

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY: NEW BRUNSWICK

MICROECONOMICS

EC 102 SECTION 08 (01:220:102) MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 4:30 – 5:50 PM; HARDENBERGH HALL A7
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 THROUGH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017
PROFESSOR HANK HILTON

A) Contact Information

1. Email: hank.hilton@Rutgers.edu (alternate fhilton@loyola.edu)
2. Department Offices: New Jersey Hall, 75 Hamilton Street, (732) 932-7363
3. Work Office: 908-874-3141
4. Office Hours: TBA

B) Important Dates

1. **September 12 (Tuesday):** Last day to drop a course without a grade of “W.”
2. **September 13 (Wednesday)** Last day to add a class.
3. **October 9 (Monday):** First Exam
5. **October 30 (Monday):** Last day to drop with a grade of “W.”
6. **November 13 (Monday):** Second Exam
7. **November 22 (Wednesday):** Change in designation Friday classes meet. We do not.
8. **December 21 (Thursday, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM):** Final Exam

C) Grading

Course grades are determined by the number of actual points accumulated out of the 430 possible points. Students accumulate points in three ways:

- 1) **Quizzes** – 100 points total – You will take eleven quizzes. They will be given every Monday of the semester EXCEPT October 9, November 13, and November 27. Each quiz is worth ten points. I will drop your lowest quiz score. Missed quizzes **always** count as a zero.
- 2) **Two Preliminary Exams** – 200 points total – You will take two preliminary exams. The first is on Monday, October 9. The second is on Monday, November 13. Each exam is worth 100 points. Missed prelim exams **always** count as a zero.
- 3) **Final exam** – 130 points – You will take the final exam on Thursday, December 21 at 4 pm. Missed finals **always** count as a zero. The final exam covers (a) all material from the third part of the course and (b) a list of selected topics from the first two parts of the course.

If you cannot attend the final exam on December 21, do not take this course.

D) Learning Objectives

You will learn how to:

1. Use basic economic concepts including opportunity costs, scarcity, positive and normative economics;
2. Analyze production possibilities of firms and countries, the sources of their comparative advantages, and gains from trade;
3. Use the supply and demand model to understand how markets work;
4. Calculate elasticity and elasticity's relevance to understanding markets;
5. Analyze consumers' decisions concerning consumption, savings and employment;
6. Analyze firms' decisions concerning pricing, output, employment and Investment;
7. Analyze firms' behaviors in alternative market structures including perfect competition, monopoly, and oligopoly;
8. Apply basic game theory to strategic interaction between companies and Individuals;
9. Use the concepts of equity, efficiency, and market failure to analyze and evaluate government policies such as price floors and ceilings, tax policy, environmental policy, etc.
10. How to apply economic concepts and ideas to situations not specifically covered in class.

E) Varia

1. Course pre-requisite: Pre-calculus (01:640:111, 112, or 115) or placement into calculus.
2. Text: *Microeconomics, fourth edition*, by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Worth Publishers, ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01076-8
3. Readings: I expect you to read each class' assigned pages prior to arriving in class
Every class will include an oral quiz on the assigned readings.
4. Attendance: I have no attendance policy. You will soon learn why I do not need one.
Please email me as soon as possible if you will be missing class due to illness or a family emergency.
4. Extra credit: This course provides NO opportunities for extra credit.
5. Civility Regulations: I outline these on the first day of class.
6. Academic Integrity: The University's severe penalties for academic dishonesty will be enforced with gusto. Students are expected to be familiar with the university policies that are detailed at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. Students are expected to know what constitutes a Level III violation.
7. Class Cancellation: Rutgers has recently had a problem with fallacious notices of class cancellations. Authentic notices are always announced via university e-mail. Absences due to fallacious cancellations are unexcused absences.

F) Tentative Course Schedule

The test dates are fixed.

The topics and readings dates are flexible and will be clarified at the end of each class.

WEEK	TOPICS	READINGS
1) September 4	Course Logistics and Preamble	None
2) September 11	Opportunity Cost and Comparative Advantage	25-36
	Types of Economics	40-44
3) September 18	Demand	67-77
	Supply	79-84
	Equilibrium (Eq.) and changes <u>to</u> eq.	86-90
4) September 25	Changes <u>of</u> eq.	90-96
	Consumer Surplus	103-110
5) October 2	Producer Surplus	111-116
	Equity and Efficiency	117-126
	Price ceilings and floors	131-154
6) October 9	<u>FIRST PRELIM EXAM – MONDAY 10/9</u>	
	Elasticity	155-167
7) October 16	Elasticity	161-181
	Consumer Utility	281-296
8) October 23	Consumer Utility	281-296
9) October 30	Production functions	329-334
	Cost Functions	334-350
10) November 6	Perfect Competition – Market Characteristics	357-361
	Perfect Competition – Optimal Output	361-378
11) November 13	<u>SECOND PRELIM EXAM – MONDAY 11/13</u>	
	Perfect Competition – Varia	361-378
12) November 20	Monopoly – Characteristics and Optimal Output	385-397
13) November 27	Monopoly – Price Discrimination and PM vs. PC	397-413
14) December 4	Oligopoly and Game Theory	419-437
15) December 11	Taxes and deadweight losses	187-211
	Catch up	
16) December 18	<u>FINAL EXAM – THURSDAY 12/21 – 4 PM</u>	