workers, consumers, investors, rich and poor), 2) the causes of differential economic outcomes across groups, including patterns of poverty and inequality in the United States, and 3) critically evaluating differing perspectives on policy options aimed at alleviating these disparities.

<u>Teaching Assistants:</u>	Yifeng Jia (Head TA)	yjqhd@mail.missouri.edu
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Important Note – All email correspondence with instructors or TAs should (a) include your Section Number (or class meeting time) in the subject line and (b) be sent from your Mizzou student email account. Failure to do so will result solely in a short reply asking you to re-send your email with the above requirements met.

TA Office Hours

Non-HW and Exam Week Hours (There are no Middlebush office hours during Week 1):

Monday-Thursday, 10AM-12PM and 1PM-5PM, Professional Building 1A West
Monday-Thursday, 5-7PM, Middlebush 13

HW Week Hours:

Monday-Wednesday, 10AM-12PM and 1PM-5PM, Professional Building 1A West
Monday-Wednesday, 5-7PM, Middlebush 13

Exam Week Hours:

Monday-Tuesday, 10AM-12PM and 1PM-5PM, Professional Building 1A West
Monday-Tuesday, 5-7PM, Middlebush 13

Finals Week

TBD, Professional Building 1A West

Canvas Discussions

In addition to TA Office Hours, another excellent way to get your course questions answered is on the *Discussions* forum of the Canvas course site. As students often have difficulties over the same concepts and questions in the course, it is likely that any questions you have may have already been answered on the *Discussions* forum. *Discussions* forum questions will be answered by a TA or the instructor at least once daily (excluding weekends and the days following an exam or homework due date) to assure that all posts are responded to within 24 hours. We also encourage students to respond directly to other student questions. Not only does this help out your fellow classmates (and speed up response times), but it is also a great way to obtain a higher-level understanding of the course material. Finally, we strongly recommend that you form study groups for this course. The *Discussions* forum on Canvas is a great place to connect with other students and do that.

Required Materials and Technologies

Cowen and Tabarrok, Modern Principles: Microeconomics 4/E

LaunchPad AutoAccess – Automatic for all enrolled students. No bookstore trip required.

Loose-Leaf Hard Copy – Available in the Mizzou Store.

REEF Polling Subscription

Bundled with the Loose-Leaf Hard Copy.

Can also be purchased online or in app.

iClicker REEF

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iclicker-reef/id899690067?mt=8>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mnv.reef&hl=en_US

Canvas Mobile App

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/canvas-student/id480883488?mt=8>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instructure.candroid&hl=en_US

All of the required materials and technologies are discussed in more detail below.

Textbook and LaunchPad

The textbook in this course is Cowen and Tabarrok, Modern Principles: Microeconomics 4/E. In addition, we will be making extensive use of learning software aligned with the textbook called LaunchPad. This course is part of the AutoAccess program designed to reduce the cost of course materials for students. You will be able to access the digital content for this course through Canvas on the first day of class automatically. Your student account will be charged for the cost of the digital course materials. You will be sent an AutoAccess welcome email that will provide additional information on your AutoAccess courses. If you have questions, please call 573-882-7611 or email autoaccess@missouri.edu.

DO NOT OPT-OUT OF AUTO-ACCESS! 5% of your grade is based on assignments completed through the LaunchPad online interface. If you choose to opt-out of AutoAccess, you will not be able to complete these online assignments and will be forfeiting this portion of the grade.

The loose-leaf hard copy of the text is also required for the class and can be purchased from The Mizzou Store. The hard copy is bundled with a REEF polling subscription access code. We will be using the REEF polling system to track in-class participation (see below), so a subscription is required. The marginal cost (chapter 11) of the bundle (chapter 14) is low (i.e. the bundle does not cost much more than the REEF polling subscription purchased by itself), and I believe that there is value to students in having a hard copy of the text in addition to the digital format. As such, my decision to require the bundle provides you with your first introduction to the economic reasoning that we will be exploring throughout this course.

