# ECON 221 – 005: Principles of Microeconomics Spring 2024

#### **Instructor Information**

Name: Saharnaz Babaei-Balderlou Office: DMSB 452Q1 Email: saharnaz.babaei@grad.moore.sc.edu Office Hours: By appointment using https://calendly.com/s\_bb/office-hours Online meetings: Blackboard Ultra Collaborate on Course Page

#### **Class Information**

Dates: 1/8/2024 – 4/22/2024 Time: MW 5:30 – 6:45 PM Classroom: DMSB 113 Note: See the schedule in the last page of syllabus.

# **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the principal topics and methods in microeconomics; A journey into the heart of decision-making given the the scarcity of means in order to achieve a certain objective. How do we determine who gets a Porsche, a pound of bacon or a new iPhone? In principle, the allocation of resources can be accomplished a number of ways, for example, government decree, waiting in line, whoever has the biggest club or by willingness to pay. In economics we focus on how markets allocate these resources using prices. Is the resulting allocation fair? Is it efficient? What are the effects of government interventions (like taxes, or minimum wages) in markets? Does the structure of the market (Monopoly, Oligopoly, etc) change your answer?

Over the course of semester, we will develop the basic tools used by economists to answer these types of questions. Given the common language of economists in these problem-solving process is mathematical, a certain level of proficiency in algebra and geometry will be required. Students who find these mathematical concepts challenging should be proactive in keeping up with the coursework. As much as possible, we will focus on applying these economic principles to practical, real-world questions. By the semester's end, you should understand how economists approach problems and be able to apply these tools to economic questions.

#### **Course Objectives**

After this course, students will...

- *Economic Fluency*: Students will be fluent in the language of microeconomics and understand the meaning of fundamental economic concepts.
- *Basic Principles*: Students will understand basic principles of economics, including opportunity costs and the tradeoffs associated with the allocation of resources.

- *Economic Reasoning*: Students will be able to think of individual (and firm) decisions as choices made to maximize some objective subject to constraints. Students should recognize that optimization occurs by comparing marginal costs and benefits associated with an action.
- *Equilibrium*: Students will understand how prices and quantities are determined in competitive and imperfectly competitive markets and be able to determine how exogenous shocks and government interventions will affect the market outcome.
- *Efficiency and Market Failure*: Students will understand the efficiency implications of different market structures and what are possible sources of market failure. Further, they will be able to evaluate the effects of government interventions on welfare in these settings.
- Application: Students should be able to apply the previous goals to contemporary issues.

#### **Course Website**

blackboard.sc.edu - Announcements, the course syllabus, lecture slides and notes, homework sets, quizzes, group discussions, exams, grades and any additional documents will be available on Blackboard.

# **Course Requirements**

• Course Format

This course is being offered as %100 face-to-face. The class will meet in-person twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 - 6:45 PM. All activities are designed to build on each other. So, to keep up with the class, it is strongly recommended to attend all sessions. Active participation in the class activities and completion of all coursework is required in this course.

Blackboard will be used to share the following course materials:

- Short video/PowerPoint lectures (if needed)
- Slides and lecture notes
- Virtual drop-in hours through Blackboard Collaborate (if needed)
- Quizzes and surveys
- Group discussions
- Homework questions and solutions
- Exams (TBD)

#### • Textbook and Readings

The lectures for the course are all self-contained. Yet a great resource to help you complete the course is *Principles of Microeconomics*, Mankiw, 10th Edition. Any other required and ancillary readings will be available on the course website.

#### • Slides - Notes

Slides for each subject will be uploaded on Blackboard. The slides may change during the week as we progress through the material. In that case, the slides will be updated. The slides may not include all of the examples we do in class or the solutions of those examples. To keep up, you may take notes during the session.

#### • Homework

At the end of each subject taught in class, there will be a homework assignment posted on Blackboard. These will become available at least 1-2 weeks before due dates. Start responding to questions gradually as we progress in class. The dates of each homework are indicated on the syllabus schedule, but are subject to change as announced in class. The homework submission window will be closed **before** the class time on the assigned due date. Answers will be posted by the instructor following the deadline of a homework for review purposes. Once the homework period is closed, there will be no make-ups **for any reason**. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that they submit the homework before the due date and time, and that they have access to reliable internet and required equipment. The homework will be worth a total of 30% of the final course grade.

