

ECONO 2202
Microeconomics and the Global Economy

Syllabus

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College of DuPage

Economics Department

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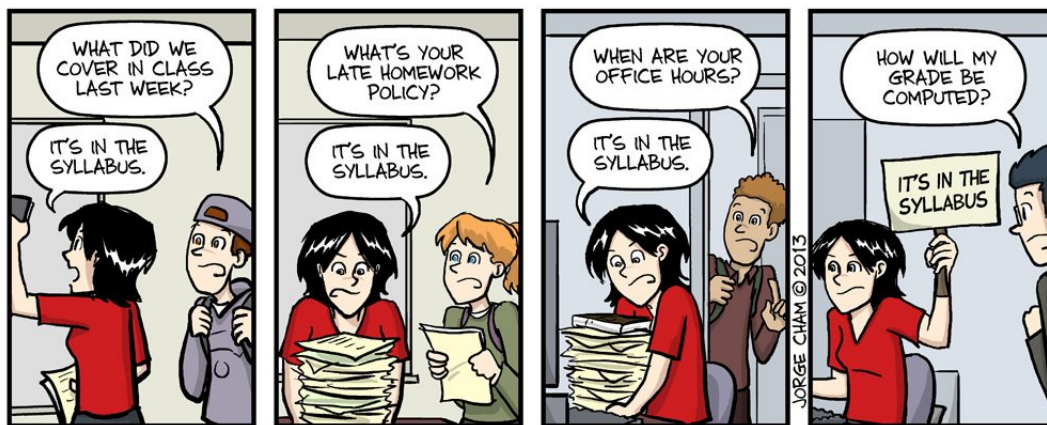
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Spring 2017

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Please, read and reference the syllabus. Its main purpose is to give you information about the course so that you do not have to ask me during the semester. Please, do not be scared about the length of the syllabus. I view this document as a contract between you and me. You should consider the syllabus to be the ground rules. “I didn’t read the syllabus”, and the like, is not an acceptable excuse for missing an exam, assignment, or being unaware of a class/College policy, etc. Any registered student in the course will adhere to and abide by the syllabus without exception.



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Instructor	Dennis C. Plott
Instructor Email	dennis.plott@gmail.com
Instructor Website	www.dennisplott.com
Instructor Office Location	BIC 2406
Instructor Office Hours	Tuesday (10:55 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)
Class Location	BIC 3716
Class Meeting: Day	Tuesday and Thursday
Class Meeting: Time	9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

1 Course Description and Objectives

1.1 College of DuPage Course Description

Economics 2202: Microeconomics and the Global Economy

Microeconomics and the Global Economy, is the branch of economics that deals with human behavior and choices as they relate to relatively small economic units - the individual, a firm, an industry, a single market. In particular, we study theories of consumer behavior, supply and demand, price determination, market structures, agricultural economics, environmental economics, factor pricing, labor unions, international trade and international finance, and economic development.

Economics 2202 is a 3-hour credit course.

Prerequisite: A score of 53 or higher in the algebra domain of Math Placement Test and successful completion of Economics 2201 is recommended.

1.2 Course Description

This course introduces basic concepts of microeconomics, the branch of economics that examines decision-making by individuals, firms, and governments. The goal of this course is to provide you with the economic tools so as to enhance your ability to think in a manner consistent with the existence of scarcity. We will apply a number of core principles to a variety of contexts. Concepts introduced later rely upon earlier ones, so it is crucial that you keep up with the material. If you do not know any of the above, then you are in the right course.

1.3 Objectives/Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Analyze supply and demand in the context of elasticities and explain the implications of these on consumer surplus, public policy, and the behavior of markets
2. Analyze and evaluate the behavior and limitations of a competitive market place
3. Analyze and describe the various forms of market structure and their implications for pricing, economic performance and possible governmental action
4. Describe and differentiate among the various returns to factors of production
5. Analyze and describe the issues involved with income inequality and the problems and opportunities of economic development
6. Describe and analyze the utility theory of consumer choice and behavior
7. Identify and analyze the affects of externalities on economic welfare and evaluate the various ameliorative measures which might be taken
8. Describe and analyze the effect of international trade on country output, consumption, and welfare

1.4 Course Objectives and Philosophy

Why did you decide to take this course? You could have chosen any number of other courses also scheduled for this same Tuesday/Thursday time slot, and yet you didn't, why? When you woke up this morning did you debate coming to class today, and consider sleeping in instead? You couldn't have come to class and slept in both, so how did you make the decision regarding what to do?