The textbook is very important. **We will cover (nearly) all of it.** Moreover, you will get much more out of the lectures if you do the assigned readings before class. In addition, there are some supplemental readings on the Canvas course website in the Readings folder. PowerPoint slides and Panopto recordings from each lecture will also be posted on the Canvas website, as will various practice problem sets. It is **strongly recommended** that you complete as many of these additional problems as possible as part of your course study, as doing so will greatly improve your exam performance.

If you are interested in learning more, Cowen and Tabarrok maintain a very interesting website:

www.seetheinvisiblehand.org

This website has lots of news items and other materials relevant to the textbook and course.

Short lectures by the textbook authors on topics in each chapter are available here:

<http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics>

Grades

Your course grade will be based on three midterm exams, in-class quizzes/participation points (using the REEF polling system), homework, LaunchPad exercises (LearningCurve), and a comprehensive final exam.

	Percent of Grade
4 semester exams (3 midterms + 1 final)	80.0
7 Homework Assignments	10.0
23 LaunchPad Exercises (LearningCurve)	5.0
REEF In-class Quizzes/Participation	5.0
Total	100.0

The in-class quizzes/participation point questions will be answered electronically during class from your personal electronic device (laptop, tablet, smartphone) via your REEF polling account.

Homework assignments will be completed online via Canvas. You will access the homework from the Assignments page of the Canvas course site where you will select the relevant homework assignment, complete it, and submit it by the assigned date.

The LearningCurve exercises are submitted electronically via the LaunchPad learning software. Links to these exercises will be posted to a folder in Canvas. However, you can always access these assignments within each chapter folder in LaunchPad.

This course will use plus/minus grading on your final grade but not intermediate grades. You will get continuous feedback during the semester on your current grade standing in Canvas. However, the grades shown will just be: A, B, C, D, F. At the end of the semester, your final grade will use plus/minus grading (i.e., A+, A, A-, B+, B ...).

Exam Dates and Times

Exam #1 – Tuesday, February 12 from 8-9pm, Location TBD

Exam #2 – Tuesday, March 19 from 8-9pm, Location TBD

Exam #3 – Tuesday, April 23 from 8-9pm, Location TBD

Final Exam – Monday, May 13 from 8-10pm, Location TBD

There will be NO CLASS on the Wednesday immediately following each midterm exam (February 13, March 20, and April 24).

For students who are entitled to receive exam accommodations through the Office of Disability Services, it is important that (a) you present a copy of your accommodations letter to your instructor as soon as possible and

(b) you schedule your exam time with the Office of Disability Services **at least one week in advance of the midterm exam dates listed above (the deadline for the final exam is more than one week in advance of the final exam date and will be announced by ODS later in the semester)**. If the exam is not appropriately scheduled with the Office of Disability Services, we **cannot** offer you any exam accommodations. Contact information for the Office of Disability Services can be found in the *Administrative Matters* section below.

Exam Make-Up Policy

No exams will be administered prior to the dates listed above. If you have a valid medical or extraordinary personal reason that requires you to miss the scheduled exam, please contact one of the head TAs as soon as possible, so that you can be added to the make-up exam list. All make-up exams will be administered at a single time/location in the week following the regularly-administered examination.

Exam Materials

For each examination, including the final, you will be permitted the use of a scientific, financial, or four-function (non-graphing) calculator and a one-page cheat sheet (both sides). The cheat sheet can contain any information you deem relevant to the exam and can be typed or hand-written.

Homework Assignments

There are seven homework assignments in this course, and together they account for 10% of your course grade. The homework assignments are written each semester by the Econ 1014 instructional team and are purposefully aligned with the course exams. As such, they represent the best study tools to help you be successful in the course. To optimize the value of the homework assignments as study aids, it is strongly recommended that, following each lecture, you complete the homework questions that were covered during that lecture. This will allow you to complete the problems while the material is fresh in your mind, while also giving you ample time to have your questions answered as they arise. In addition, keeping up with the homework problems on a continual basis will also provide you the opportunity to focus on truly understanding the concepts underlying each problem, a key factor in exam success, rather than simply memorizing the steps towards the solution.

