

HON 220: Introduction to Economic Theory and Policy Spring 2019

Course Information

Professor Information:

Professor: Dr. Katherine Lacy

Office: AB 318G

Phone: 775-682-9370

Email: katherinelacy@unr.edu

Office Hours: Monday 10AM – 12PM

If you would like to stop by outside of these hours send me an email to confirm I will be in my office.

Email:

I will read and respond to course-related emails in a timely fashion (within a few hours) between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM, Monday – Friday. However, I hold the right to not respond to emails I perceive as unprofessional. Please read this blog for guidelines about writing professional emails: <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>

I will not discuss grades via email. You must come to my office if you would like to discuss any grade you receive in this course.

Professor Commitment:

You can expect me to be courteous, punctual, organized, and prepared for class activities; to answer questions clearly and in a non-negative fashion; to be available during office hours or to notify you beforehand if I am unable to keep them; and to grade uniformly and consistently according to the written guidelines. I enjoy teaching this honors economics course and I look forward to working with you this semester.

Student Commitment:

I expect you to be courteous, punctual and prepared for class activities; ask questions regarding material being discussed and be prepared to enter class discussion; be respectful of others' opinions; observe classroom etiquette - be on time, turn off your cell phone, do not chat with your neighbor about non-class related activities, do not text or accept phone calls during class, do not dip or consume other tobacco products, etc. **I hold the right to ask you to leave class if you do not follow classroom etiquette.**

Course Description:

Monday and Wednesday at 2:30AM to 3:45AM in LP 300

This course provides an introduction to economic theory with focus on both microeconomics and macroeconomics. It is for students who are in the university honors program. Successful completion of this course will meet the business college requirement of both Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 102) and Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 103).

Required texts, course materials:

Economics, Second Edition by Dean Karlan and Jonathan Morduch

A Loose-leaf version is available at the bookstore.

The textbook is **required** for this course. Handouts and other reading assignments may be used to supplement the text and will generally be available via the course WebCampus site.

You are **required** to download the Canvas app on your phone. If you choose to not use the Canvas app you need to bring your computer to class to answer questions on Canvas.

WebCampus:

There is a class web site available through the University WebCampus. To access the class page through WebCampus, go to <https://wcl.unr.edu/>. Course related material will be posted on the web site so you should check this site regularly.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. In written assignments and oral discussion, students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the fields of microeconomics and macroeconomics, to include theory as well as applications.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the use of economics as a tool in the decision making process.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to relate and apply economic theory to unfamiliar situations as well as to everyday life.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to learn independently and to summarize and explain findings to others.
5. Students will exhibit good teamwork in discussing, researching and explaining economic concepts.
6. Students will exhibit college-level writing skills in shorter essays as well as longer projects.
7. Students will exhibit college-level abilities to research and analyze applied economics topics, present findings orally and in writing

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class. If you are not able to turn in a homework assignment or take an exam because of an unexcused absence, you will **not** be able to turn the homework in late or take the exam.

An official excuse from a scheduled class activity such as an exam must be presented in writing no later than two weeks prior to the date of the absence. An absence due to illness or family emergency may be excused, provided that you can supply acceptable written evidence if required, and that you notify Dr. Lacy as soon as possible. Notification is almost always possible immediately upon occurrence of an emergency. If you're too sick to telephone, you can get a friend to do it. Failure to make such timely notification may result in denial of your request.

If you are absent on the day of an exam due to excuses mentioned above, you must notify me before the exam. You must schedule the make-up exam before the next meeting of the class. Special arrangements can be made for extended absences due to medical, family tragedy, or school-related reasons, provided I am notified in advance. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a zero.

Homework:

Graded problem sets will be assigned on a regular schedule. Each problem set will be posted on the WebCampus course site. The posted class schedule lists the due dates for all problem sets. You will be notified in class when changes are made to the schedule.

Problem sets are due on **Friday by 3PM** in my office or box located outside my office door, AB 318G (Note: The door to suite 318 is locked at 5PM every day). Late problem sets will not be accepted. Your problem set answers should be presented in a professional manner. Illegible answers will result in a zero on the problem set. The solutions to the problem sets will be posted on the WebCampus course site.