#### • Exams

There will be two exams mid semester and a **mandatory comprehensive** final during finals week. Additionally, a practice exam will be shared with you before the exams. Exams 1 and 2 will be exclusive to materials from the previous exam and only the comprehensive final exam will be extensive. The time and duration of the exam is limited to class hour and scheduled to the class schedule. The location (online or in the same classroom) will be announced a week before exam. you must take them at their scheduled dates and times. The material of any given exam may change at the instructor's discretion. There will be no make-ups for missed exams except in extreme conditions (injuries/accidents, severe illness, or death in the family). Documentation must be provided to the instructor as soon as possible and must be dated. For medical issues, a doctor's note, not an appointment confirmation, must be provided. The instructor must be notified in writing (via email) of the absence as soon as possible and provided the relevant documentation before a make-up exam can be scheduled. Please ensure ahead of time that exam dates and times do not conflict with any travel plans that you may have, as such conflicts are not excusable. Any make-up exams must be taken at the first possible date. The University policy states that exams must be taken within one week of the missed assignment to receive full points, a penalty of one letter grade (10%) will accrue each week after the first. If you miss a midterm, you will get a zero on that midterm. You can find the final exam schedule for Spring 2024 using this link. Exams 1 and 2 each is worth 20% and final exam encompass 30% of the final course grade.

#### • Quizzes, Surveys, and Group Activities

During each lecture, a quiz, a survey, or a group discussion will be made available only during the class period, occurring between 5 minutes after the start of lecture and before the end of lecture. The goal of quizzes is to find out if any subject needs more elaboration, to evaluate the class participation, and to provide you with extra practice questions for exam. The goal of group activities is to provide you with the opportunity to practice group work and mutual respect for diverse ideas. The detailed answers to any activities in class will be available after taking them. You will be instructed to prepare your computer/device and given limited time to take the quiz. The number of the questions of surveys and the number of quizzes in each session may vary. These activities are graded partially for completeness and will be added to your total final course grade as a bonus. Taking the quiz or participating in group work can **not** hurt your grade. If you take the quiz during the class hour, you will receive the full assigned credit. After the time window of each quiz, you will not have access to the quiz to take it. Hence, you will not receive any extra credit for that assignment.

#### • Course Communication

If you need to get in touch with me, the best method is via email. Students are always welcome to come to my office hours without any advance notice. To meet outside of my office hours, students email me. Generally, I will reply to emails within 24 hours. If you have a concern about the class or course policies, then you should send me an email that describes both what is the problem and what you would like me to do about the problem. Please do not email with a question that is answered in the syllabus. These will not be answered.

Announcements will be posted to this course on Blackboard whenever necessary. Any important communication and notice will be through announcement section of the Blackboard (in the left black bar). Announcements are automatically sent to your email addresses by Blackboard. If there is any other information I think is important, I will send it to your email address you have on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email account works properly in order to receive email.

Here is how you can check your email address in Blackboard:

- Access blackboard.sc.edu
- Click your name on the main Blackboard navigation panel on the left
- Review your email address. By default, Blackboard uses your university-issued email address.

Your email address on Blackboard coincides with your preferred university email. If you are unsure of your preferred email, check your account. For more information on setting your preferred university email, please see the "How To Change Your Primary University Email Address" knowledge Base article.

# **Technology Requirements**

Lectures will be face-to-face. However, some complimentary videos will be recorded and uploaded on Blackboard. Such videos will include the elaborated solution of the homework questions and examples from required math in this course. Therefore, you must have access to the Internet and a computer/tablet/mobile device to watch those videos. No special software is required and the videos can be played through blackboard and the browser of your device. The course material assignments are also located in Blackboard.

