

**Department of Economics  
Fall 2016  
Rutgers University**

**ECON 220: 200  
Economic Reasoning and Applications  
Instructor: Noha Emara**

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Class room and time: ATG-221, Mon./Wed., 11:15-12:20pm. Friday online class.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course covers basic elements of microeconomic and macroeconomic reasoning at an introductory level. Topics include Individual Constraints and Preferences, Production by Firms, Market Transactions, Competition, The Distribution of Income, Technological Progress and Growth, Unemployment and Inflation, the Role of Government in the Economy.

**PREREQUISITES**

*No prerequisites required for this course.*

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

The text required for this course is the *Principles of Economics 7<sup>th</sup> edition* by Gregory Mankiw, Harvard University. This is an excellent textbook and should be available online through Sakai (see the instructions below) or at the Barnes & Nobel bookstore, where you can ask for the ISBN 9781305102422 LMS Integrated for MindTap® Economics, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card for Mankiw's Principles of Economics, 7th.

**WEB ACCESS**

The course web page is available on Sakai however all the course materials will be posted on MindTap, which can be accessed via Sakai. All the announcements, assignments, additional resources to accompany each chapter, and a secure gradebook will all be available on MindTap website. You are responsible for checking announcements, grades, and discussion board frequently.

Here are the instructions for MindTap via Sakai:

- Login to your Sakai Course.
- Click on the link to Cengage content, which is identified with a Cengage Learning logo.
- Link Your Cengage account with your campus Sakai account. If you do not have a Cengage account, create one from this page. Note: This is a one-time process. If you have previously taken this step you will be taken

- directly to the payment options screen. ·
- Pay for Access. You'll have two payment options:
    - Option 1: Purchase online
    - Option 2: Already purchased an access code? Redeem your code here.
  - I suggest that students just purchase the Mindtap code w/ebook: [www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781305102415](http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781305102415)

### **HBRID FORMAT**

This course offers readings, lecture material, frequent assessments, and online activities, including active discussions and exercises. There are no scheduled meeting times on Fridays, but deadlines are strictly enforced, as students work together to achieve learning objectives. The class follows a rigorous schedule and you should expect to be working at least as many hours as with a traditionally-scheduled class. Plan to log into Sakai/MindTap and work almost every day, as we complete a semester's worth of learning activities.

### **ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be a total of eight assignments. These assignments will count a total of 25% toward your final grade. The assignments consist of a series of multiple choice, true/false, and short answers questions. You will have ONE WEEK to finish and submit the assignment. The post dates for the assignments are **Mondays September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7, November 14, November 28, and December 5**. The due dates for the assignments are **Mondays September 19, October 3, October 17, October 31, November 14, November 21, December 5, and December 12**.

### **FRIDAYS ONLINE CLASS'S ASSESSMENTS**

There will be no in-class instructions on Fridays. However, on every Friday (fourteen Fridays excluding the Thanks Giving recess) throughout the semester, you are required to take an online assessment posted under Sakai. The assessments are either multiple choice questions or YouTube videos related to our in-class discussions, or the articles assigned on different topics. These Friday's assessments are posted on every Friday at 12:00am and will be due on the same day at 11:59pm. This means you will have **ONE DAY** to finish and submit the assessment. The total fourteen assessments will count a total of 20% of your final grade in the course.

### **EXAMS**

There will be one Midterms and one non-cumulative Final exam.

The Midterm is scheduled for **Wednesday October 26**.

The final exam TBA

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WITHOUT A DOCUMENTED MEDICAL EXCUSE.**

### **GRADING**

Assignments      25%

Friday Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Wednesday September 7: First day of the class.
- Wednesday October 26: Midterm exam.
- Thanks Giving Recess: November 26 – November 29.
- Wednesday December 14: Last day of the class.
- Final Exam: TBA

**FINAL REMARKS**

- I will NOT accept late assignments and I will NOT accept any assignments by email or fax.
- You can use a calculator for the exams.
- You may work with your classmates for the assignments, but each student must turn in his/her own copy of the assignments.
- Midterm and Final exams are closed book.
- You must turn off your cell phone during the class and exams.
- Attendance is important in this course.
- Academic dishonesty, including cheating, is never acceptable.

**ACADEMIC VIOLATION**

Academic dishonesty, including cheating, is never acceptable. Please refer to the following document on Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy  
[http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI\\_Policy\\_9\\_01\\_2011.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf)

**DISABILITY STATEMENT**

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Information about requesting accommodations can be found at:  
[http://campuscenter.camden.rutgers.edu/disabled\\_services.html](http://campuscenter.camden.rutgers.edu/disabled_services.html)

**TENTATIVE TOPICS**

These topics are subject to change. Students are responsible for all topics covered in the lecture notes. Additional readings will be assigned for some topics.