All homework assignments will be posted on Canvas in the Assignments page. You will have an unlimited number of attempts to complete each homework assignment up until the homework due date. However, **ONLY** the score of the **LAST ATTEMPT** will count as your homework grade. When you access your homework, you will find all of the questions ordered on a single page with their respective assigned scores. On the right side of the page, you will see what questions you have already answered and which are still pending. If any questions are unanswered when you submit your homework, Canvas will notify you that you have N unanswered questions. The homework assignments consist of different types of questions: multiple choice, true/false, essay, fill in multiple blanks, and multiple dropdowns, among others. Some may also require you to upload a file to answer the question, e.g. problems requiring completion or labelling of a graph. When the homework contains essay or file upload questions, the final grade reported for the homework will not include the scoring of these questions until they are graded manually by the TAs. Note that HW scores, even for questions that do not require manually grading, will not be released until after the HW deadline.

In addition, **NO LATE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. However, we will drop your lowest homework assignment grade, which can be used to cover missed assignments. Note that the lowest homework grade will still appear in Canvas but will not be used to calculate your overall course percentage. Answer keys for each homework assignment will be posted immediately after the assignment deadline.

LearningCurve

The LearningCurve assignments are adaptive assignments that test your basic understanding of the concepts presented in each chapter, giving you more questions over topics that you are struggling with and fewer over topics that you understand well. These assignments represent a completion grade, i.e. as long as you make it to the end of the assignment you will receive full credit for it, no matter how long it takes to make it through the material.

REEF In-Class Quizzes

Five percent of your grade will be based on in-class quizzes completed using the REEF polling system. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using laptops, tablets, or smartphones (Apple or Android). This helps us understand what you know, gives everyone a chance to participate in class, and allows you to review the material after class. We will also be using REEF's geolocation feature to keep track of attendance. This means that you must physically be in class to be counted as present and to answer REEF polling questions. **NOTE THAT I-CLICKERS CANNOT BE USED FOR THIS CLASS**, as they do not support the REEF attendance feature and some of the question types used in this class. Visit the following webpage for tips on how to make sure that your geolocation is being recorded accurately.

<https://community.macmillan.com/docs/DOC-7424-attendance-geolocation-tips>

To participate in REEF polling, you will need to create a REEF account. Once the account is created, you can answer questions in class using your laptop, smart phone, or tablet connected to the university Wi-Fi. To set up an account, go to <https://courses.missouri.edu/>, log into Canvas and locate the REEF polling link that we have set up in our course. You can find that link under: Modules > REEF Participation Link on the Canvas page. Make sure to click the link for the section in which you are enrolled. (12pm = Section 1, 1pm = Section 2) Once clicked, the link will prompt you to create a REEF polling account or sign in with your existing account. If you already have a REEF account from a previous semester, do **not** create another one. You cannot use more than one REEF account as you will only receive credit from a single account. You should use your university email address. If you need to change your email address, password, or student ID, [edit your account](#) profile. If you are planning on using a smart phone or tablet, we recommend that you download the iClicker REEF app for your Apple or Android. If you are using a laptop, you can sign in to REEF polling via the link in our Canvas site, or you can sign in directly here: <https://app.reef-ducation.com/-/login>.

You will need to purchase a subscription to use REEF. The loose-leaf hard copy of the textbook, which is required for the class, is bundled with a REEF access code, which you can use to complete the subscription purchase via a web browser. (Payment via access code cannot be done from a smartphone.) If you do not have an access code, you can use a credit card to purchase a subscription online or complete an in-app purchase. Creating a REEF account automatically starts a free 14-day trial subscription.

For each class, you will be expected to log into REEF at the beginning of the lecture. During class, we will ask questions about the presented material to which you are expected to respond. We will not “grade” these responses as correct or incorrect, but we will record your participation. You will only receive credit for participation in the class period if you log in at the beginning of the class, complete the attendance check, and answer the questions that are presented during class. If you lose, break, have technical difficulties, or are otherwise unable to use your electronic device during lecture to answer the REEF polling questions, you must sign the REEF attendance sheet after class, **but you must present a photo id to do so. Moreover, students can only sign the REEF attendance sheet for credit a maximum of three times over the course of the semester.** Also note that you must attend the section of the course for which you are registered to receive the REEF points for the class period. If you attend an alternative lecture, you will not be able to log into REEF for that section, and as such, you will not receive the REEF points for that day.

