

ECON 102 - Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2008, EJCH 103

Sec. 2, MWF 11:00 - 11:50 AM

Professor Elliott Parker

Office: AB 319-C

Office Hours: WRF 10:00 - 10:50 AM

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Short Syllabus

The full syllabus for this course is on my homepage at <http://www.coba.unr.edu/faculty/parker/econ102> (you can just go to *google.com* and type "Parker ECON102"). It has explanations, assignments, schedules, suggestions and links. You will be subscribed to the *econ102parker@unr.edu* e-mail list, and if you have a spam feature you may need to explicitly allow messages from this list.

Course Summary:

This is an introductory course in microeconomics, which covers the fundamental theories of the consumer, the firm, and markets, and it is required for any student wishing to major (or minor) in business or economics. Discussion of examples and policies will focus on the U.S. economy. No previous economic study is required, but a reasonable degree of comfort with algebra and geometry will be extremely helpful (there is in fact a math prerequisite for this course). This course also meets the social science requirements of the core curriculum, since you will be exposed to major questions concerning human and institutional behavior, and you will be encouraged to develop your skills in critical analysis, mathematics, and writing clarity. Class discussion is encouraged, inasmuch as the large class size allows.

There are different approaches to teaching. Some like to spoon-feed their students bite-sized portions which are easily digestible. I believe in setting goals that you can only reach on tiptoe. I do this because I believe that you will learn more if you are pushed, and because I believe that you should be aware of how much there is to learn. I fully believe that, if you pay attention, what you learn in this class will help you make more sense of business, politics, and world affairs in the future.

Readings:

- *Microeconomics*, by Krugman & Wells (2004).
- *The Economics of Public Issues*, 15th Edition, by Miller, Benjamin, & North (2007).

Grading:

- Grading will be done according to a four point scale (4=A, 3=B, 2=C, 1=D, and 0=F). At the end of the semester, your average grade will be converted back into a letter grade, with +/-.
- There will be two midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam, each worth 30%. The final will be given at the times listed in the UNR Spring Schedule. There will be no make-ups without prior approval except under extremely unusual circumstances, and missing an exam will result in a grade of -1.0 for that exam.
- Online homework for each chapter will be assigned weekly using the *Aplia* website. As long as you do not miss an exam, I will replace the lowest midterm exam grade with your average homework grade if your average homework grade is higher (which is likely if you actually do the homework).
- Attendance and participation will count for 10% of your grade.
- This class requires competency in basic math skills, and I will give a quiz in *Aplia* the first week of class. Passing will require 80%! If you do not pass this first quiz, you may have one retry. To encourage you to refreshen your math skills, I will give you bonus points for passing it. If you do not pass either quiz, you must come see me in my office if you want to pass the class.