To participate in learning activities and complete assignments, you will need:

- Access to a working computer/phone/tablet that has a current operating system with updates installed, plus speakers or headphones to hear recorded videos of presentations;
- Reliable Internet access and a UofSC email account;
- A current Internet browser that is compatible with Blackboard (Google Chrome is the recommended browser for Blackboard see Supported browsers);
- Any PDF reader that you might want to use to view material and enough storage space if you opt to save the class material locally on your device.

#### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Minimal technical skills are needed in this course. Most course work will be completed and submitted on Blackboard. Therefore, you must have consistent and reliable access to a computer and the Internet. The minimal technical skills you have include the ability to:

- Organize and save electronic files;
- Use UofSC email and attached files;
- Check email and Blackboard daily;
- Locate information with a browser; and
- Use Blackboard.

#### **Technical Support**

If you have problems with your computer, technology, IT-related questions, support, including Blackboard, please contact the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) Service Desk at (803)777-1800 or submit an online request through the Self-Service Portal or visit the Carolina Tech Zone. The Service Desk is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time). If you are located in the Columbia, SC area, the Thomas Cooper Library at UofSC has computers for you to use in case you encounter computer issues/problems. If you are not located in the Columbia, SC area, most regional campuses and public libraries have computers for public use.

# Grading

You can earn a total of 100 points. Grades are based on the following items:

Assignments	Portion of final grade	
Homework	30% or 30 points	
Exam 1	20% or 20 points	
Exam 2	20% or 20 points	
Final Exam	30% or 30 points	
Quizzes, Surveys, Group Activities	Extra credit (Added to final grade)	

#### **Anticipated Grading Scale**

The final score from the above elements will determine the letter grades based on the following scale:

A	90-100%
B+	85-89.9%
В	80-84.9%
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- C+ 75-79.9%
- C 70-74.9%
- D+ 65-69.9%
- D 60-64.9%
- F below 60

If there are changes to the grading scale, they will be announced in class. However, there will be no changes that raise the grade cutoff for any letter grade above the scale provided here. There will NOT be any CURVING in this class.

# **Course and University Policies**

# 1. Attendance

It is necessary that you join the class during the scheduled class time. If you are unable to attend or miss a portion of a class for any reason I recommend that you contact another student in the class for notes. The instructor does not provide notes to students. You can contact me if you have questions about the notes you've obtained. The University attendance policy specifies that students may miss up to 3 class meetings (excused and unexcused) without penalty. As an instructor, I will not choose to penalize any absences but I will reward students who participate in the class activities in each session.

# 2. Copyright and the use of course materials

All materials (including, lecture slide, notes, recordings of any presentation, discussions, homework questions and solutions, test and solutions, exams and solutions, quizzes, surveys, outlines and any other shared material through blackboard) are protected by copyright. It is recommended to take notes and use the course materials for your own educational purposes. However, you are not allowed to reproduce or distribute the course content (as mentioned) without the expressed written permission of the instructor. This includes sharing course material to any online social study sites or posting recordings and course content to **any** external website or service. Students who publicly reproduce, distribute, copy, or modify course content maybe in violation of the university Honor Code's Complicity policy, which prohibits sharing academic work with another student (either in person or electronically) without the permission of the instructor.

#### 3. Plagiarism

Using the words or ideas of another as if they were one's own is a serious form of academic dishonesty. If another person's complete sentence, syntax, key words, or the specific or unique ideas and information are used, one must give that person credit through proper citation.

### 4. Computers, Smartphones and Other Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices is permitted in class for taking notes and participating in the in-class activities. Headphones are not allowed during class. Please be advised that the use of electronic devices for any non-academic reason during class is strongly discouraged.

### 5. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The university is committed to a campus environment that is inclusive, safe, and respectful for all persons, and one that fully embraces the Carolinian Creed. To that end, all course activities will be conducted in an atmosphere of friendly participation and interaction among colleagues, recognizing and appreciating the unique experiences, background, and point of view each student brings. You are expected at all times to apply the highest academic standards to this course and to treat others with dignity and respect.

