COURSE:  PREFIX NO. | EFFECTIVE DATE | NEXT REVIEW DATE
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ECO 211 | SPRING 2013 | SPRING 2014

TITLE: | CREDITS | CONTACTS | CLASS - LAB - TOTAL
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Microeconomics | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3

PREREQUISITES: None

DESCRIPTION: This course includes the study of the behavior of households and firms, including supply and demand, elasticity, price/output in different market structures, pricing of resources, regulation and comparative advantage and trade.


MATERIALS (specifying those to be purchased by student):

COLLATERAL READING: Students are encouraged to read about current issues and policies from the major publications such Forbes and Business Week etc. The college or your local library has monthly or weekly magazines. News programs and radio programs also provide valuable insight into economic discussions too. Some examples include: Dateline, C-Span, CNN, and CNBC.

CLASS MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (Attendance, testing, etc.):

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
The basis for student grading will always be the result of the student’s achievement. The College expects each student to earn his/her own success; if academic dishonesty occurs, disciplinary action will be taken. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information.

- Cheating includes copying another’s work, using unauthorized materials, collaborating during a test or project, obtaining or distributing test contents illegally, substitution of another person in a test.
- Plagiarism includes incorporating work from another source, print or electronic, without appropriate recognition of the work cited.
- Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration in preparation of work for credit.
- Falsification of information includes forgery, alteration or misuse of documents.

The first measure of discipline is the assignment of “0” or “F” for the affected test, paper or project, with explanation provided to the student. Faculty submits a written report of the offense to the Dean of Student Services. Repeat offenses of academic dishonesty will
result in additional disciplinary actions. See Student Code and Grievance Procedures.

All work submitted to NETC must be the student’s original work. NETC uses Turnitin.com to detect for plagiarism. By enrolling in an online course, the student agrees that any submitted work can be checked for plagiarism. While the faculty at NETC understands that online learning can be challenging, Turnitin.com will be used for learning purposes. We encourage all students to check their work first, as permitted, to ensure the work is original. For more information, please see http://www.plagiarism.org/plag article what is plagiarism.htm.

ATTENDANCE:

Punctual and regular attendance in all classes, laboratories, field trips and other class-assigned activities is the obligation of each student. Absences are a serious deterrent to the learning process; an absence in no way lessens the responsibility of the student for meeting course requirements. Students must make advance arrangements when possible.

Except for college functions, there are no excused absences; therefore, students are urged to avoid absences except in the case of an emergency. When illness or other emergency causes a student to be absent, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance and to make up the work which is missed.

Students must attend a minimum of 80% of the meetings of each class in order to earn credit for the class. If students miss more than 20% of a class, the student will be dropped automatically by the instructor, and assigned a grade of “F”. Students must log in one day per week (Monday – Sunday) to be counted as present for the week, in each registered online course. Any student, who fails to log in, as set forth, will be counted as absent. Fall and Spring Semesters (15-week): Students may not have more than three (3) absences. In Summer and Mini-Mester classes (10-week): Student may not have more than two (2) absences.

Students should expect to spend at least 2.5 hours per week in the classroom, in a 15-week course, and four hours per week in a 10-week course.

Once the absence limit has been reached, students will be dropped from class for excessive absences. If this occurs at any time during the semester, the student will receive an “F” for the course.

TESTING POLICY:

Per NETC policy, at least one (1) exam/examination/quiz must be taken at an NETC Campus or Satellite Campus. The instructor will announce details in the classroom.

NETIQUETTE: Northeastern Technical College encourages all opinions, perceptions, and freedom of thought and writing. NETC also does not
tolerate disrespectful, spiteful, or derogatory writing. Please use Netiquette when posting, your grade partially depends on it.


WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE: Consider carefully any decision regarding dropping a course. Check with the Financial Aid Office to be able to consider all possible ramifications such as insurance coverage and financial aid benefits. Consult with your advisor to review the situation and/or to inform the advisor. You should complete a Drop/Add form which must be signed by the advisor and returned to Student Services.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Dean of Student Services to discuss needs or concerns as they pursue an academic program and participate in campus life. The Dean of Student Services will provide guidance regarding official documentation of disabilities and/or accommodation of needs. (See College Catalog)

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE STUDENT:
* visit the course site a minimum of four days per calendar week
* complete all assigned readings from text and other course related documents
* participate in classroom discussions
* use ‘netiquette’ when responding to others in the class
* submit all work in a timely manner
* complete all course work on your own unless otherwise instructed
* cite/document all non-original material as to not plagiarize others’ work (see section on Academic Dishonesty)

COURSE TOPICAL OUTLINE (List topics and sub-topics of course) and Calendar or approximate length of time devoted to topic.

LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES OF COURSE: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

I. Use standard economics theories and methods to analyze and evaluate economic issues from business, labor, and domestic environments.
   1. Calculate the expected cost of a decision trying to maximize self-interest
   2. Analyze the effects of price ceilings and/or price floors on equilibrium
   3. Describe government policy toward social issues

II. Interpret and demonstrate understanding of elasticity as it relates to supply, demand, and consumer choice
   1. Define and calculate the coefficients of elasticity of supply and demand, and determine the economic incidence of an excise tax
2. Describe utility from an economist point of view and interpret a marginal utility curve

III. Evaluate the behavior of business firms, including cost analysis

1. Describe the nature and purposes of profit, non-profit, and governmental business firms
2. Analyze short-run and long-run cost, total cost, and profit maximization

IV. Describe the four market structures (models) and evaluate the effects of each on the economy

1. Describe the usefulness of the pure competition model and emphasize profit motives
2. Analyze the monopoly model and summarize its strengths and weaknesses
3. Contrast isolation from the market in a monopolistic competition situation
4. Describe the factors that attribute to an oligopolistic market situation

V. Summarize the developments of antitrust activity and legislation

1. Examine the degree of monopoly power, including mergers, and the effects of this power on competition
2. Review the history of antitrust activity, concentrating on government regulation
3. Identify the basic antitrust laws beginning with the Sherman Act of 1890

VI. Describe the labor environment and its effects on wages and productivity

1. Describe the types of unions and summarize the history of the labor movement
2. Compare past role of government in labor disputes to that of the present and explain the effects on productivity
3. Identify factors that have weakened union strength and lowered membership

VII. Describe the general nature of government concerning the distribution of income and measurement of poverty

1. Explain the difference between equal and equitable distribution of income and wage discrimination
2. Describe government’s role in redistribution of income (transfer payments) and the bureaucracy involved

VIII. Examine the growth of government intervention and the effects on market and public choice
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS TO COMPLETE OBJECTIVES:
Readings
Assignments
Exams
Lessons
Discussions

EVALUATIVE METHODS TO APPRAISE OBJECTIVES:
ASSIGNMENTS:
There are fifteen weekly assignments. Each question must be fully explained using information from class lecture, the text and the discussion (if applicable). Partial answers will receive partial credit only.

Assignments are due on the Sunday after they are given. In other words you have one week and a few hours to turn in each assignment.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS:
Assignments are due the Monday after they are assigned. Therefore the assignment for Week 1 must be e-mailed to me on or before the due date on the front page of the course by midnight in order to receive credit for them, and so forth for the rest of the semester. Make-up provisions for assignments are to be arranged in advance. If you fail to meet the deadline for an assignment and have not made arrangements with me PRIOR to the deadline, you will receive a score of 0. Week 9 works a little differently. All assignments and discussions will be due by the last day of the semester.

DISCUSSIONS:
Discussion groups are vital to on-line courses. There are two weekly discussion questions (total of 30) for this course which are due Thursday evening. Students are encouraged to follow instructions and thoroughly post information and answer the questions listed. Discussion session responses will be graded. Points for the discussions will be noted on the graded assignment for that week. Example, Discussion # 1’s point value will be listed on the graded version of Assignment #1.

