

## **Economics 102: Principles of Microeconomics (ONLINE) Summer II 2010**

Instructor: Supriya Sarnikar

Office Room: Wilson 312B

Online Office Hours: MW 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM – 10:00 PM via Plato course page (Chat or Who's Online tool); By appointment via Elluminate.

In Person Office Hours: By Appointment

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### **Required Textbook:**

*Microeconomics*, Any (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) Edition, by R. Glenn Hubbard & Anthony Patrick O'Brien.  
eText ISBN: 0-13-813333-6; Print ISBN: 0-13-813277-1

You can find the e-textbook at this link: [http://www.coursesmart.com/givecoursesmartatry?xmlid=9780138133337&\\_\\_instructor=1215575](http://www.coursesmart.com/givecoursesmartatry?xmlid=9780138133337&__instructor=1215575)

### **Other Requirements:**

**(1)** Students will be required to purchase access to Aplia® (\$35) for online homeworks and quizzes. Purchase and registration details will be available on first day of classes within the course page on WebCT.

**(2)** Students will need Microsoft Word®, Excel® and PowerPoint® to view course materials and to submit online assignments

MS-Office® 2003 version is available for free download to WSC students from Resnet (<http://www.res.wsc.ma.edu>)

Alternatively, students can purchase MS-Office® 2007 at a discount through the WSC website

**(3)** Occasionally office hours and live discussions will be held via Elluminate, a web-conferencing service. Students will need a speaker/microphone to participate in the Elluminate sessions.

**(4) Because this is a six week summer course, students must be prepared to spend at least 3-4 hours each day of the week on the course.**

### **Course Description**

This is an introductory course in economics with emphasis on economics of the firm and resource allocation. No prior knowledge of economics is assumed. Topics to be discussed include the price and output determination under pure competition, market failures, international trade and an evaluation of American Capitalism.

(Source: WSC Course Catalog)

### **Course Objectives**

After taking this course students will

(1) know the basic terminology of economics and learn to use it correctly

(2) understand basic economic concepts and be able to describe them in their own words

(3) be able to identify the economic principles needed to solve a practical problem and apply the principles to solve the problem

(4) be able to interpret economic data and identify cause-effect relationships

### **Learning Objectives**

In this course, students will

- (a) Learn how to relate course concepts to current economic events
- (b) Learn to identify economic concepts in newspaper articles
- (c) Build critical thinking skills by evaluating arguments and applying learned concepts to real problems

### **Graded Requirements**

Class Discussions	40%
Aplia Homework	20%
Midterm Test	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

### **Course Policy**

#### **Participation**

Students must complete all assignments as posted and participate in periodic discussions online.

Discussions are **due every Wednesday and Friday**.

Failure to complete discussions (and other assignments) for two consecutive weeks without a valid excuse will result in an administrative drop from the course. Late submissions of assignments, quizzes and exams will not be accepted. Students will automatically receive a zero on any missed assignments unless they have a valid excuse. If written documentation is presented for a missed assignment then the weight of the missed assignment will be transferred to the final exam.

Some assignments on Aplia® are synchronous assignments. Students will have an opportunity to **fill out an availability chart on the first day of classes**. The assignments will be scheduled based on student availability. If your schedule does not allow much flexibility, be sure to fill out this chart on July 6, 2010.

#### **Readings**

Readings from the textbook and outside sources will be assigned periodically. Students must complete the reading prior to attempting the online homework and quizzes. Students must also be prepared to discuss the reading in online discussions. Participation grades will depend heavily on student's familiarity with assigned reading.

#### **Communication Policy**

All course related communication must be sent using the mail client within the course page. Students should allow 24 hours for responses to any inquiries sent via e-mail.

#### **Academic Integrity**

The penalties for cheating are high. Please review the academic honesty policy available in the student handbook and at this URL on WSC's website: [http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Current\\_Students/Student\\_Handbook/Academic\\_Life/Academic\\_Honesty\\_Policy.html](http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Current_Students/Student_Handbook/Academic_Life/Academic_Honesty_Policy.html)

#### **Grade Appeals**

Appeals of grades on exams must be submitted within one class period of receiving the exam score. Appeals must be submitted in written form, listing the question number and a clear explanation of why the student feels the question was mis-graded.

**Special Accommodation**

Students with disabilities who wish to request special accommodation are encouraged to contact me during office hours or by appointment.