

**Principles of Microeconomics**  
**Eco – K102**  
**Mr. Phil Mayer**

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OFFICE HOURS (faculty office #11)

M 9:00am to 9:30am, 11am – noon; 2 to 3:30 tutoring (TASC); 6 to 6:30pm

T 1 –2; 6 – 6:30 (1)

W: 9:00am – 9:30am; 11am – noon; 2 – 3:30 TASC

Thurs: 1 – 2 (1)

(10 If I am not in my office Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 to 2pm, I will be in the library

I can meet with you at other times: please contact me to make arrangements

The TASC tutoring center is located on the left side of the library

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to microeconomic theory, with an emphasis on how individual consumers, firms, and industries make decisions. This class will also analyze how government economic policies are made. The basic theories of income distribution, international economics, health economics, and labor economics are developed.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Introduction to microeconomics* by Edwin Dolan  
A calculator is also required; colored pens are suggested.

GRADES

|                                  |     |            |            |
|----------------------------------|-----|------------|------------|
| 4 tests (top 3 grades, 20% each) | 60% | 100-94 = A | 79-77 = C+ |
| Homework                         | 10% | 93-90 = A  | 76-73 = C  |
| Project                          | 10% | 89-87 = B+ | 72-70 = C- |
| Final (omitted if “A” average) * | 20% | 86-83 = B  | 69-67 = D+ |
|                                  |     | 82-80 = B- | 63-66 = D  |
|                                  |     |            | 62-60 = D- |

\* If you have a “91” test average – including all tests – then you are exempt from the final.

ATTENDANCE: It is important that you attend class; you cannot learn if you’re not there. Numerous absences will affect your grade. It is your responsibility to get all notes, materials, and assignments for any classes that you miss. If you regularly miss class, or are consistently late and/or consistently leave early, that will be a clear signal to me that you do not care about grade; consequently, if you have a borderline average, and come to class, you will be given the higher grade; if you demonstrate that you don’t care about your grade, you will be given the lower grade.

I expect all of my students to have the integrity and character to be honest at all times. Students caught cheating will get a “0” on that test, and it will not be dropped. In addition, you may get an “F” in the class regardless of your average.

I expect students to arrive on time for class, not leave early, and to have gone to the facilities prior to class. Consistent violations are disruptive to your classmates will result in a lower grade. Disrupting my class or being regularly (4 or more unexcused absences) or arriving late and leaving early will result in the lowest test grade not being dropped.

We will at times discuss issues which people have different opinions about. Please remember to respect each other and act civilly at all times. If someone says something you disagree with, please raise your hand and wait to be called on.

**Make-up exams** will be given ONLY if the student has contacted the instructor PRIOR to the test. Make-ups will be administered during my regular office hours ONLY. Students MUST take the exam BY THE NEXT SCHEDULED CLASS TIME – NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to follow this policy will result in either a grade of 0 on that test, a penalty of 10 to 20 points, and/or a make-up exam that is all essay. You will be allowed to take one make-up exam per class per semester.

I do not give “incompletes.” Your grade will be based on all work completed before the end of the semester. **NO EXTRA CREDIT!**

**Snow:** In the event of wintery weather, please listen to 106.5, Q105, I-98, 1350AM, or WSUB for cancellations. If you do not hear that Three Rivers Community College is closed, that means we are open. You can also look at the website [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu) or call the switchboard at 886-0177 for weather info. If you do not hear we are closed, TRCC is open and class will be held. However, if you believe that it is too dangerous to come to class, that’s understandable; you are still responsible for finding out what you missed (see tentative course outline on third page) and learning that material.

Ten points per day will be deducted from any assignment that is late. In the real world, those who can’t meet deadlines are fired.

\*\*\* The best way to study for my tests is to study my lecture notes and the homework I assign. It is important that students learn ALL of the definitions we discuss in class; toward that end, students will find making “flashcards” with the word on one side and the definition on the other useful. These flashcards can be used to learn about the various graphs we discuss as well.

## COURSE OUTLINE

test 1: Chapters 1, 2, roles of govt, and types of firms (Wed., Feb 13)

test 2: Chapters 3, 5, 6, (Monday, March 10)

test 3: Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 16 (Wednesday, April 16)

test 4: Chapters 10, 17, 18, 19, and 20 (Monday, May 5)

final: take-home, due Monday, May 12 at 3pm - NO CLASS – drop off final in my mailbox or email it to me. .

**\*\* No class Wed. March 12, March 17, 19, or Monday, March 24.** (work on your project during that time)

**PROJECT: Due: Wednesday, March 31. PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL ME THE PAPER!** (You may email me homework if you can't make it to class) **3 – 5 pages** Find seven newspaper, magazine, or internet articles (credible sources, only) about the economy. At least 2 of these articles must be international, one must be on the nation's economy, 1 must be on the economy of New London County (or the county where you live) and 1 must be on the economy of Connecticut (or the state where you live). Summarize these articles, and relate them to what you've learned in class. Each summary should be ½ to 1 page typed doublespaced, so your project should be 3 to 5 pages long. Site your sources! (I do not need you to submit copies of the articles). Grammar and the use staples or paperclips is 25% of your grade. Suggested sources: The new London Day (theday.com), the Hartford Courant (ctnow.com), The New York Times, Time magazine, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, The Economist magazine, cnn.com, abcnews.com, nbcnews.com, Wall Street Journal (online.wsj.com/public/us). All of the sources are available at the Learning Resource Center. If you need help, ask me or the librarian ☺

College Withdrawal Policy: A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course **MUST** complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar's Office. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without being in good standing or obtaining prior permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Students who fail to properly withdraw and discontinue coming to class will receive an "F" grade. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal when received by the registrar. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities Statement: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Disabilities Counseling Services at 383-5240. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based on disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY:**

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement

Week 1 (Jan. 21): introduction to class, chapter 1  
Week 2 (Jan 28): No class Monday, Sept 5; finish chapter 1; chapter 2  
Week 3 (Feb 4): chapter 2, handouts, roles of govt, types of firms (chapter 12)  
Week 4 (Feb 11): review for test; TEST Feb 13  
Week 5 (Feb 18): chapter 3 (math), chapter 5 (graphs)  
Week 6 (Feb 25): chapter 6 (math),  
Week 7 (Mar 3): chapter 6 math and graphs (intro chapters 7-9); review for test;  
Week 8 (Mar 10) test Mar 10  
No class Mar 12-Monday March 24  
week 9 (Mar 24) Chapter 7 – video and graphs  
week 10 (March 31) Chapter 8 – video and graphs  
week 11 (April 7) Chapter 9 – video and graphs and chapter 16  
week 12 (April 14) review for test, test Wed April 16  
week 13 (April 21): chapter 19 (poverty and health care), chapter 10 (MFC, MRP handout) -  
math  
week 14 (April 28): Chapter 16 (labor market, unions), chapter 17 (environmental econ – graphs),  
chapter 20 (free trade)  
week 15( May 5): test on May 5; take-home final due on May 15 AT 3 PM