

**ECONOMICS 1014 – Principles of Microeconomics - Online**  
**Fall 2021 \* Course Syllabus**

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**Office Hours: By appointment (Zoom or in-person)**

**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.

## **TEXT**

The textbook in this course is Cowen and Tabarrok, Modern Principles: Microeconomics 5/E. In addition, we will be making extensive use of learning software aligned with the textbook called Achieve. To access the e-book from Canvas, click on the “Macmillan Learning” link on the home page and then click on the “Achieve” logo at the top of the subsequent page.

Below are a couple of links to help you get started:

[How to: Download your Achieve ebook to read offline](#)  
[An Introduction to Adaptive Quizzing for Students](#)

In addition, 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, and 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!** A large percentage of your grade is based on assignments completed through the Achieve online interface. If you choose to opt-out of AutoAccess, you will not be able to complete these online assignments and will fail the course.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

This course will consist of the following components.

### **Chapter Notes**

Each week, notes and other instructional materials for the required chapters will become available on Monday at 12am. Once this occurs, students are expected to read, study, and review all of the posted material. The notes are available in two formats – downloadable PowerPoint files with annotations in the “Notes” section of each slide (to read the annotations, you will need to download the file and open it in PowerPoint rather than viewing the slides through the Canvas interface) and links to Panopto recordings that are voiceover lectures of the corresponding PowerPoint files. Students are free to access either or both notes formats, depending on their preferences. These two formats should be complementary and will allow students multiple modalities from which to learn the material. For the first week, I have also created a Panopto recording going over the course format and policies that I highly recommend you view.

### **LearningCurve**

After studying the chapter, chapter notes, and other instructional material, the first graded task for each chapter is to complete the chapter’s LearningCurve. As with the e-book chapter, a link for each chapter’s LearningCurve assignment can be found in the relevant weekly “Modules”

folder. LearningCurve consists of a set of adaptive questions covering the chapter material, i.e. you will get more questions/activities over topics that you are struggling with and fewer over topics that you understand well. Each chapter's LearningCurve assignment is a completion grade that is due by Sunday at 11:59pm each week. As long as you make it to the end, you will receive full credit for the assignment, no matter how long it takes to make it through the assignment. Note, however, that Achieve's grades DO NOT synch automatically to Canvas. If your Canvas grade has not updated within 24 hours of completion in Achieve, let me know at that time. For more on LearningCurve assignments:

[An Introduction to Adaptive Quizzing for Students](#) .

### **Chapter Homework Problems**

Upon completion of the LearningCurve activities, the next graded task is to complete the chapter homework problems. Similar to the above, links for each set of chapter homework problems can be found in the relevant weekly "Modules" folders. The chapter homework problem sets are completed online using the textbook's Achieve interface (just like the LearningCurve). Any questions that arise during the completion of the chapter homework problems should be posted to the discussion board, so that the instructor (and fellow students) can help work through any difficulties. The chapter homework problems are graded on accuracy. As with the LearningCurve activities, the weekly chapter homework problem sets must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm each week. Note that **you have unlimited attempts to complete the homework assignments** and can also save your work and continue at any point up until the due date. Your highest scoring attempt will be the attempt recorded for grading purposes.

### **Late Submission**

Students can complete Homework assignments after the due date. 10 late days are allowed. Late submission after 10 days will not be accepted. There will be a penalty for all late submissions unless you send documentation that shows that you could not do homework because of family emergency or health issues. Other than the excused late submission, 5% Cumulative penalty per day will be applied. For example, if you complete homework assignments four days after the due date, then your homework grade will be (your points scored in the homework\*0.8).

For LearningCurve assignments, the system does not allow late submission automatically. Thus, if you want to have a chance for late submission. You must send a request email to the instructor. The same late submission policy will be applied.

### **Exams**

There will be two exams in this course – one during the fourth week of the course (Sep 13- Sep 19) and another during the eighth week of the course (Oct 11-Oct 15 – Note that the final week ends on **FRIDAY** rather than Sunday). The first exam will cover chapters 1-10 with small dose of chapter 21 (related to normative and positive statements), while the second exam will cover chapters 11-20. Once accessed, each exam allows two hours for completion. **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE EXAM IN ONE SITTING** (you cannot save and pick-up where you left off

later), so make sure to block off enough time to complete it. Answers to the exam questions become available AFTER ALL STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED IT (due to the potential for technical difficulties, this may sometimes be after the official exam closing time).

Both exams will require the use of the SmarterProctoring Platform. SmarterProctoring is an online, remote proctoring system that uses advanced machine learning and identity-verification technology to ensure test integrity.

