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 analytically rigorous 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.


Course Outline:

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Grading:

- 10 minute quizzes every class 60%
- Final exam **Wednesday December 15th, 10:30–12:30** 30%
- Essay (due no later than November 30th) 10%

- Letter grade conversion grid:

  90-100%: A+ 65-69.9%: C+
  84-89.9%: A 60-64.9%: C
  80-83.9%: A- 55-59.9%: C-
  77-79.9%: B+ 53-54.9%: D+
  74-76.9%: B 50-52.9%: D
  70-73.9%: B- 48-49.9%: D-
  0-47.9%: F

- Note well that the final exam will be on a **Wednesday**. This date is set by the registrar, not by me. If you normally work on that day, you have four months to seek and obtain the time off. Do not plan to have your wedding on that day or book a flight that leaves for Disney World before that day.
• **ATTENDANCE** in class is both expected and required. The course is structured to include content during the class meetings that simply cannot be gained outside of the class time. Since the quizzes are meant to give you the incentive to be present in class, there will be NO make-up for missed quizzes even if you have a legitimate excuse for being absent. So don’t ask. The only exception to this rule is for students who are representing the university on athletic or academic teams, with whom I have a prior arrangement.

• Each quiz counts for 2% of your final grade. So each one you miss reduces your final score by up to 2%. To allow for the possibility that illnesses or emergencies may cause some students to miss a small number of classes, the grading scale awards grades in the “A” range for scores of 80% plus.

• If an accident, illness, tragedy or personal difficulty would cause you to miss many classes and prevent you from getting a good grade, 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. The daily quizzes will be at the end of each class and may include questions on any topic covered that day or in previous lectures.

• Microeconomics is vast, and even if the 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 learning some things you aren’t, or if you are learning things they aren’t.

• The final exam will be a comprehensive exam on all the material covered during the semester. It will be a “common final” for all my E201 sections and will be an exam written by me and administered only to my sections. It will not be the same exam administered by other instructors to their sections. I will only ask questions about topics that I discussed in class. If I didn’t talk about it, I won’t ask questions about it.

• Cell phones are not permitted during quizzes or the final exam; they must remain turned off and out of sight. This includes cell phones with a built-in calculator.

• All quizzes and the final exam will be multiple-choice.

• The essay counts for only 10%, but this is enough to make the difference between an A and a B or between a B and a C, etc… So do not neglect it as it will impact your grade significantly.

• The topic for the essay is: **“Describe and justify one or several changes in how economic activity is organized that would make the world a better place.”** You must both give me a hard copy and upload an electronic file to OnCourse in a commonly used word processing format by the deadline. There is no minimum or maximum number of pages. You may write as little as you want if you can make a persuasive case succinctly. However, if you write more than a couple thousand words I will likely doze off reading it and your score may suffer. So be brief and to the point. I will grade your essay ruthlessly and will not hesitate to give 0 to someone who merely repeats uncritically clichés or talking points heard on TV, talk radio or (especially) from politicians. Simply repeating the same common nonsense as the “man in the street” who has never studied economics simply will not cut it and won’t even merit charity points. Beware also that either simply repeating something you heard me say in class, or simply arguing the opposite is not sufficient to get a good score. Your essay must be well thought out and must display that you have learned something in the course and that you have the ability to think for yourself. On the last day of classes, we will discuss and critically evaluate the best ideas submitted. I will also try to get the best essays posted online on the economics department website, and printed on a large poster by the elevator on the 5th floor of Cavanaugh Hall.

**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](http://www.iupui.edu/code).

**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.