# Accessibility, Disability, and Triggers [credit to Dr. David Moscowitz]

I am committed to ensuring course accessibility for all students. If you have a documented disability and expect reasonable accommodation to complete course requirements, please notify me at least one week before accommodation is needed. Please also provide SDRC documentation to me before requesting accommodation. Likewise, if you are aware of cognitive

or emotional triggers that could disrupt your intellectual or mental health, please let me know so that I can be aware in terms of course content.

# Diversity, Ethics, and the Carolinian Creed [credit to Dr. David Moscowitz]

This course works to foster a climate free of harassment and discrimination, and it values the contributions of all forms of diversity. The decision to enter university and pursue advanced study is a choice that entails commitment to personal ethics expressed in the Carolinian Creed (www.sa.sc.edu/creed): "I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions." Likewise, the Student Code of Conduct (STAF 6.26 (http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf626.pdf) stresses, "The University of South Carolina strives to maintain an educational community that fosters the development of students who are ethical, civil and responsible persons."

# Title IX and Gendered Pronouns [credit to Dr. David Moscowitz]

This course affirms equality and respect for all gendered identities and expressions. Please don't hesitate to correct me regarding your preferred gender pronoun and/or name if different from what is indicated on the official class roster. Likewise, I am committed to nurturing an environment free from discrimination and harassment. Consistent with Title IX policy, please be aware that I as a responsible employee am obligated to report information that you provide to me about a situation involving sexual harassment or assault.

### Values [credit to Dr. David Moscowitz]

Two core values, inquiry and civility, govern our class. Inquiry demands that we all cultivate an open forum for exchange and substantiation of ideas. Strive to be creative, to take risks, and to challenge our conventional wisdom when you see the opportunity. Civility supports our inquiry by demanding ultimate respect for the voice, rights, and safety of others. Threatening or disruptive conduct may result in course and/or university dismissal. Civility also presumes basic courtesy: please be well rested, on time, and prepared for class, which includes time for a restroom stop before (not during) class and silencing all personal devices. My perspective is that we never cease being students of this world, so I believe that attentive, reflective people always have something to learn from others. Good discussions can be energetic and passionate but are neither abusive nor offensive. Vibrant, vigorous inquiry derives from discussions that:

- challenge, defend, and apply different ideas, theories, perspectives, and skills,
- extend a body of knowledge into different arenas and applications, and
- result in a synergy that compels us to seek resolution to these discussions.

Every student in this class comes from a different academic and social background. My biggest goal in this class is to provide an atmosphere of learning that is representative of a variety of perspectives. As we are going to discuss economic interventions on social problems, please take the opportunity to share your thoughts. The discipline of Economics would be heavily deprived in the absence of diverse opinions. Questioning is a big part of learning so any questions and concerns are welcomed. Since this is everyone's first Economics class at this level, if one of you has a question, I am certain that it will be beneficial if everyone gets to hear the answer.

### 6. Academic Integrity

Students are expected to follow the University of South Carolina Honor Code and Darla Moore School of Business Code of Student Conduct. Students found responsible for violations of the Code will be subject to academic penalties under the Code in addition to whatever disciplinary sanctions are applied. Cheating on a test or copying someone else's work will result in a zero for the work and possibly a grade of F in the course. Additionally, violators will be referred to the University Committee for Academic Responsibility and may be expelled from the University.

### Honor Code:

"It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina Columbia to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Any student who violates this Honor Code or who knowingly assists another to violate this Honor Code shall be subject to discipline."

# Darla Moore School of Business Code of Student Conduct for Undergraduate Students:

The Darla Moore School of Business is recognized globally for educating students who are prepared to become responsible business and civic leaders. An effective learning environment where students and faculty value integrity, professionalism and diligence is foundational to this mission.

