

## **ECON 1014 (2025)– Principles of Microeconomics - Online Course Syllabus**

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**Notes:** Please use your Missouri student email account.

Please also be sure to check the **announcements** in the course at least once a week, early in the week.

And special thanks to Dr. Eric Parsons and Dr. William Park for course materials and guidance.

### **Course Catalog Description:**

A broad survey of microeconomics, from the basic market model and its many applications to market failures and policy responses. Topics include potential trade-offs between efficiency and equity in competition and trade policy; determinants of wage differentials, poverty and inequality; and evaluation of the benefits and costs of government interventions in markets.

Credit Hours: 3

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Why Economics?**

Economics is everywhere. The terms may be new, but you have been dealing with economic factors your whole life. In Microeconomics, we will look at how businesses and individuals make decisions. Economists are concerned with making the most efficient choices with scarce resources—our wants always exceed our means. You have been making choices, giving up your second-best option, since you were a kid. We will see here as well how businesses that you deal with every day (be thinking about a favorite business that you can use to discuss in the discussions!) make choices on what to produce and how much to produce.

### **Goals of the Course:**

This course introduces Microeconomics, the study of decision-making processes of households and firms. Students will learn about how and why businesses and individuals make economic decisions. In the first part of this course, students will become familiar with the workings of markets and how interventions impact the markets, such as price controls, quotas, taxes, and subsidies. The second part of this course examines different sources of market failure and associated public policies. A focus on economic thinking, on how aiming for the most efficient use of scarce resources, will frame the topics covered.

### **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 6E. In addition, we will be making extensive use of learning software aligned with the textbook called Achieve as well as PackBack for weekly discussions.

This course is part of our 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 material. We have helped save students over \$39 million by providing digital content over the last 6 years.

Your AutoAccess course may have a Print Upgrade available as an additional purchase. This is a low-cost version of the printed text made available by the publisher at a reduced cost. It is the publisher's requirement that in order to purchase the additional print, you must be opted in for the AutoAccess digital required material. If you have questions about Print Upgrades and opting out, please contact us at [autoaccess.themizzoustore.com](http://autoaccess.themizzoustore.com).

If you have questions please call 573-882-7611, email [AutoAccess@umsystem.edu](mailto:AutoAccess@umsystem.edu) or visit [autoaccess.themizzoustore.com](http://autoaccess.themizzoustore.com).

### **Course Content:**

Econ. 1014 is a one semester survey of the principles of microeconomics.

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

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

### **Course Format:**

This course will consist of the following components:

### **Chapter Notes:**

Each week, notes and other instructional materials for the required chapters will be available. Please follow your weekly module. Please be sure you are checking announcements. I will post at least one announcement each week, early in the week.

### **Chapter Homework Problems and Learning Curve:**

Upon completion of the LearningCurve activities (only one point each, more for the practice and familiarity of the concepts), the next graded task is to complete the chapter homework problems. Links will be in the weekly module. You will complete your PackBack discussion initial post by **Thursday** with your responses to the poll and classmates by **Sunday**.

### **Discussions:**

We will have discussions every week through PackBack. This is a large part of your grade. This is where we'll look deeper into the weekly concept and research how they apply to the real world. You'll interact with your classmates (at least one response, more is better!) and learn from each other. You'll also respond to a poll question that I post each week. You are expected to create an initial question post by **Thursday** of each week. Pay close attention to the discussion guide posts. You are also expected to reply to at least one classmate by Sunday each week, as well as the weekly poll.

**This course is utilizing Packback for robust and innovative discussions:**

### **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 40% of your overall course grade.

There will be a Weekly Sunday at 11:59PM CST 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 65 worth 15pts of each assignment grade (by **Thursday**)
- 1 Response to a classmate every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65, worth 5pts of each assignment grade
- 1 Response to the poll every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65, worth 5pts of each assignment grade
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score.

## How to Register on Packback:

Note: Only access Packback through **Canvas** in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click the Packback assignment link within **Canvas** to access the community.
2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.
3. **In order for your Packback discussion grades to be visible in Canvas**, make sure to click each Packback assignment link as you post your Packback submissions.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to [www.packback.co/product/pricing](http://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](http://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co).

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68>

**Packback:** We are utilizing Packback during this course.

How to Register on Packback: If you were on the original roster for this course, your account has already been created by Packback & added to the correct community!

