

Bismarck State College

As North Dakota's Polytechnic Institution, Bismarck State College focuses on student success through the delivery of affordable, flexible, high-quality, experiential learning enhanced by public-private partnerships.

Current Semester: Spring 2025

Course: ECON 201 Principles of Microeconomics

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Instructor Contact Information: Nicholas.bergan@ndus.edu

Course Materials: Author HUBBARD

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Course Description: A microeconomic approach to the study of the present economic system; a study of the principles of economics including factors which influence supply and demand, price determination through supply and demand, profit maximization under different economic structures, and efficiency.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of the basics of economics (Gen. Educ. Goals: II.6 and IV.4)
2. To empower students to understand how and why resources are priced and distributed. (Goals: I.3 & II.3)
3. To compare what is desirable and what is possible in the distribution of goods and services. (Goals: I.3 & II.3)
4. To create student awareness of alternative economic systems (Goals: III.1, III.2 & III.3)
5. To empower students to keep up-to-date with current Microeconomic issues. (Goals: II.6 & VI.4)

Course Learning Outcomes

Competency 1 – Interpretation

Sub competency 1 - Applying the economic problem of society and choice to different economic systems.

Sub competency 2 – Expressing models in words, graphs, and equations.

Sub competency 3 – Interpreting the significance of price rationing in our economic system.

Competency 2 – Knowledge

Sub competency 1 – Demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts of opportunity cost, efficient markets and marginalism in analysis and problem solving.

Sub Competency 2 – Demonstrate the ability to apply the laws of supply and demand in analysis and problem solving.

Sub competency 3 – Demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts of elasticity and profit maximization in analysis and problem solving.

Competency 3 – Critical Thinking

Sub competency 1 – Analyze the changes in market equilibrium resulting from shifts in demand and supply.

Sub competency 2 – Demonstrate the ability to resolve questions of excess demand and excess supply.

Sub competency 3 – Determine the profit maximization level of output in different industry structures.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will acquire content knowledge.

2. Students will practice critical thinking skills, communication skills, quantitative reasoning, and economic citizenry.

Institutional Essential
Learning Outcomes

Evaluative Thought -- Identify Issue/Approach or Representation or Interpret Evidence. Implement or calculate or analyze. Assess or conclude or evaluate.
Integrative Learning – Apply Knowledge and skills across different learning experiences. Make connections across disciplines and/or relevant experience. Self-assessment of learning experiences.

* BSC's institutional assessment framework can be found
at <https://bismarckstate.edu/uploads/13/BSCsInstitutionalAssessmentFramework.pdf>.

Unit Objectives:

Active Learning: In addition to educational strategies such as reading, listening, and reflecting, when appropriate this class makes use of learning techniques commonly known as active learning. Students should expect to participate in active learning techniques such as discussions and presentations, small group activities, writing, problem-solving, movement, case studies, role-playing, etc. These activities promote analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class content in order to improve student learning outcomes.

Helpdesk Information:

The NDUS/Blackboard Helpdesk number is 866-457-6387.

Teaching Methodology and Learning Outcomes:

I will use a mixture of lectures, in-class discussions, and problem-solving exercises in the presentation of the course. At the end of the course, the student will have an awareness of the complexity of economic behavior, domestic and global. The student will also have the knowledge of the historical dimensions of economic analysis and the interrelationships of economics with philosophy and mathematics.

Make-up Policies

No make-up exams or assignments are given. Please note that you need to plan ahead to complete your work to ensure it is submitted on time.

There is no late policy for homework. The homework assignments have due/date times and Blackboard will not accept submissions beyond the stated due date/time.

Academic Honesty

The goal of education is to add value to your knowledge base, skills, understanding and perceptions of the economic environment we live in. Therefore I must be sure your work is your own intellectual output.

You should familiarize yourself with the College's policy on academic honesty that appears in the Student Handbook.

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating a failing grade will automatically result and the student will be referred to the College for any disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities

If you have specific physical, psychological or learning disabilities that require some form or type of accommodations, please let me know in the beginning of the class so that your needs maybe addressed by the instructor and/or the college.

