

ECON 102: Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2020

Course Information

Professor Information:

Professor: Dr. Katherine Lacy

Office: AB 318G

Phone: 775-682-9370

Email: katherinelacy@unr.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3 PM – 4 PM and Wednesdays 10 AM – 12 PM

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

Email:

Please include the course and section number when sending me an email so I know exactly which class you are referring to.

I will read and respond to course-related emails in a timely fashion (within 48 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>. To ensure I receive your email, please send emails via WebCampus or directly from your UNR email address.

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 economics courses 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:

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM in JTB 100

This course provides an introduction to the analysis of price determination, resource allocation, market structure, consumer behavior, market failure and government failure.

Core Status: CO6

Course Pre-requisites:

Completion of the Core Math requirement
ACT of 22 or SAT of 500
MATH 126/MATH 127/MATH 128/MATH 176/MATH 181

Required texts, course materials:

Microeconomics (with Connect), Second Edition, by Dean Karlan and Jonathan Morduch
You can access the connect site through WebCampus.

The textbook is provided to you through the Direct Access system at the bookstore and automatically billed *at a reduced price* when you enrolled in this course. You can opt-out of the direct access and purchase the subscription to the Connect course from another party. However, this will be more costly than the direct access price.

You are required to purchase a Turning Point account and link this account with WebCampus. If you do not purchase and link an account, you will receive zeros for Turning Point days. Also, please download the Turning Point App on your smart device. If you do not have a smart device, please let Dr. Lacy know ASAP. The instructions to register for Turning Point is located on WebCampus.

Handouts and other reading assignments may be used to supplement the text and will generally be available via the course WebCampus site.

WebCampus:

There is a class website 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 website so you should check this site regularly.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the methods and principles of microeconomic theory, including tradeoffs, opportunity costs, incentive effects, gains from exchange, and marginal decision making.
- explain how markets work and how market prices are determined.
- show mastery of the theories of demand, supply, consumption, production and cost, perfect competition, monopoly, and imperfect competition.
- assess the impact of imperfect information, externalities, and public goods on efficiency and welfare, and evaluate possible public policy remedies.
- use theory to analyze economic policy issues.
- analyze social/human conditions by understanding how the interests of individuals both support and compete with the interests of groups such as firms, societies, and nations.
- apply quantitative reasoning to understand and solve problems.
- demonstrate ability to be critical consumers of information by explaining alternative perspectives and structuring hypotheses to evaluate evidence and distinguish between those alternatives.

Core Objective 6: Cultures, Societies & Individuals. Students will learn how to systematically analyze human social conditions (e.g., individuals, groups, communities, and cultures). In particular, students will learn to observe, theorize, model, experiment, and/or interpret as a means of inquiring into human social relations.

Team-Based Learning and Lecture:

This class will incorporate elements of team-based learning and will use a variety of both individual and team assignments to help you learn the course material. Some of the content is covered individually with readings and short problems completed outside of class. Class time will include lecture, which will build upon outside reading, and quizzes completed in teams during class.

Teams:

Teams will be assigned the first day of class and will remain together the entire semester. You are to sit with your team during each lecture and take attendance on your team folder. Relevant course handouts can be found in the team folder. At the end of each week team folders will be emptied. Additionally, you will complete quizzes and applications (in class problems) with your team throughout the semester.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class and will be graded on attendance. No make-ups will be provided for a missed homework assignment, application, or exam

Because some absences are unavoidable, I will drop the lowest two attendance scores, the lowest HW grade, and the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

If your final exam score is higher than either of the previous exams, your final exam score will replace the lowest exam score. For example, if you receive a 50 on exam 1, a 75 on exam 2, and a 90 on the final, your grades at the end of the course would be 90 on exam 1, 75 on exam 2, and 90 on the final. If you receive an 80 on exam 1, a 60 on exam 2, and a 75 on the final, your grades at the end of the course will be 80 on exam 1, 75 on exam 2, and 75 on the final. If you receive an 80 on exam 1, a 90 on exam 2, and decide not to take the final, your grades at the end of the course will be 80 on exam 1, 90 on exam 2 and ZERO on the final (you are required to take the final. Your exam grades do NOT replace your final).

This exam grade replacement will NOT be completed on WebCampus.

Calculators:

Phones may NOT be used as calculators on quizzes and exams. Please see Dr. Lacy if you have any questions.

Quizzes:

There will be frequent team quizzes throughout the semester. If you are absent during a quiz, you will receive a zero. Missed quizzes may not be made up. I will drop your lowest quiz grade when determining your final grade at the end of the semester.

You will work with your team to answer the provided multiple choice questions. You will have three attempts for each question. If you get the question answer correct on the first attempt, you will receive full credit. On your second attempt, you can get 75% of the points, and 50% of the points on your third attempt.

Homework:

Graded homework through Connect will be assigned on a regular schedule and due **Saturday at 11:59 PM**. You will be notified in class when changes are made to the schedule. Late homework will not be accepted. Homework is due on **Saturday** to give you enough time to read the chapter for the upcoming week.

Additionally, you are to read the weeks chapter before class begins on Monday. To ensure you have read the chapter, the **Learn Smart** associated with the chapter on Connect will be due **Sunday at 11:59 PM**.