Taking assessments with SmarterProctoring **REQUIRES THE USE OF THE GOOGLE CHROME BROWSER AND CHROME EXTENSION INSTALLATION; YOU CANNOT USE ANY OTHER BROWSER.** You must have a LAPTOP OR DESKTOP COMPUTER WITH A WEBCAM AND A MICROPHONE; YOU CANNOT USE A SMARTPHONE OR TABLET TO TAKE THE EXAM. You must also have a stable Internet connection. Please review [System Requirements](#) to ensure that your hardware and software meet the minimum requirements. **The University recognizes that not all students may be able meet the minimum requirements. If you do not have access to the minimum technology requirements or have disabilities that require the use of a screen reader or keyboard navigation shortcuts, please inform your instructor as soon as possible (and no later than one week before the exam due date) so that accommodations can potentially be made.**

In addition, you will have an opportunity to take a practice assessment with SmarterProctoring before you taking the first exam. This assignment will be conducted during Week Three of the course (the week before the first exam), and completion of the assignment will be worth one percentage point of extra credit on your overall course percentage.

Please be aware that:

- You, your computer, and physical test-taking environment will be recorded.
- As you will be recorded, please dress appropriately.
- You will be asked to show a picture ID to the camera.
- You will need a quiet place to take the assessment – both for your concentration and as interruptions (voices, another person on camera) may be flagged for potential cheating.

See the [Automated Proctoring](#) page in the SmarterProctoring website to learn how to:

- install the SmarterProctoring extension for Chrome;
- set up your assessment environment; and
- complete the pre-assessment checks.

Finally, on each exam you are allowed a non-graphing calculator (four-function, scientific, or financial), a one-page (8.5”x11”) cheat sheet, and a piece of blank paper. The cheat sheet can be two-sided, hand-written or typed, and contain any information that you feel will be useful in the completion of the exam. Given the use of SmarterProctoring, it is extremely important to conduct a workspace scan at the beginning of the exam, so that it is visually clear in the recording that these are the only three items that you have out on your workspace during the exam.

## **GRADING**

Your course grade will be based on 2 exams, 20 chapter homework assignments (one for each chapter), and 20 LearningCurve exercises (one for each chapter), and discussion activities.

	Percent of Grade
2 Exams	40.0
20 Chapter Homework Assignments	40.0
20 Learning Curve Adaptive Online Quizzes	10.0
Discussion board assignments (2 points per post or reply)	10.0
Total	100.0

This course will use plus/minus grading. You will get continuous feedback during the semester on your current course percentage in Canvas. After each exam, the grade cuts as of that point in the course will be determined and announced via Canvas.

## **DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

The *Discussions* page will serve as the communications hub for this course. I will give you several discussion topics. You can also post discussion topics. If you participate in discussions by replying to a post, raising discussion topics, or asking any questions related to this class (including assignments), you will get 2 percent points per post or reply.

All assignment-related questions should be posted individually on the page with a descriptive tag listed in the *Topic Title* line, e.g. “Chapter 5 HW, Problem #3”. Proper titling of posts will allow other students with similar or related questions to easily find the relevant discussion and, thus, will help to reduce redundant material.

There is an additional introductory discussion board post assignment (1 percent point extra credit opportunity!)

*Introduce Yourself* – During the first week of class, each student must reply to the *Introduce Yourself* post on the *Discussions* page. Note that you will earn one percent point extra credit. In addition to a general introduction, please make sure to also answer the four questions listed in the forum description in your post.

## **IT ISSUES**

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 Achieve help). The instructor will not 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/> .

### **Achieve Help Contacts:**

If you experience technical issues with Achieve, please contact Macmillan Customer Support through the Chat option here: <https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/>. This chat function is used to initiate contact with Customer Support and after answering a few questions you will have the option to talk via phone, correspond via email, or chat online with a Customer Support Associate.

Achieve help is available	Monday-Thursday, 7AM-2AM
	Friday, 7AM-11PM
	Saturday, 11AM-8PM
	Sunday, 11AM-2AM.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, 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 establish an accommodation plan with the [MU Disability Center](#), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

## **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.

## **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](#); the [MU Equity Office](#), or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

## **TITLE IX**

University of Missouri policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, disability and protected veteran status. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

If you experience discrimination, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. Learn more about your rights and options at [civilrights.missouri.edu](http://civilrights.missouri.edu) or call 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

Students may also contact the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for advocacy and other support related to rape or power-based personal violence at [rsvp@missouri.edu](mailto:rsvp@missouri.edu) or 573-882-6638, or go to [rsvp.missouri.edu](http://rsvp.missouri.edu).