Late Work:

No LATE work will be accepted for any reason. Since I have given you the information for all the assignments and tests, it is your responsibility to complete them and turn them in on the respective due date. Make sure you are fully aware of the course calendar because that will show you exact due dates for all respective assignments, tests,

and quizzes. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me concerning any of these due dates but leave ample time so that you are able to complete them. If you do not turn in the assignment on the respective due date by the instructor then it will result in a 0 for the assignment. I am very strict on this policy and there will be no exceptions to this rule. All assignment must be turned in at the discretion of the calendar because that is your contract with me stating that you understand when everything in the course is due. Make sure you check the online calendar each day to keep up with all assignment posting because you are required to complete all assignments, tests, quizzes on the respective time. Make sure you leave enough time to finish all assignments, test, quizzes before the time period because I will not give extension to people that start to close to the closing of any assignment, test, and quiz time frame. No excuses will be made for any assignments. If you miss a test or quiz, you will receive a "0", which can severely affect your grade and your performance in the class. No exceptions to this rule, so make sure to take your assessment on a secure internet connection.

Please note that when you start the assessment, it must be completed as the clock will continue to run and not stop. You will only get one attempt, 60 minutes, even if you log out as the clock will not stop.

Technical difficulties do not excuse late or incomplete work. Make sure you have a backup computer (library?) should your system fail.

ASSUME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WILL OCCUR DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS!

Grading:

The class is weighted by points. The grading scale and grading distribution is as follows:

| | |
|--|------|
| Quizzes (7 each at 100pts each, lowest quiz will be dropped) | 60% |
| Assignments (4 each at 50pts each) | 25% |
| Discussions | 5% |
| Final Exam | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

BREAKDOWN OF GRADING

A, 100-90%

B, 89.99-80%

C, 79.99-70%

D, 69.99-60%

F, 59.99-0%

Assignments/Quizzes/Final Exam:

All quizzes and final exam will be multiple-choice questions. Each quiz will be 25 multiple-choice questions, of which, you will have 60 minutes to complete it. All quizzes must be completed by the due date listed on the course schedule at 11:59pm EST or you will receive a 0. No technological related excuses are accepted in the course for any reason, it is your responsibility to make sure that you complete all your work on time to get full points. The final exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, of which you will have 120 minutes to complete it. It is your responsibility to complete your final exam by the due date listed on the course schedule at 11:59pm to receive points. You will get two attempts on each quiz/final exam and I will take the highest score of those two attempts.

You will get different questions, so make sure to review your answers to ensure that you can learn from your mistakes. When you are taking any assessment, any technological issue that does not allow you to complete the assessment will result in a grade of a 0. This is the same policy that applies to all students, so do not email me any excuses to why you cannot complete the assessments. You will need to ensure that you have a secure internet connection and that you are active during the assessment as you need to click every one minute. All students are held to the same policies in the course, so if you cannot finish the assessment for any reason, you will receive the score you earned at that point. No exceptions to this rule, so make sure to take plan early and be careful when taking any assessment. The lowest quiz will be dropped in the course.

When you take your quiz, you have to complete it within the time period of when you started it. So, if you have 60 minutes to take a quiz and you start it at 1pm, you will have to end it on the same day by 2pm. You can leave and start it during that time period, but the clock will keep moving. Also, you only get ONE attempt on the quiz, so when you start it, you have to end it at that point.

Discussions:

First Post by Thursday of the first Module at 11:59pm, 20 points

Initial Post, 10 points for APA formatting, 20 points for content and development, 10 points for use of economic terms, 40 points

Peer Responses, 20 points each, 40 points total

TOTAL=100 points

IMPORTANT NOTES ON HOW TO DO WELL ON THE DISCUSSIONS

1. Do you have 3-4 paragraphs for initial post?
2. Did you use economic terms from the Week?
3. Did you have at least 2 peer responses of at least one paragraph in length?
4. Did you label your post correctly?
5. Did you get your first post in by Thursday?
6. Did you add value in the discussion board with appropriate use of economic terms?

YOUR FIRST POST MUST BE BY THE FIRST THURSDAY at 11:59pm OF EACH MODULE OR YOU WILL LOSE 10 POINTS!!!!

To do well, I will recommend that you write 3-4 paragraphs for your response to the discussion question and 1-2 paragraph response to your fellow classmates or my additional questions that I post. I also recommend that you are using economic terms in your evaluation and responses as this are a good way to achieve maximum points. Each post should be "value added." In other words, your posts should further the thread topics; show that you have learned something from our readings, or outside research; bring anecdotal, life experiences to the threaded

issues; ask relevant and forward moving questions; or otherwise promote the course objectives for the week. Posts like "I agree," or "Great post" are nice, good-will posts--but do not count as a graded post.