Additional written problem sets may be assigned throughout the semester. Your problem set answers should be presented in a professional manner. Illegible answers will result in a zero on the problem set.

News Analysis Project:

You will be completing 4 reports throughout the semester on relevant news articles/podcasts that relate to the course material covered during that unit. Each report will be due the day of each exam and must be turned in BEFORE the exam begins. Do not wait until the day before the exam to complete the report! Late reports will not be accepted. Please see the New Analysis handout for more details.

Final Presentation:

There will not be a final exam but you will have to present on the day of the final (Wednesday, May 6th at 12:10 PM). Out of your four news reports, I will select one for you to present to the class.

Exams:

There will be four in-class exams in this course. The exams are temporarily scheduled for **February 20th**, **March 13th**, **April 10th**, and **May 6th**. The exam dates are subject to change depending on the progress made in class. All exams are in the same classroom as regular class. Seating on exam days will be randomly assigned. Phones may NOT be used as calculators during exams.

Grading Criteria, Scale, and Standards:

Scores in four major performance areas will determine your grade:

Problem Sets	5%
News Reports	30%
Exams	60%
Final Presentation	5%

Course letter grades will be assigned on a straight scale. There will not be any curving of the final grade.

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92.9
B+	87 – 89.9
B	84 – 86.9
B-	80 – 83.9
C+	77 – 79.9

C	74 – 76.9
C-	70 – 73.9
D+	67 – 69.9
D	64 – 66.9
D-	60 – 63.9
F	< 60

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Course Calendar or Topics Outline:

Week	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due Dates
1	Intro to Microeconomics	Chapters 1 and 2	
2	Demand and Supply	Chapter 3	HW 1 Due 2/1 at 3PM
3	Elasticity and Efficiency	Chapters 4 and 5	HW 2 Due 2/8 at 3PM
4	Taxes	Chapter 6	HW 3 Due 2/15 at 5PM
Exam 1 – Wednesday, February 20			News Report 1
6	Production Costs	Chapter 12	HW 4 Due 3/1 at 3PM
7	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13	HW 5 Due 3/8 at 3PM
8	Monopoly and Monopolistic Competition	Chapters 14 and 15	
Exam 2 – Wednesday, March 13			News Report 2
9	Measuring GDP	Chapter 24	HW 6 Due 3/29 at 3 PM
10	Cost of Living	Chapter 25	HW 7 Due 4/5 at 3PM
11	Unemployment and Labor Market	Chapter 26	
Exam 3 – Wednesday, April 10			News Report 3
12	Aggregate Demand and Supply	Chapter 29	HW 8 Due 4/19 at 3PM
13	Fiscal Policy	Chapter 30	HW 9 Due 4/26
14	Money and the Monetary System and Inflation	Chapters 32 and 33	HW 10 Due 5/3 at 3PM
Exam 4 – Monday, May 6			News Report 4
Final Presentation – Wednesday, May 15 at 12:10 PM – 2:10 PM			

University Policies

Statement on Academic Dishonesty:

"The University Academic Standards Policy defines academic dishonesty, and mandates specific sanctions for violations. See the University Academic Standards policy: [UAM 6,502](#)."

Statement of Disability Services:

"Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the [Disability Resource Center](#) (Pennington Achievement Center Suite 230) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations."

This course may leverage 3rd party web/multimedia content, if you experience any issues accessing this content, please notify your instructor.

Statement for Academic Success Services:

"Your student fees cover usage of the [Math Center](#) (775) 784-4433, [Tutoring Center](#) (775) 784-6801, and [University Writing Center](#) (775) 784-6030. These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student."

Statement on Audio and Video Recording:

"Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded."

The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for all. If you believe you have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, whether on or off campus, or need information related to immigration concerns, please contact the University's Equal Opportunity & Title IX office at 775-784-1547. Resources and interim measures are available to assist you. For more information, please visit the [Equal Opportunity and Title IX](#) page.