Both the [Office for Civil Rights & Title IX](#) and the [RSVP Center](#) can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00 – 5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at <https://wellbeing.missouri.edu> to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend.

Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

### **LAST DATE OF ATTENDANCE AND IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AID**

Federal regulations for financial aid require the student financial aid office to document the attendance of students who have received federal financial aid if they do not successfully complete any courses during the term. As a result, the last day of attendance (or activity) for any student receiving an F, U, or FN in this course will be recorded in the grade roster and reported to the financial aid office. **Based on the last day of attendance, students may be required to repay a portion of their financial aid award for the semester.**

A student's last day of attendance (or activity) is the last day on which a student participates in an academically-related activity at the University. These include:

- Attendance in class, lab, or an instructor's office hours
- The completion of an assignment or examination
- An appointment with a professor or e-mail correspondence regarding course material
- (Online courses only) For online courses, the last day a student submits an assignment or exam. Only logging into an online class without participating is *not* acceptable for last day of attendance

Please note that discussing a course withdrawal or notifying the instructor of an absence in class does not constitute participation for financial aid purposes. Moreover, any office hour visits or email correspondence must be related to the course material.

### **NETIQUETTE**

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambiance



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**Course Schedule, Reading Assignments, and Important Dates Table**

**Notes:** Each week goes from Monday through Sunday, except for the final week, which ends on Friday, Oct 15 per the eight-week Fall session schedule.

<b>Week / Start date</b>	<b>Reading assignments</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
<b>Week 1 08/23/2021</b>	Chapter 1 – The Big Ideas of Economics  Chapter 2 – The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage with Small dose of chapter 21(positive and normative statements)  Chapter 3 – Supply and Demand	Introduce yourself on the Canvas discussion board <i>Introduce Yourself</i> forum (Extra point opportunity)  Chapters 1, 2, and 3 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapters 1, 2, and 3 HW Problems	Open 08/23/2021, 12:00am Close 08/29/2021, 11:59pm
<b>Week 2 08/30/2021</b>	Chapter 4 – Equilibrium: How Supply and Demand Determine Prices  Chapter 5 – Elasticity and Its Applications  Chapter 6 – Taxes and Subsidies	Chapters 4, 5, and 6 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapters 4, 5, and 6 HW Problems	Open 08/30/2021, 12:00am Close 09/05/2021, 11:59pm
<b>Week 3 09/06/2021</b>	Chapter 7 – The Price System: Signals, Speculation, and Prediction  Chapter 8 – Price Ceilings and Floors  Chapter 9 – International Trade	Chapters 7, 8, and 9 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapters 7, 8, and 9 HW Problems  SmarterProctoring Practice Assessment (Extra Credit)	Open 09/06/2021, 12:00am Close 09/12/2021, 11:59pm
<b>Week 4 09/13/2021</b>	Chapter 10 – Externalities: When Prices Send the Wrong Signals	Chapter 10 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapter 10 HW Problems  Exam #1	Open 09/13/2021, 12:00am Close 09/19/2021, 11:59pm

		(Covering Chapters 1-10 with small dose of chapter 21)	
<b>Week 5</b> <b>09/20/2021</b>	Chapter 11 – Costs and Profit Maximization Under Competition  Chapter 12 – Competition and the Invisible Hand  Chapter 13 – Monopoly	Chapters 11, 12, and 13 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapters 11, 12, and 13 HW Problems	Open 09/20/2021, 12:00am Close 09/26/2021, 11:59pm
<b>Week 6</b> <b>09/27/2021</b>	Chapter 14 – Price Discrimination and Pricing Strategy  Chapter 15 – Oligopoly and Game Theory  Chapter 16 – Competing for Monopoly: The Economics of Network Goods	Chapters 14, 15, and 16 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapters 14, 15, and 16 HW Problems	Open 09/27/2021, 12:00am Close 10/03/2021, 11:59pm
<b>Week 7</b> <b>10/04/2021</b>	Chapter 17 – Monopolistic Competition and Advertising  Chapter 18 – Labor Markets  Chapter 19 – Public Goods and the Tragedy of the Commons	Chapters 17, 18, and 19 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapters 17, 18, and 19 HW Problems	Open 10/04/2021, 12:00am Close 10/10/2021, 11:59pm
<b>Week 8</b> <b>10/11/2021</b>	Chapter 20 – Political Economy and Public Choice	Chapters 20 LearningCurve Assignments  Chapter 20 HW Problems  Exam #2 (Covering Chapters 11-20)	Open 10/11/2021, 12:00am Close 10/15/2021, 11:59pm