E201 Introduction to Microeconomics

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:00–16:15, or by appointment

Prerequisites: The IUPUI All-Campus Bulletin lists “sophomore standing” as a prerequisite for all sections of E201. Freshmen can take this course, but this is meant to advise you that E201 is a more difficult course than most survey courses you might expect to take in your first year of college study.

Course description: This course is a general introduction to microeconomic analysis.

Principles of Undergraduate Learning: This course aims to contribute primarily to the critical thinking principle, especially in developing the ability to synthesize information to arrive at reasoned conclusions, and to evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of arguments.

By the end of the semester, you should have:
- Developed a familiarity with core concepts of microeconomics that are useful to understanding how societies are organized and how their functioning could be improved;
- Developed an ability to use economic ideas in evaluating economic systems and public policies. In particular you should leave this course with a basic understanding of the factors that should be considered to determine what type of institutions (democratic, corporate, voluntary, informal, etc…) are most appropriate for various purposes in society;
- Developed an ability to critically analyze economic arguments put forth in public policy debates. For instance, you should be able to read and evaluate economic-related material in the media.

Textbooks:
2. The Worldly Philosophers, by Robert L. Heilbroner ( edition)

Course Outline:

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<td>Economic Activity in Context</td>
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<td>Primer on major schools in economics</td>
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<td>Economic actors</td>
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<td>Economic organizations and systems</td>
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<td>The value and price of goods</td>
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<td>Labor, investments and production</td>
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<td>Application: Health Insurance in the U.S.</td>
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Microeconomics is vast, and even if this course was twice as long, we would not have time to cover everything. Different E201 instructors may make different choices as to what they think is most important or most interesting, and do not necessarily all cover the same set of topics. Do not be alarmed if you hear that friends in other classes are being taught some things we do not talk about, or if you are learning things they aren’t.

Grading:

- Your final grade will result from accumulated scores on “clicker” questions and quizzes during class. There will be clickable questions every class. ALWAYS BRING YOUR CLICKER.
- Absence, or forgetting to bring your clicker, will result in a zero score for that day. There will be no make-up quizzes.
- The only exception to the above rule is for student-athletes who have made a prior arrangement with me to miss a limited number of classes to represent the university in away competitions. If this does not describe you, then don’t ask. The answer will be no.
- If an accident, illness, tragedy or personal difficulty would cause you to miss many classes and prevent you from getting the most out of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. I may allow you to take the time you need to deal with the situation and complete the course at a later semester without having to pay tuition again.
- Some other E201 instructors subject their students to a brutal (overall average score typically about 55%) “common final exam.” There will be NO final exam in this course.

Cheating
Cheating is any form of dishonest conduct with regards to quizzes, exams or homework. Students should avoid the appearance of cheating and not make it possible for others to cheat. Any student caught cheating will receive an F. The procedure for determining the guilt or innocence of the student, should a faculty member discover or allege cheating, is detailed in the IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct available at http://www.iupui.edu/code. There are a number of campus-wide policies governing the conduct of courses at IUPUI. These can be found at ://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.

Administrative Withdrawal
If you miss more than half our class meetings within the first four weeks of the semester without permission, you will be administratively withdrawn from this section. Our class meets twice per week; thus if you miss more than four classes in the first four weeks, you will be withdrawn. Administrative withdrawal may have academic and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and if you are administratively withdrawn from the course you will not be eligible for a tuition refund.