Economics is the study of trade-off decisions such as these – which course to take, economics or psychology; which decision to make in the mornings, sleeping in or coming to class; which car to buy, Honda or Ford; which presidential candidate to vote for, Clinton or Trump?? Economics recognizes that we face limited opportunities and limited time and that we must, at some point, make trade-off decisions that affect our every day lives. How do we approach such difficult choices?

Microeconomics, in particular, is the study of how households and firms make these types of decisions. This course is an introduction into the kind of thinking that makes internal trade-off decisions explicit. We will focus on gaining a sound understanding of the essential tools necessary to appropriately analyze basic microeconomic

models – but applied contexts will never be far behind. You will leave this course with a better understanding of the economic way of thinking when approaching the difficult decisions that must be made every day. Most importantly, this course will present you with a method for understanding contemporary policy issues that will lead to clearer, more objective thinking.

2 Responsibilities, Expectations, and Advice

2.1 Instructor’s Responsibilities

As the instructor, my responsibilities are to come to class prepared to teach; to organize and present the material in a manner that facilitates your learning; to respond to and encourage questions; to oversee grading of assignments; to be available during office hours and for scheduled appointments; and to stimulate an enthusiasm for economics and for learning.

2.2 Student’s Responsibilities

As a student, your responsibilities are to come to class prepared to learn and to participate in lectures; to complete the assigned readings before class (allowing time to re-read difficult material); to complete all assignments on time; and to take all exams.

2.2.1 Prerequisites

I will assume that you are proficient in basic high school mathematics; i.e., algebra. That said, there will be a healthy review of essential material in the early part of the course to help get your bearings.

2.2.2 Academic Rigor

At the college level, average students are expected to devote *at least* two hours of problem solving and study time outside of class for every hour that they are in class in order to earn a C (i.e., satisfactory) grade. Do not expect to receive a satisfactory grade unless you are willing to make the necessary commitment. Also note that you will be graded on your productivity, competency, and proficiency, not your effort, nor your intentions, nor any factor other than your performance on assigned work (i.e., problem sets and exams).

2.2.3 Advice

I know many of you work, have families, commute, take other courses, have social lives, watch Simpsons marathons, etc. However, experience has shown that economics is not a subject that you can put off until the last minute. An economics course is similar to a math class in that much of the material is cumulative, with each lesson depending on comprehension of the material that has come before.

Therefore, I urge you to attend class on a regular basis and actively participate. Experience has also shown that students whose attendance is irregular usually do quite poorly. I urge you to keep up to date on the reading and assignments, to ask questions in class, and come see me during my office hours if you are having difficulty. **I am here to help you.** While I realize that it is often unpleasant and sometimes even painful to deal with difficult material, ignoring your difficulties is a guaranteed way to make your problems worse. Forming study groups is also a good way to learn the material. Even if you are the best student in the group, you will still learn through your efforts to explain the material to others.¹ If at any point during the semester you are having difficulty, please come see me sooner rather than later. If you keep up with the material, you can do relatively well in the course. Falling behind is, however, the surest way to make this class a difficult and unpleasant experience.

3 Course Materials

3.1 Textbook

McConnell, Brue, and Flynn. 2015. *Microeconomics*, 20th. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0077660811. [McConnell (2015)]

This is the most recent version of the textbook and subsequently the most expensive. However, it is not only acceptable, but recommended that you purchase the previous (i.e., 19th) edition published in 2012. The main content is more or less identical, but significantly less expensive.

¹*Docendo discimus* (“by teaching, we learn”) – Seneca the Younger

3.2 Software

3.2.1 Other Useful Software

Although not necessary for this class, it is highly recommended that you use an online storage service such as:

- [Dropbox](#)
- [Google Drive](#)
- [Box](#)

3.3 Supplementary (Optional) Resources

3.3.1 Books

- Levitt, S. and Dubner, S. 2009 *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. William Morrow Paperbacks.
- Buchholz, Todd G., 2007. *New Ideas from Dead Economists: An Introduction to Modern Economic Thought*, Revised ed. Plume.
- Heilbroner, Robert L., 1999. *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*, 7th Revised ed. Touchstone.