Discussion responses are due one week after they are assigned. Therefore the discussions for Week 1 must be posted on the Discussion Board on or before the due date by Wednesday midnight in order to receive credit and so forth for the rest of the semester.

Discussions must be sent on Thursday prior to the Assignment submission. Assignments are posted.

Economics is not like history where you can sit down and answer the questions in one sitting. It takes several days to think through each chapter and then a Eureka the economic ideas or philosophy begins to unfold.

I purposely have you do the discussion first on Thursday to get you to open up your text through the week and begin to read the
material so you will have ample time to understand its complex meanings prior to your Monday submission.

There is NO make-up provision for the discussion credit. Either you complete it by the deadline or you get a score of 0. I visit the message board only once the day after the discussion is due. If you have not posted, you get no credit and I do not return to the discussion page to check for late postings.

Derogatory comments, swearing, cursing or other rude behaviors detract from the learning environment. They are not tolerated in the classroom nor will they be tolerated in discussion group. If this behavior is engaged the perpetrator’s grade will be substantially reduced.

Discussion participation is crucial to your success in: Principles of Economics (Micro) because this course lends itself to discussion. It is very important due to the nature of the material that students become familiar with the different perspectives on the topics presented in this course. I WILL be popping in occasionally to add my comments to the group discussion. The discussions will answer two questions one will be a LAST WORD discussions at the end of each chapter. In terms of discussion generally, differing points of view, disagreement and vigorous debate are welcome as these critical thinking activities enhance the learning environment and stimulate interest. Nevertheless, all communication must be respectful and tactful.

EXAMINATIONS:
There are two (2) scheduled exams. Each examination is theoretically worth one hundred (100) points. There will be one comprehensive midterm in week 8 and one final at the end of the term. These will be in a 50-question comprehensive True of False format, which is 2 points each for a total of 100 points. It should take you between 1 to 1.5 hours to complete it. I have found these examinations help you better remember what you learned so that is why I apply this exam format.

MAKE-UP POLICY/EXAM:
There are two examinations for this course. Students may make-up a maximum of one (1) exam during the semester. MAKE-UPS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOTIFIED THE INSTRUCTOR IN ADVANCE. However, I would sooner have you mail me a 20-point BONUS PAPER for students who do not do as well on the midterm. It is easier for you and it is easier for me that you mail it to me before the end of the term.

BONUS PAPER:
Here is how this Bonus Paper works: You must turn in a term paper before the end of the term. It consists of seven single spaced pages and has four references of your choice. You may write on an economist i.e. Adam Smith or an economic subject, i.e. Monopolies. This paper is out of 20 points, which could bring up your grade 6%. I believe you
will learn far more by mailing me a paper rather than redoing an exam. Therefore, instead of choosing to rewrite and prepare for a make-up examination instead mail me at the end of the term you 7-page paper of the economic topic or economist of your choice. Please mail me your topic and when I should expect your paper to arrive.

ASSIGNMENT, DISCUSSION AND EXAM HELP POLICY:
For assignment discussion and exam purposes, students will be responsible for any/all material in the course text, lecture notes and/or discussion chats. Please note that material in the lecture may be different from that in the text. If you are unable to log into any discussion, assignment or exam etc. please phone Tech Support.

GRADE WEIGHTS:

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<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Discussions</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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GRADE SCALE:

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ASSIGNMENT GRADE FORMAT:
A - Assignments or Discussions are thoughtful and show applications of course concepts by offering a variety of references of course concepts using references, outside sources and examples including personal experiences. Your answers demonstrate strong thinking skills and grammar skills.

B - Assignments or Discussions are thoughtful and show application of concepts but could add more in depth discussion. Occasionally gives a reference to text or other sources and uses good language, concepts and grammar.

C - Assignments and Discussions show inconsistent thought and limited application of course concepts. Infrequent reference to text and outside materials. Often discusses mainly personal experiences without supporting text etc. when offering examples. Many grammatical problems can be found in written content.