Consistent with these values, the Student Leadership Council and the faculty of the Darla Moore School of Business expect students to:

- (a) spend a minimum of two hours outside of class studying for each hour of classroom time;
- (b) exhibit classroom behavior that is respectful to faculty and fellow students;
- (c) refrain from the use of phones and other electronic equipment during class, unless permitted by the instructor;
- (d) arrive at class on time, actively participate in class, and not leave class early;
- (e) keep up with assigned readings and complete assignments on time;
- (f) contribute fully to team assignments;
- (g) respect the university's staff and be responsible stewards of its facilities; and
- (h) abide by the University of South Carolina Honor Code approved by the Undergraduate Student Leadership Council and the Faculty of the Darla Moore School of Business. By enrolling in this class, you are bound by the Honor Code and Code of Conduct.

# Academic Success

### 1. Disability Services

The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) empowers students to manage challenges and limitations imposed by disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me to discuss the logistics of any accommodations needed to fulfill course requirements (within the first week of the semester). In order to receive reasonable accommodations from me, you must be registered with the Student Disability Resource Center (1705 College Street, Close-Hipp Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-6142). Any student with a documented disability should contact the SDRC to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations.

#### 2. Student Success Center

In partnership with UofSC faculty, the Student Success Center (SSC) offers a number of programs to assist you in better understanding your course material and to aid you on your path to success. SSC programs are facilitated by professional staff, graduate students, and trained undergraduate peer leaders who have previously excelled in their courses.

Please note that this course participates in the University's Progress Report Initiative. At key points throughout the semester, the instructor may alert the Student Success Center and/or University Advising Center of students who may not be meeting criteria that's been established for both attendance as well as poor grade/assignment concerns. Students who receive an alert may get an e-mail, phone call or text message from their Academic Advisor and/or the Student Success Center, in which they're encouraged to connect with additional academic support resources.

Resources available to you in this course may include:

- **Peer Tutoring:** You can make a one-on-one appointment with a Peer Tutor. Drop-in Tutoring and Online Tutoring may also be available for this course. Visit their website for a full schedule of times, locations, and courses.
- **Supplemental Instruction (SI):** SI Leaders are assigned to specific sections of courses and hold three weekly study sessions. Sessions focus on the most difficult content being covered in class. The SI Session schedule is posted through the SSC website each week and will also be communicated in class by the SI Leader.
- **Peer Writing:** Improve your college-level writing skills by bringing writing assignments from any of your classes to a Peer Writing Tutor. Similar to Tutoring, you can visit the website to make an appointment, and to view the full schedule of available drop-in hours and locations.
- Success Consultations: In Success Consultations, SSC staff assist you in developing study skills, setting goals, and connecting to a variety of campus resources. Throughout the semester, I may communicate with the Student Success Center regarding your progress throughout the semester, which indicates your instructor is concerned about your progress in this course. If contacted by the Student Success Center, please schedule a Success Consultation right away. Referrals are not punitive, and any information shared by your professor is confidential and subject to FERPA. Student Success Center services are offered to all UofSC undergraduates at no additional cost. Please call 803-777-1000, visit www.sc.edu/success, or come to the Student Success Center in the Thomas Cooper Library (Mezzanine Level) to check schedules and make appointments.

SSC services are offered to all UofSC undergraduates at no additional cost. You are invited to call the Student Success Hotline at (803) 777-1000, visit the SSC website (www.sc.edu/success), or stop by the SSC in the Thomas Cooper Library on the Mezzanine Level to check schedules and make appointments.

### 3. University Library Resources

University Libraries Resources has access to books, articles, subject specific resources, citation help, and more. If you are not sure where to start, please ask a librarian at the live chat feature of the website.

Remember that if you use anything that is not your own writing or media (quotes from books, articles, interviews, websites, movies – everything) you must cite the source in MLA (or other appropriate and approved) format.

#### 4. Counseling Services

The University offers counseling and crisis services as well as outreach services, self-help, and frequently asked questions.

#### 5. Mental Health

If stress is impacting you or getting in the way of your ability to do your schoolwork, maintain relationships, eat, sleep, or enjoy yourself, please reach out to any of our mental health resources. Counseling & Psychiatry offers individual and group counseling and psychiatric services. You can schedule an appointment at (803) 777-5223 or on MyHealthSpace. You can also call after-hours for crisis counseling. Wellness Coaching can help you improve in areas related to emotional and physical wellbeing, such as sleep, resiliency, balanced eating and more. Wellness Coaching appointments can be made by calling 803-777-6518 or on MyHealthSpace. You can also access virtual self-help modules via Therapy Assistance Online (TAO). Most of these services are offered at no cost as they are covered by the University Health Services tuition fee. For all available mental health resources, check out University Health Services Mental Health.