1. Search your inbox for an email from [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co) with the subject line “Finish registration for Instructor Whitworth’s course” - This may be hiding in spam, so search thoroughly!
2. Click “set account password” to get started! (If you already have a Packback account, just log in)
3. Once you are logged in, click “join a community”. When this course’s community appears, click “join community”
4. Enter the community & start asking questions!

Note, Packback is included in AutoAccess. If you are asked to provide payment information, contact [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co) instead and copy my on the email. Additional information (including what to do if you did not receive an email) is posted on Canvas.

## Exams:

There will be two exams in this course – one during the fourth week of the course and another during the eighth week of the course (Note that the final week ends on **FRIDAY** rather than Sunday). The first exam will cover the first half of the course and the second will cover the second half. The second exam is not a cumulative final. **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.

### **Late Work:**

**Discussions cannot be accepted after the module closes as such a large part of the grade and goal is the interaction with your classmates.** Late work may be accepted up to seven days after the due date on a case-by-case basis. Please make every effort to be in touch before the deadline. No work will be accepted after the course closes. Incompletes will also be discussed on a case-by-case basis, but in general will not be accepted unless at least 80% of the course material is completed.

### **Grading:**

Your course grade will be based on 2 exams, 20 chapter homework assignments (one for each chapter), 8 weekly discussions, and 20 LearningCurve exercises.

	Percent of Grade
2 Exams	38.5
20 Chapter Homework Assignments	19.0
Learning Curve	4.0
8 Discussions	38.5
Total	100.0

### **Tentative Grading Schedule:**

A: 93%-100%  
 A-: 90%-92.9%  
 B+: 87%-89.9%  
 B: 83%-86.9%  
 B-: 80%-82.9%  
 C+: 77%-79.9%  
 C: 73%-76.9%  
 C-: 70%-72.9%  
 D: 60%-69.9%  
 F: <60%

The grade cut-offs may be revised downwards or upwards based on the overall grade distribution in the course. A+ grades \*may\* be awarded in case of exceptional overall course performance.

### **IT Issues:**

Canvas Help Contacts:  
 Phone: 1-573-882-5000

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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **AI**

AI may be used for drafting and editing your PackBack assignments. This is a collaborative effort, and it is your responsibility to reference your sources, acknowledge assistance, and ensure academic integrity.

### **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 or the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

Students are expected to adhere to this honor pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so: “I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.”

### **ACADEMIC INQUIRY, COURSE DISCUSSION, AND PRIVACY**

When students record something that happens in a course (a lecture, class discussions, meetings, etc.) it has an impact on the rights of the people captured in that recording. For example, the instructor and the University may have rights to the intellectual property contained in that recording. At the same time, another student who may have been recorded has the right to privacy. In order to protect these rights, MU employs a policy (called [“Executive Order No. 38”](#)) to govern both situations you may encounter while taking a course – when an instructor allows recordings and when they do not.

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 who violate 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.

### **FERPA**

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records; to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records; and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. The law applies to any individual who is or has been in attendance at an institution *and* regarding whom the institution maintains educational records. Once students have matriculated to the University of Missouri, i.e. enrolled in course work, FERPA rights transfer to the student, regardless of the student's age.

Students can enable certain individuals to have access to their education records by signing a [FERPA waiver](#). The consent must specify records to be disclosed, state the purpose of the disclosure and identify the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure must be made.

### **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 [Office of Academic Integrity](#), or the [MU Equity Office](#).

### **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.

### **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.

### **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS & ACCOMMODATIONS**

Many religious faiths are represented in the student body. The University of Missouri does not restrict student free exercise of religion, unless 1) the restriction is in the form of a rule of general applicability and does not discriminate against religion or among religions; and 2) it can be demonstrated that the application of the restriction is essential to furthering a compelling university interest and is not unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstance. The policy of the University attempts to strike a reasonable balance between accommodating the religious practice of students and meeting academic needs and standards.

Consult IDE's [Guide to Religions](#) for the form that can be used to notify an instructor of an absence associated with religious practice. Students are expected to notify their instructor(s) by completing and submitting this form in a manner that is consistent with the procedure outlined in the university's policy on student religious accommodation. Providing false information regarding sincerely held religious practice is a violation of the university's Standard of Conduct and will not be tolerated.