Peer Evaluations:

You will be asked to evaluate your team members three times during the semester. These evaluations will be completed through WebCampus and distributed to team members anonymously. The scores from all team members will be averaged to form 60% of your total score. The remaining 40% of your total grade will be based on the quality of the comments you provide your teammates. See the Peer Evaluation handout for details. If you fail to complete your peer evaluations, you will receive a zero regardless of how your teammates scored you. I will drop your lowest peer evaluation score at the end of the semester. Peer Evaluations are scheduled as follows:

- Peer Evaluation 1 **Due Sunday, March 1st at 11:59 PM**
- Peer Evaluation 2 **Due Sunday, April 12th at 11:59 PM**
- Peer Evaluation 3 **Due Wednesday, May 6th at 11:59 PM**

Exams:

There will be two in-class exams and a cumulative final in this course. The exams are temporarily scheduled for **Thursday, February 27th** and **Thursday, April 9th**. The exam dates are subject to change depending on the progress made in class. The final exam, which WILL be cumulative is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 12th from 9:50 AM – 11:50 AM**. All exams are in the same classroom as a regular class. Seating on exam days will be randomly assigned. There will be no make-up exams for missed exams (see the attendance section for my exam grading policy).

You MUST bring a 100 question SC882-E scantron with you to every exam.

Grading Criteria, Scale, and Standards:

Scores in six major performance areas will determine your grade:

Homework	10%
Learn Smart	5%
Attendance/Turning Point	7.5%
Peer Evaluations	5%
Team Quizzes	7.5%
In-Class Exams	40%
Final Exam	25%

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

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

Course Calendar or Topics Outline:

Week	Topics	Reading	Assignments Due on Saturday at 11:59 PM
1	Introduction Economics and Life Podcast: 13,000 Economists. 1 Question.	Chapter 1 Learn Smart	
2	Specialization and Exchange	Chapter 2 Learn Smart Due 1/26	HW 1 Due 2/1
3	Supply and Demand	Chapter 3 Learn Smart Due 2/2	HW 2 Due 2/8
4	Elasticity	Chapter 4 Learn Smart Due 2/9	HW 3 Due 2/15
5	Efficiency	Chapter 5 Learn Smart Due 2/16	HW 4 Due 2/22
6	Exam 1 – Thursday, February 27th		
7	Government Intervention Government Cheese Case Study	Chapter 6 Learn Smart Due 3/1	HW 5 Due 3/7
8	Consumer Behavior	Chapter 7 Learn Smart Due 3/8	HW 6 Due 3/14
Have a great spring break!			
9	Behavioral Economics	Chapter 8 Learn Smart Due 3/22	HW 7 Due 3/28
10	Game Theory and Strategic Thinking	Chapter 9 Learn Smart Due 3/29	HW 8 Due 4/4
11	Exam 2 – Thursday, April 9th		
12	The Costs of Production	Chapter 12 Learn Smart Due 4/12	HW 9 Due 4/18
13	Perfect Competition Helium Case Study	Chapter 13 Learn Smart Due 4/19	HW 10 Due 4/25
14	Monopoly	Chapter 14 Learn Smart Due 4/26	HW 11 Due 5/2
15	Final Exam Review		
Final Exam – Tuesday, May 12th 9:50 AM – 11:50 AM			

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 videotaping of class or unauthorized audio recording of the 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.

January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Pre-Class Survey Due	20	21 Introduction Chapter 1 Podcast Due	22	23 Chapter 1	24	25
26 Turning Point Subscription Due Learn Smart Chapter 2 Due	27	28 Chapter 2	29	30 Chapter 2 Team Quiz	31	1 HW 1 Due
2 Learn Smart Chapter 3 Due	3	NOTES				

February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 HW 1 Due
2 Learn Smart Chapter 3 Due	3	4 Chapter 3	5	6 Chapter 3 Team Quiz	7	8 HW 2 Due
9 Learn Smart Chapter 4 Due	10	11 Chapter 4	12	13 Chapter 4 Team Quiz	14	15 HW 3 Due
16 Learn Smart Chapters 5 Due	17	18 Chapter 5	19	20 Chapter 5 Team Quiz	21	22 HW 4 Due
23	24	25 Review	26	27 Exam 1	28	29
1 Peer Evaluation 1 & Learn Smart Chapter 6 Due	2	NOTES				

March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Peer Evaluation 1 & Learn Smart Chapter 6 Due	2	3 Chapter 6 & Government Cheese Case Study	4	5 Chapter 6 & Government Cheese Case Study Team Quiz	6	7 HW 5 Due
8 Learn Smart Chapter 7 Due	9	10 Chapter 7	11	12 Chapter 7 Team Quiz	13	14 HW 6 Due
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Have a great spring break!						
22 Learn Smart Chapter 8 Due	23	24 Chapter 8	25	26 Chapter 8 Team Quiz	27	28 HW 7 Due
29 Learn Smart Chapter 9 Due	30	31 Chapter 9	1	2 Chapter 9 Team Quiz	3	4 HW 8 Due
5	6	NOTES				

April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 HW 8 Due
5	6	7 Review	8	9 Exam 2	10	11
12 Peer Evaluation 2 & Learn Smart Chapter 12 Due	13	14 Chapter 12	15	16 Chapter 12 Team Quiz	17	18 HW 9 Due
19 Learn Smart Chapter 13 Due	20	21 Helium Case Study & Chapter 13	22	23 Helium Case Study & Chapter 13 Team Quiz	24	25 HW 10 Due
26 Learn Smart Chapter 14 Due	27	28 Chapter 14	29	30 Chapter 14 Team Quiz	1	2 HW 11 Due
3	4 Review	NOTES				

May 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 HW 11 Due
3 Peer Evaluation 3 Due	4	5 Review	6 Prep Day	7	8	9
10	11	12 Final Exam 9:50 - 11:50 AM	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	NOTES				