#### 6. Interpersonal Violence

Interpersonal violence - including sexual harassment, relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking - is prohibited at U of SC. Faculty, staff, and administrators encourage anyone experiencing interpersonal violence to speak with someone, so they can get the necessary support and U of SC can respond appropriately. If you or someone you know has been or is currently impacted by interpersonal violence, you can find the appropriate resources at the Stop Interpersonal Violence website.

As faculty, I must report all incidents of interpersonal violence and sexual misconduct, and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. Please know that you can seek confidential resources (https://sc.edu/about/initiatives/safety/stop\_sexual\_assault/contacts/index.php). If you want to make a formal report, you can report here or contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator, or one of the Deputy Title IX Coordinators listed on the Stop Sexual Assault website. You can also file a police report by contacting USC Police at 803-777-4215.

# Schedule

The schedule is tentative and **subject to change**. An updated schedule will be posted on Blackboard in case there are any changes. The schedule includes the material we're planning to cover every week and the assignments' subject and due dates. You can use the schedule as a study guide before each exam, and at the end of the semester. This is NOT an exhaustive list of all the topics covered in class.

Date	Day	Торіс	Chapter in Mankiw	Homework Du
Week 1		-		
1/08	Μ	Introduction and Basic Principles	1, 2, 3	
1/10	W	Introduction and Basic Principles	1, 2, 3	
Week 2		-		
1/15	Μ	M.L.K. Day Holiday: No Class		
1/16	Т	Last Day to Drop w/o "W" grade		
1/17	W	Supply and Demand	4	#1
Week 3				
1/22	М	Supply and Demand	4	
1/24	W	Supply and Demand	4	
Week 4				
1/29	М	CS & PS	5, 7, 11	#2
1/31	W	Price Ceilings & Floors	6	
Week 5		0		
2/05	М	Elasticities	4, 5	#3
2/07	W	Elasticities	4, 5	
Week 6				
2/12	М	Government Policies	8	#4
2/14	W	Government Policies	8	
Week 7				
2/19	М	Practice & Review	1 to 8 & 11	#5
2/21	W	<b>Exam 1</b> + Firm Behavior		
Week 8				
2/26	М	Market Structure	14 to 18	
2/28	W	Perfect Competition	14 to 18	
Week 9		<u>-</u>		
3/04	М	Spring Break: No Class		
3/06	W	Spring Break: No Class		
Week 10				
3/11	М	Perfect Competition	14 to 18	#6
3/13	W	Monopoly	14 to 18	
Week 11		Fy		
3/18	М	Monopoly	14 to 18	
3/20	W	Oligopoly & Monopolistic Competition	10	#7
Week 12		- Grief - Fonder composition		
3/25	М	Last Day to Drop w/o "WF" grade		
3/25	M	Oligopoly & Monopolistic Competition	10	
3/27	W	Practice & Review	14 to 18 & 10	#8
Week 13	••		- ,	
4/01	М	Exam 2 + Game Theory		
4/03	W	Game Theory	18, 23-3	
Week 14	••		_0, _0 0	
4/08	М	Public Goods & Externalities	16-4	
4/10	W	Public Goods & Externalities	16-4	#9
Week 15	••	- abite coords & Externatities		
4/15	М	Applied Microeconomics		
4/13	W	Applied Microeconomics		
Week 16	* *	Appled meroceonomics		
4/22	М	Practice and Review (Last day of class)		#10
Final Exam	141	i ractice and review (hast day of class)		// 10
4/26	F	Final Exam, 4:00 - 6:30 AM	Comprehensive	
7/ 40	I,	Tinai Ezaili, 7.00 - 0.30 Alvi	Somprenensive	