3.3.2 Periodicals

- *The Economist*
 - A British weekly English-language magazine focusing on international politics and business news and opinion.
- *Financial Times*
 - A British English-language international daily newspaper with a special emphasis on business and economic news internationally.
- *The Wall Street Journal*
 - An American English-language international daily newspaper with a special emphasis on business and economic news.
- *Journal of Economic Perspectives (JEP)*
 - A quarterly journal published by the American Economic Association (AEA).

3.3.3 Online

- <http://freakonomics.com/>

4 Course Requirements and Grading

4.1 Exams

Three in-class exams and a final exam will be given during the semester. All exams are closed book/notes. Exams may include true/false/uncertain with explanation, graphing, short-answer (economic rationale), and problem solving (calculation) questions. No exams are dropped or replaced. No make-up exams will be given for any reason.

Any missed exam's percentage toward your final grade will be added to the final exam's weight. For example, if you miss the second exam, then your final exam counts for 40% (20% + 20%) of your final grade. Caveat: no student may miss more than one exam. More than one exam missed, without verifiable appropriate documentation per College regulations, will be recorded as a zero. All exams will be returned and complete solutions will be given in a timely manner. The final exam must be taken to receive credit in the course. If you are unable to take the final exam at its scheduled time and place, do not take this class. The final exam is cumulative.

Since everyone has a bad day: if, and only if, a student takes both exams, then 10% of the lowest exam grade's weight will be added to the final; i.e., the lowest exam will be worth 10% and the final exam will be worth 30% of your final grade. This is an alternative final grade measure that is automatically calculated. The maximum of the two calculated final grades is given.

4.2 Problem Sets

There will be four problem sets; each worth five percent of your final grade. No problem sets are dropped or replaced. The problem sets are composed of calculation, graphical, true/false/uncertain with explanation, and conceptual questions; thereby mimicking the exams to a large degree. Note: questions from past exams will be made available to you through the problem sets. In order to test you on a larger set of topics, multiple-choice question may be used on problem sets.

4.3 Regrading

Graded material for which there is a regrade request must be done within one week after its return to you. The request for regrade must be done in writing and attached to the exam/problem set when submitting for a regrade. The request must include a description of what the problem is and why you think the exam should be graded differently. In such cases, I will regrade the entire exam/problem set; i.e., not just the question you identified. Your grade may increase, decrease, or remain unchanged.

4.4 Late Work and Extra Credit

Late work of any sort will not be accepted under any circumstance. Bonus questions may be asked on exams. However, that said, there will be no extra credit given in this course for any reason.

4.5 Basis for Final Grade

Assessment	Percentage of Final Grade	Due Date (Tentative)
Problem Set 1	5%	Thursday 9 February (Due by 10:00 a.m.)
Problem Set 2	5%	Thursday 16 February (Due by 10:00 a.m.)
Exam I	20%	Thursday 23 February (9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.)
Problem Set 3	5%	Thursday 16 March (Due by 10:00 a.m.)
Exam II	20%	Thursday 23 March (9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.)
Problem Set 4	5%	Thursday 27 April (Due by 10:00 a.m.)
Exam III	20%	Thursday 4 May (9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.)
Final Exam	20%	Thursday 18 May (9:00 a.m.–10:50 a.m.)
Total	100%	

Grading Scale Percentage (%)	Letter Grade	GPA Value	Meaning
90–100	A	4.00	High degree of excellence in achievement
80–89	B	3.00	Better than average achievement
70–79	C	2.00	Average/acceptable achievement
60–69	D	1.00	Minimum standard of achievement
0–59	F	0.00	Failure
–	W	0.00	Withdrawal

5 Course Policies and Common Sense²

Actions that have negative effects on others will NOT be tolerated.

²“Common sense is not so common.” – Voltaire, *A Pocket Philosophical Dictionary*, 1764

5.1 Email

The best way to contact me outside of class and office hours is via email (dennis.plott@gmail.com). For any email correspondence, please, type “ECON 2202” in the subject line. This is for your benefit. If you do not, then your email will likely not go to the proper mailbox and I may not see it.

Also, an email to me is not a text message to one of your friends; please adhere to standard grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. For questions regarding the material, it is strongly recommended that you see me in person.