As mentioned above, 5% of your overall course grade is based on your REEF participation, which will be allocated using the following scale (note that the participation percentage includes the attendance pre-requisite):

80-100% participation = 5 percentage points (full credit)

60-79.9% participation = 4 percentage points

40-59.9% participation = 3 percentage points

20-39.9% participation = 2 percentage points

0-19.9% participation = 1 percentage point

The ranges are provided to allow you some leniency for both absences and technical difficulties. For example, you can miss up to 20% of the participation points, ***for any reason***, and still earn full participation credit. Given the above, **NO EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE EXCEPTED** unless one of the following two conditions are met – (a) you are a student athlete required to miss multiple classes during the semester due to athletic events or (b) you have a long-term and medically documented illness or are attending a university-sponsored event that necessitates multiple absences. In the second case, documentation for ***all*** absences accrued throughout the semester must be submitted at the end of term and excused absences will only be applied if the excused absences account for over 20% of the total participation points in the course, as per the above grading scale. Documentation of excused absences that are submitted during the semester ***will not be recorded***.

We will be updating REEF points in the Canvas gradebook after every HW assignment. If you feel that the recorded REEF points are inaccurate, you must inform the instructor or head TA of the issue within one week of when the relevant grades are posted or we will be unable to respond to your request.

As a final note, submitting answers for a fellow student is considered cheating and a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught answering for another student or have answers in a class that you did not attend, you will potentially face disciplinary action. We will follow-up with students who are consistently answering a substantial number of questions incorrectly to confirm that they are attending lecture.

Homework and LearningCurve due dates:

Homework 1 & Learning Curve Ch. 1-2 **Note that there is NO Learning Curve assignment for Chapter 21 due at this time.**	Wednesday, Jan. 30
Homework 2 & Learning Curve Ch. 3-5	Monday, Feb. 11
Homework 3 & Learning Curve Ch. 6-8	Wednesday, Feb. 27
Homework 4 & Learning Curve Ch. 9-13	Monday, March 18
Homework 5 & Learning Curve Ch. 14-16	Wednesday, April 10
Homework 6 & Learning Curve Ch. 17-20	Monday, April 22
Homework 7 & Learning Curve Ch. 21-23 **Note that there is NO Learning Curve assignment for Chapter 24.**	Wednesday, May 8

Administrative Matters

IT PROBLEMS

If you have technical issues at any time during the course, you should first contact the relevant IT help line (note that Canvas help is separate from LaunchPad help). Neither the instructor nor the TAs will respond to any technical issues or provide extra time/back credit for assignments UNLESS YOU PROVIDE A TICKET NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY THE RELEVANT HELP LINE in your correspondence.

Canvas Help Contacts:

Phone: 1-573-882-5000

Chat: Available via the “Live Chat!” button at <https://doit.missouri.edu/tech-support/> .

LaunchPad Help Contacts:

Online Form: <http://support.bfwpub.com/supportform/form.php>

Phone: 1-800-936-6899

Chat: Available in the LaunchPad **Help** drop-down menu

LaunchPad help is available Monday-Friday, 6AM-2AM and Saturday-Sunday, 8AM-2AM. (Chat help is available 24/7.)