INITIAL POST (60 total points): For each initial post, you need to evaluate/analyze the discussion question using appropriate economic terminology in your work in at least 3-4 paragraphs. It is important to make sure you are using proper sources and use of the economic terminology as this is what you are being graded on. When evaluating the discussion question, make sure that you are not summarizing the discussion question, but extending the analysis of the discussion question through the use of the terminology found in the text. You need to label your initial post as the following in the discussion thread with the following subject. LAST NAME. INITIAL POST. For example, BERGAN. INITIAL POST #1

PEER RESPONSES (20 total points each, 40 total points): You will be responding to 2 students or to any of my questions that I post. For each peer response, you need to respond with at least a one paragraph (at least 4 sentences) response doing the same routine as you did for the initial post. It is important to make sure that with your development with your peer response that you are extending your analysis.

Each post should be "value added." In other words, your posts should further the thread topics; show that you have learned something from our readings, or outside research; bring anecdotal, life experiences to the threaded issues; ask relevant and forward moving questions; or otherwise promote the course objectives for the week. Posts like "I agree," or "Great post" are nice, good-will posts--but do not count as a graded post.

Discussion Evaluation: You will write an initial post (3-4 paragraph response) to the discussion forum and you will reply to two posts during the week. Those may be in reply to comments on your initial post or to other students. A response needs to have more depth than "I agree" or "you are wrong." A peer response can be classified to any of the questions I post within the week, as well. Your grade will be determined by your overall involvement in the forum and will be made up of three elements.

Class Schedule:

This is the class schedule, with due dates for assignments, tests, and extra credit, etc. You can do and turn in the assignments early, including doing the tests. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THE ASSIGNMENT – THE CLASS MOVES QUICKLY, IT IS EASY TO FALL BEHIND.**

| MODULE(DATES) All modules will end on the due date listed below. All work is due by 11:55pm as no extensions are allowed after this point. | TO DO LIST |
|--|--|
| Module 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Chps 1-4• Introductions -- due by 1/18• Quiz #1 --- 2/1 |

| | |
|----------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #1(supply and demand, ch 3) – 2/8 |
| Module 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chps 5-6,10-11 • Quiz #2 -- 2/15 • Assignment #2(elasticity, chp 5) – 2/22 |
| Module 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chps 12-16 • Quiz #3 --- 3/1 • Discussion Board #1, initial post due by 3/6, peer responses by 3/8 • Assignment #3 (perfect competition and monopolistic competition)– 3/8 • Quiz #4(chps 12-13) – 3/22 • Discussion Board #2, initial post due by 3/20, peer responses by 3/22 • Quiz #5(Chps 14-15)— 3/29 • Quiz #6(Chps 16) -- 3/29 |
| Module 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chps 17-18 • Assignment #4 (labor markets, chp 17)– 4/5 • Quiz #7(Chps 17-18) – 4/5 • Final Exam --- 4/12 |

Table of Contents

Part 1: Introduction

1. Economics: Foundations and Models

Appendix: Using Graphs and Formulas

2. Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, and the Market System

3. Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply

4. Economic Efficiency, Government Price Setting, and Taxes

Appendix: Quantitative Demand and Supply Analysis

Part 2: Markets in Action: Policy and Applications

5. Externalities, Environmental Policy, and Public Goods

6. Elasticity: The Responsiveness of Demand and Supply

7. The Economics of Health Care

Part 3: Firms in the Domestic and International Economies

8. Firms, the Stock Market, and Corporate Governance

Appendix: Tools to Analyze Firms' Financial Information

9. Comparative Advantage and the Gains from International Trade

Part 4: Microeconomic Foundations: Consumers and Firms

10. Consumer Choice and Behavioral Economics

Appendix: Using Indifference Curves and Budget Lines to Understand Consumer Behavior

11. Technology, Production, and Costs

Appendix: Using Isoquants and Isocost Lines to Understand Production and Cost

Part 5: Market Structure and Firm Strategy

12. Firms in Perfectly Competitive Markets

13. Monopolistic Competition: The Competitive Model in a More Realistic Setting

14. Oligopoly: Firms in Less Competitive Markets

15. Monopoly and Antitrust Policy

16. Pricing Strategy

Part 6: Labor Markets, Public Choice, and the Distribution of Income

17. The Markets for Labor and Other Factors of Production

18. Public Choice, Taxes, and the Distribution of Income

Institutional Syllabus: The Institutional Syllabus provides additional information related to courses at Bismarck State College. The Institutional Syllabus can be found at <https://bismarckstate.edu/uploads/33/InstitutionalSyllabus.pdf>