

SAMPLE SYLLABUS
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics and International Business
Principles of Microeconomics

Instructor: Vance Ginn
Place and Time: TBA
Office: SHB 237L
Office Hours: MW 12:30-2 PM
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Course Description

We will study the action and interaction of individuals and firms and the allocation of resources through a market process. We will also discuss basic economic principles including individual decision-making, price theory, analysis of the firm, competition, monopoly, externalities, and the distribution of income.

Course Objectives

The first order objective of this course is to teach you economic concepts and tools necessary to "think like an economist" in a world of scarce resources. Second order objectives include: (i) Gaining factual knowledge; (ii) Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories; and (iii) Learning to improve critical thinking and problem solving by applying the course material.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand opportunity costs and comparative advantage
- Demonstrate an understanding of the factors that determine supply and demand in a market
- Distinguish between various market structures—from perfectly competitive markets to imperfectly competitive markets to a monopoly
- Determine positive and negative externalities

Reading Material

- (1) N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Economics*. 6th Edition, Cengage publisher. There may be cheaper copies of this edition and older editions online—compare prices at www.addall.com/.
- (2) Chapter notes & supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard and my website.
- (3) *Wall Street Journal*. Although a subscription is not required, it will help you keep up with current events and help you apply the economic concepts we discuss. You may purchase a discounted subscription [here](#).

Tutoring

Tutors are available in SHB 140 from 1-4:30 PM Monday-Thursday.

Prerequisites: None

Course Evaluation Process

Your course grade will consist of three multiple-choice exams (80%) and multiple online quizzes (20%). You will need an 882-E scantron, pencil, and a 4-function calculator to take your exams.

Exams

There will be 2 midterms (40 questions) and a "comprehensive" final exam (50 questions). Your two highest exam scores, including the final exam, will each count 30% towards your course grade. The lowest exam grade will count as 20%. Thus, the three exams are 80% of your course grade. Your notes, readings, and quizzes should help you prepare for exams.

Examination Calendar

First Exam: Wednesday, 2/20/13
Second Exam: Wednesday, 4/3/13
Final: **TBA**

Make-Up Exams: I will give makeup exams, *except* for the final exam, after the exam date and *only* in cases where you can provide documentation for a university excused absence. *Missed exams will be assigned a late penalty of 10 points (an exam is considered "missed" if it is not completed by the end of the exam period).* All late exams must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam date.

Online Quizzes

Quizzes will be 20% of your course grade and will consist of chapter and current event material. All quizzes will be on Blackboard and their due dates will be announced in class. I will not extend the due date and will not accept any late assignments for any reason (e.g. doctor's note, dog's funeral). I will drop your two lowest quiz grades.

Grading Scale

I will award grades on a strict percentage scale (*no curves*): A (90% and above), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), and F (59% and below). Periodically, you will be able to earn (at most 10) points toward the next exam by answering 2-point questions in class and participating in the Facebook group ([Ginn Economics](#)) discussions. You can view your calculated course grade on Blackboard.

In summary:

Three exams (including final):	80%
Online Quiz Average (without lowest two grades):	<u>20%</u>
Course Grade:	100%

Important Dates to Remember

- ❑ Martin Luther King Day: 1/21 (Monday), holiday for students and faculty
- ❑ Twelfth Class Day: Last day to drop a course without a "Q" and receive full refund, 2/1 (Friday)
- ❑ Spring Break!: 3/11-3/15 (Monday-Friday)
- ❑ Good Friday: 3/29 (Friday), holiday for students and faculty
- ❑ *Last day of class and Last day to drop and resign course: 5/3 (Friday)*
- ❑ Final Exams: 5/6-5/9
- ❑ For more important dates, go to: http://www.shsu.edu/~reg_www/academic_calendar/

List of Chapters: We will cover these chapters this semester. Here is the tentative schedule:

Intro & Economic Landscape	January 16, 23
Chapters 1, 2, 3: Thinking Like an Economist	Jan. 23, 28, 30
Chapter 4: The Market Forces of Supply & Demand	February 4, 6, 11
Chapter 5: Elasticity	February 13, 18
<i>Exam 1</i>	<i>February 20</i>
Chapter 6: Government Policies-Price Controls	February 25, 27
Chapter 7: Consumer & Producer Surplus	March 4, 6
Chapter 13: The Costs of Production	March 18, 20, 25
Chapter 14: Firms in a Competitive Market	March 25, 27; April 1
<i>Exam 2</i>	<i>April 3</i>
Chapter 15: Monopoly	April 8, 10, 15
Chapter 16: Monopolistic Competition	April 17, 22
Chapter 10: Externalities	April 24, 29; May 1
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>TBA</i>

Notes

- Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using cellular phones or beepers, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, using laptops for nonrelated class activities, reading newspapers, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class.
- Attendance:** It is your responsibility to be *punctual* to class and attend *regularly*. A seating chart will be made early in the course to take daily attendance. If you miss numerous classes, you will be a burden on other students and me. *To discourage excessive absences and promote professionalism, I will deduct 5 points off your course grade for each absence after your sixth absence —no matter the reasons.* Other than this requirement, your absences will not directly affect your grade; however, the opportunity cost of missing class will be reflected on your exam grades. *Professionalism is expected of you; therefore, being late to class or leaving class early without a university excuse will result in an absence.*
- Students with Disabilities:** It is a policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and the Director of the Counseling Center. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note that no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf.

4. **Student Absence for Observation of Religious Holy Days:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/%7Evaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

5. **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work that is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>