### **NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY (PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION)**

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex\* (including gender), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, protected veteran status, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. \*Sex discrimination includes rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation. Retaliation for making or supporting a report of discrimination or harassment is also prohibited.

If you experience discrimination or sexual violence, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office of Institutional Equity. Learn more about your rights and options at [equity.missouri.edu](http://equity.missouri.edu) or call 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

If you are a survivor, or someone concerned about a survivor, and need immediate information on what to do, see [RSVP Resources page](#). Both the [Office of Institutional Equity](#) and the [RSVP Center](#) can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced any of these forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment, Mizzou policies require that, as your instructor, I share

this information with the MU Office of Institutional Equity. They will contact you to offer information about resources, as well as your rights and options as a member of our campus community.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The goal of the University of Missouri is to ensure an inclusive learning environment for all students. [The University of Missouri Disability Center](#) provides services and accommodations for students to participate fully in the learning experience and to experience equitable evaluation of their performance. Students (including online students) with a documented disability can contact the Disability Center to establish an [Accommodation Plan](#). Documented disabilities include *hearing, vision, mobility, learning and attention, psychological health, and physical health*. Students' accommodations are implemented with the input of students to maximize the learning experiences. The MU Disability Center keeps information about a student's disability confidential.

Please notify me of your eligibility for accommodations as soon as possible. Additionally, if there are aspects of the course that present as barriers, such as inaccessible course content (e.g., learning assessments, PowerPoints, non-captioned videos, images, tables, PDFs) or if you need an immediate accommodation due to an injury, please contact me or the Disability Center as soon as possible.

## **ECON 1014 – Online**

**Fall 2022**

### **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, per the eight-week session schedule. Each week the initial discussion post is due Thursday night. All other posts and assignments are due Sunday night, again except in week 8 which closes on Friday.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Reading assignments</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b>Week 1 Due 1/26 Note Initial Posts due Thursday</b>	Chapter 1 – The Big Ideas of Economics  Chapter 2 – The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage  Chapter 3 – Supply and Demand	Discussion 1 and Introduction  Chapters 1, 2, and 3 LearningCurve Tutorials  Chapters 1, 2, and 3 HW Problems

<b>Week 2</b> <b>Due 2/2</b>	Chapter 4 – Equilibrium: How Supply and Demand Determine Prices  Chapter 5 – Elasticity and Its Applications  Chapter 6 – Taxes and Subsidies	Discussion 2  Chapters 4, 5, and 6 LearningCurve Tutorials  Chapters 4, 5, and 6 HW Problems
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Due 2/9</b>	Chapter 7 – The Price System: Signals, Speculation, and Prediction  Chapter 8 – Price Ceilings and Floors  Chapter 9 – International Trade	Discussion 3  Chapters 7, 8, and 9 LearningCurve Tutorials  Chapters 7, 8, and 9 HW Problems
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Due 2/16</b>	Chapter 10 – Externalities: When Prices Send the Wrong Signals	Discussion 4  Chapter 10 LearningCurve Tutorial  Chapter 10 HW Problems  <b>Exam #1</b> (Covering Chapters 1-10)
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Due 2/23</b>	Chapter 11 – Costs and Profit Maximization Under Competition  Chapter 12 – Competition and the Invisible Hand  Chapter 13 – Monopoly	Discussion 5  Chapters 11, 12, and 13 LearningCurve Tutorials  Chapters 11, 12, and 13 HW Problems
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Due 3/2</b>	Chapter 14 – Price Discrimination and Pricing Strategy  Chapter 15 – Oligopoly and Game Theory  Chapter 16 – Competing for Monopoly: The Economics of Network Goods	Discussion 6  Chapters 14, 15, and 16 LearningCurve Tutorials  Chapters 14, 15, and 16 HW Problems

<b>Week 7</b> <b>Due 3/9</b>	Chapter 17 – Monopolistic Competition and Advertising  Chapter 18 – Labor Markets  Chapter 19 – Public Goods and the Tragedy of the Commons	Discussion 7  Chapters 17, 18, and 19 LearningCurve Tutorials  Chapters 17, 18, and 19 HW Problems
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Due 3/14</b> <b>Note</b> <b>Friday</b>	Chapter 20 – Political Economy and Public Choice	Discussion 8  Chapters 20 LearningCurve Tutorial  Chapter 20 HW Problems  <b>Exam #2</b> (Covering Chapters 11-20)