REEF Polling Help Contacts:

Email: <http://support.iclicker.com/> or <http://support.reef-education.com/>

Phone: 1-866-209-5698.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITIES

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability-related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note-taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the [Office of Disability Services](#), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](http://osrr.missouri.edu/) (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the [MU Equity Office](http://equity.missouri.edu/) (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

ACADEMIC INQUIRY, COURSE DISCUSSION, AND PRIVACY

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of [Section 200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Course Schedule

Date	Lecture title	Chapter(s) covered	HomeWork & Exam
Monday, January 21, 2019	Mating Luther King Holiday (no class)		
Wednesday, January 23, 2019	Course Policies & Procedures/Introductions	Intro	
Friday, January 25, 2019	Big Ideas/Positive or Normative/Advantages of Trade	1,21,&2	
Monday, January 28, 2019	The Advantages of Trade (cont.)	2	
Wednesday, January 30, 2019	The Advantages of Trade (cont.)/Supply & Demand	2&3	HW 1/LC 1
Friday, February 1, 2019	Supply & Demand (cont.)	3	
Monday, February 4, 2019	Supply & Demand (cont.)/Equilibrium	3&4	
Wednesday, February 6, 2019	Equilibrium (cont.)	4	
Friday, February 8, 2019	Elasticity & Price Responsiveness	5	
Monday, February 11, 2019	Elasticity & Price Responsiveness (cont.)	5	HW 2/LC 2
Tuesday, February 12, 2019	No Class Wednesday, February 13	Ch. 1-5 & 21	Exam 1
Friday, February 15, 2019	Taxes & Subsidies: Who Pays & Who Benefits?	6	
Monday, February 18, 2019	Taxes & Subsidies (cont.)	6	
Wednesday, February 20, 2019	Taxes & Subsidies (cont.)/Prices as Signals	6&7	
Friday, February 22, 2019	Prices as Signals (cont.)	7	
Monday, February 25, 2019	Price Ceilings and Price Floors	8	
Wednesday, February 27, 2019	Price Ceilings and Floors (cont.)/International Trade	8&9	HW 3/ LC 3
Friday, March 1, 2019	International Trade (cont.)	9	
Monday, March 4, 2019	International Trade (cont.)/Externalities	9&10	
Wednesday, March 6, 2019	Externalities (cont.)	10	
Friday, March 8, 2019	Externalities (cont.)/Perfect Competition	10&11	
Monday, March 11, 2019	Perfect Competition (cont.)	11	
Wednesday, March 13, 2019	Perfect Competition (cont.)/The Invisible Hand	11&12	
Friday, March 15, 2019	Monopoly	13	
Monday, March 18, 2019	Monopoly (cont.)	13	HW 4/LC 4
Tuesday, March 19, 2019	No Class Wednesday, March 20	Ch. 6-13	Exam 2
Friday, March 22, 2019	Price Discrimination	14	
Monday, March 25, 2019			
Wednesday, March 27, 2019	Spring Break		
Friday, March 29, 2019			
Monday, April 1, 2019	Price Discrimination (cont.)/Oligopoly and Game Theory	14&15	
Wednesday, April 3, 2019	Oligopoly and Game Theory (cont.)	15	
Friday, April 5, 2019	Oligopoly and Game Theory (cont.)/Network Goods	15&16	
Monday, April 8, 2019	Network Goods (cont.)/Monopolistic Competition	16&17	
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	Monopolistic Competition & Advertising (cont.)	17	HW 5/LC 5
Friday, April 12, 2019	Labor Markets	18	
Monday, April 15, 2019	Labor Markets (cont.)	18	
Wednesday, April 17, 2019	Public Goods & The Tragedy of the Commons	19	
Friday, April 19, 2019	Public Goods (cont.)/Political Economy & Public Choice	19&20	
Monday, April 22, 2019	Political Economy & Public Choice (cont.)	20	HW 6/LC 6
Tuesday, April 23, 2019	No Class Wednesday, April 24	Ch. 14-20	Exam 3
Friday, April 26, 2019	Asymmetric Information/Managing Incentives	24/22	
Monday, April 29, 2019	Asymmetric Info (cont.)/Stock Market & Risk	24/22&23	
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	Stock Market & Risk (cont.)	23	
Friday, May 3, 2019	Stock Market & Risk (cont.)	23	
Monday, May 6, 2019	Econ & Ethics	21	
Wednesday, May 8, 2019	Wrap-Up	1 - 24	HW 7/LC 7
Friday, May 10, 2019	Reading Day (No Class)		
Monday, May 13, 2019	Comprehensive Final Exam - 8-10pm	Ch. 1-24	Final Exam