5.2 Electronic Devices

Laptops and iPad type devices are permitted for note-taking and course related material only. If I discover laptops (iPads, etc.) are being used for non-classroom activities, I will not allow them in the class. Non-classroom activities include, but are not limited to, checking your Facebook page, emailing, looking at Reddit, online banking, bidding on cigars, playing Tetris, looking at Brad Paisley’s website, and watching anime. No, I did not simply list asinine examples, but have actually witnessed all of these activities during a class!

Calculators may be permitted on some exams. However, only basic calculators up to scientific calculators. All that is “needed” are basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square root functions, and the like. Fancy-pants gadgets such as graphing calculators, cell phones, iPads, or anything that can store or reference information are absolutely not allowed at any time during an exam.

Cell phones, noise makers, and anything that may disturb the class in any way are to be turned off or silenced and put away. If these devices become a problem in class there will be a draconian policy implemented; any student’s noise maker that goes off in class automatically loses one-percentage point of their final grade for each infraction. If you are caught texting in class, then the entire class will be given a quiz on the most recent material covered. Wearing or playing with earbuds, headphones, earphones, etc. during class is inappropriate whereby you will be asked to leave. Contrary to popular belief, your cell phone is not a breathing apparatus; you can survive without it.

5.3 Food and Drinks

Please, do not eat food in class. It is distracting to me and your fellow students. Bottled water, coffee, tea, soft drinks, etc. are fine, but please be considerate and do not leave trash. If you spill something, clean it up.

5.4 Punctuality, Attendance, and Talking

Try to arrive to class on time. I understand you may be late from time to time. If this occurs please enter the room quietly so as not to disturb the class. The same consideration applies if you must leave early.

Attendance is not officially recorded or graded. However, you are expected to attend. If you miss class, it is solely your responsibility to obtain the notes and/or materials given from a classmate. Office hours are not a substitute for class time, but you are encouraged to utilize office hours to clarify concepts after you have put forth effort on the material covered.

It is your responsibility to check the class website on a regular basis.

In consideration of your fellow students and the instructor, please refrain from talking with your neighbors during class. If you have questions, ask me, not the student sitting next to you. Talking in class is rude and distracting, both to me and to other students.

5.5 Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected. In fairness to the many students who work hard and put in an honest effort, those who in any way engage in acts of academic dishonesty or cheating will be treated most harshly as to do otherwise would devalue all honest student’s education. I encourage students to discuss economics and the class material together (outside of class) and to help each other in solving problems and in coming to understand the material. In fact, you will find this class much easier if you do form study groups. Nevertheless, work submitted for a grade must ultimately be the work of the individual student – not copied from another student or from any other source. It is my policy to, at a minimum, assign a grade of zero for any problem set on which cheating occurs. In the event of any cheating on an exam my policy is to assign a grade of F in the course. Furthermore, I will pursue all appropriate disciplinary measures provided by College policy; including expulsion.

5.6 Course Flexibility

If it becomes necessary to add to, delete from, or otherwise alter this syllabus, then I reserve the right to do so as I deem fit. However, I will clearly communicate any and all changes made to the class in a timely manner.

5.7 Course Cancellation

If class is canceled by me (has not happened yet), you will be notified as soon as possible through email and a note will be posted on the class website. If required, a make-up class will be scheduled.

5.8 Grade Dissemination

All grades will be posted on Blackboard. Due to privacy concerns grades will only be given through Blackboard or in person. Phone, email, and other postings of student's grades will not occur per College policy. No one else other than the student in question is able to collect graded material for someone else.

Unfortunately, due to a recent experience, I must point out I will not, nor do I have any desire to, discuss your academic performance in anyway with your parents/guardians. Please, do not have anyone, other than yourself, contact me about your grades. I take your privacy seriously.

5.9 Recording of Lectures

Audio and/or any kind of video recording of lectures is prohibited and is a violation of federal copyright laws unless you have a learning disability that requires such recording (see below). In the event you do have a learning disability requiring recording, all recordings must be used only by the person making them and must be destroyed at the end of the semester.

5.10 Course Material

The course material (e.g., slides, exams with solutions, etc.) is provided on my website to help you. Do NOT post the material to any other website; e.g., Course Hero.

6 College of DuPage Policies and Relevant Information

6.1 Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability enrolled in any course at COD, you may be eligible for accommodations. To request accommodations, you will need to provide appropriate documentation of your disability to the Center for Access and Accommodations.