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TENTATIVE TOPICS</b>
WEEK 1: September 6- 11	<p><b>Topic 1: An Introduction To Economic Reasoning</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 1, Chapter 2</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>            THE ECONOMIST: Give Me Your Scientists  <a href="http://www.economist.com/node/13234953">http://www.economist.com/node/13234953</a>            AMEDNEWS.COM: Fewer Physicians Move, a Sign of Career Caution  <a href="http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/06/06/bisc0606.htm">http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/06/06/bisc0606.htm</a></p>

WEEK 2: September 12 - 18	<p><b>Topic 2: Interaction Between Demand &amp; Supply</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 3</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>  USA TODAY: Marketers Get to Us in More Ways  <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/money/books/reviews/2008-08-24-buying-in_N.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/money/books/reviews/2008-08-24-buying-in_N.htm</a>  BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK: Guess What Could Stop the Tablet Revolution?  <a href="http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/jan2011/tc20110124_951045.htm">http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/jan2011/tc20110124_951045.htm</a></p>
WEEK 3: September 19- 25	<p><b>Topic 3: Perfect Competition</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 14</p>
WEEK 4: September 26 – October 2	<p><b>Topic 4: Costs of Production</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 13</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>  USA TODAY: Will Thin Be In, or Will Sony Be Out?  <a href="http://www.usatoday.com/tech/products/2008-01-06-consumer-electronics-show_N.htm">http://www.usatoday.com/tech/products/2008-01-06-consumer-electronics-show_N.htm</a></p>
WEEK 5: October 3 - 9	<p><b>Topic 5: Elasticity</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 5</p>
WEEK 6: October 10 - 16	<p><b>Topic 6: The Consumer</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 21</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>  THE TECH HERALD: Oprah Endorsement &amp; Amazon Kindle  <a href="http://www.thetechherald.com/articles/Oprah-endorsement-to-dramatically-increase-exposure-for-Amazon-Kindle/2924/">http://www.thetechherald.com/articles/Oprah-endorsement-to-dramatically-increase-exposure-for-Amazon-Kindle/2924/</a></p>
WEEK 7: October 17 -23	<p><b>Topic 7: National Income</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 23</p>
WEEK 8: October 24 – 30	<p><b>Topic 8: Cost of Living</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Midterm Exam</b>  <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of October</b>  The exam covers the materials from week 1 to week 7</p>
WEEK 9: October 31 –	<p><b>Topic 9: Production &amp; Economic Growth</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 25</p> <p><u>Articles:</u></p>

November 6	<p>WASHINGTON POST: A Slowing Decent: Auto Sales Fell 37 Percent, but ...  <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/01/AR2009040103720.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/01/AR2009040103720.html</a></p> <p>BLOOMBERG: U.S. Auto Sales Estimates Cut as Confidence Slows Rebound  <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-18/u-s-auto-sales-estimates-cut-by-analysts-as-weak-confidence-slows-rebound.html">http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-18/u-s-auto-sales-estimates-cut-by-analysts-as-weak-confidence-slows-rebound.html</a></p>
WEEK 10: November 7 - 13	<p><b>Topic 10: Unemployment</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 28</p>
WEEK 11: November 14 - 20	<p><b>Topic 11: Aggregate Demand &amp; Aggregate Supply</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 33</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>  NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION: Restaurant Industry Sales Turn Positive in 2011  <a href="http://www.restaurant.org/pressroom/pressrelease/?ID=2039">http://www.restaurant.org/pressroom/pressrelease/?ID=2039</a>  BLOOMBERG: Air Cargo Down as Comerica Mulls Recession Risk  <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-15/air-cargo-down-as-comerica-mulls-recession-risk-freight-markets.html">http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-15/air-cargo-down-as-comerica-mulls-recession-risk-freight-markets.html</a></p>
WEEK 12: November 21 - 27	<p><b>Topic 12: Fiscal &amp; Monetary Policy</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 34</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>  WALL STREET JOURNAL: Lending Drops at Big U.S Banks  <a href="http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123293041915314113.html">http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123293041915314113.html</a></p>
WEEK 13: November 28 - December 4	<p><b>Topic 13: Inflation &amp; Unemployment</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 35</p> <p><u>Articles:</u>  U.S. NEWS &amp; WORLD REPORT: Are Infrastructure Projects the Answer to America's Jobs Problem?  <a href="http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2011/08/22/are-infrastructure-projects-the-answer-to-americas-jobs-problem">http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2011/08/22/are-infrastructure-projects-the-answer-to-americas-jobs-problem</a></p>
WEEK 14: December 5 - 11	<p><b>Topic 14: The Monetary System</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 29</p>
WEEK 15: December 12 - 18	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final Exam</b>  <b>TBD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The exam covers the materials from week 8 to week 14</p>