You can contact them in a variety of ways:

Phone: (630) 942-2154/4260/2306/3798/2567

TDD: (630) 858-9692

Email: access@cod.edu

6.2 Withdrawal Policy

6.2.1 Withdrawal from a Class

The final day for a student to withdraw from any course will be equal to 75% of the time for the respective academic session (see the Registration Calendar http://www.cod.edu/registration/pdf/reg_calendar.pdf) through myACCESS <https://myaccess.cod.edu> or in person at the Registration office, Student Services Center (SSC), Room 2221.

6.2.2 Administrative Withdrawal

After the deadline, students will be required to appeal for late withdrawal and provide appropriate documentation to the Student Registration Services Office for all requests. Students who are granted approval to withdraw by petition will not be eligible for refunds of tuition or fees and will receive a 'W' grade on their transcript. Appeals must be submitted prior to the designated final exam period for 16-week classes and before the last class meeting for all other session classes.

6.3 Academic Calendar

Month	Date	Day	Event [†]
January	23	Monday	Classes Begin
March–April	27–2	Monday–Sunday	Spring Break (No Classes)
April	15	Saturday	Last Day to Withdraw
April	16	Sunday	Easter (No Classes)
May	13–19	Saturday–Friday	Final Evaluations/Culminating Activities
May	19	Friday	End of Classes

[†] 16-Week

7 (Tentative³) Schedule

Month	Date	Day	Topic [†]	Due
January	24	Tuesday	Syllabus	–
January	26	Thursday	Introduction	–
January	31	Tuesday	Introduction/Supply & Demand	–
February	2	Thursday	Supply & Demand	–
February	7	Tuesday	Supply & Demand	–
February	9	Thursday	Elasticity	PS 1 (by 10:00 a.m.)
February	14	Tuesday	Market Failures	–
February	16	Thursday	Consumer Behavior	PS 2 (by 10:00 a.m.)
February	21	Tuesday	Exam I Review	–
February	23	Thursday	Exam I	9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.
February	28	Tuesday	Technology, Production, and Costs	–
March	2	Thursday	Perfect Competition	–
March	7	Tuesday	Perfect Competition	–
March	9	Thursday	Monopoly	–
March	14	Tuesday	Monopoly/Monopolistic Comp. and Oligopoly	–
March	16	Thursday	Monopolistic Comp. and Oligopoly	PS 3 (by 10:00 a.m.)
March	21	Tuesday	Exam II Review	–
March	23	Thursday	Exam II	9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.
March	28	Tuesday	Spring Break	–
March	30	Thursday	Spring Break	–
April	4	Tuesday	Corporate Governance & the Stock Market	–
April	6	Thursday	Labor and Factor Markets	–
April	11	Tuesday	Labor and Factor Markets	–
April	13	Thursday	Economics of Health Care	–
April	18	Tuesday	Economics of Health Care	–
April	20	Thursday	International Trade	–
April	25	Tuesday	International Trade	–
April	27	Thursday	International Trade	PS 4 (by 10:00 a.m.)
May	2	Tuesday	Exam III Review	–
May	4	Thursday	Exam III	9:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m.
May	9	Tuesday	Special Topic	–
May	11	Thursday	Special Topic	–
May	16	Tuesday	Final Exam Review	–
May	18	Thursday	Final Exam	9:00 a.m.–10:50 a.m.

[†] Readings are from McConnell (2015). See next section.

8 Textbook Readings

Introduction to Economics with Extensions

McConnell (2015), Ch. 1–2

³ “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft a-gley” [often go awry] – Robert Burns, *To a Mouse*, 1786

Supply & Demand

McConnell (2015), Ch. 3

Elasticity

McConnell (2015), Ch. 4

Market Failures

McConnell (2015), Ch. 5

Consumer Behavior

McConnell (2015), Ch. 6

Technology, Production, and Costs

McConnell (2015), Ch. 7

Perfect Competition

McConnell (2015), Ch. 8–9

Monopoly

McConnell (2015), Ch. 10

Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly

McConnell (2015), Ch. 11

Labor and Factor Markets

McConnell (2015), Ch. 12–13

Economics of Health Care

McConnell (2015), Ch. 17, 21

International Trade

McConnell (2015), Ch. 23