ECO 201: Introduction to Microeconomics
Michigan State University

Instructor: Yu-Wei (Luke) Chu
Email: chuyuwei@msu.edu
Office: 5 Old Botany (Desk 1)
Course Website: ANGEL (check ANGEL and your MSU Email regularly)
Class Meeting: M W F: 10:20am–12:10 noon, 111 Ernst Bessey Hall
Office Hours: M W F: 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Two comments on summer-session classes:
1. We will take a 10 minute break midway through each lecture since 2 hours is a long time to sit still and discuss economics in summer. The class may end late a little.
2. This is a 6 week class, since the two class periods are reserved for the midterm and final exam. Missing one week for a vacation is therefore 1/6 (more than 15%) of the course. Keep this in mind when enrolling in summer classes and when planning vacations.
3. On average, grade is usually lower in summer classes. (hope this is not the case!)

Course Overview:
EC 201 is a first course in economics. There is no official prerequisite, but the course will require some high school algebra and the analysis of two-dimensional graphs. At its core, economics is the study of how people, firms, and governments respond to incentives and the effect of these responses on the allocation of resources. We will develop the tools of economic analysis by examining supply and demand, how consumers and firms make their decisions, and the interaction of firms and consumers in the marketplace. We will then use these tools to examine important policy issues such as international trade, externalities, the role of markets and government, labor markets, and public assistance.

Textbooks:
REQUIRED:

This is a formal, up-to-date textbook with pretty extensive coverage of the subject. This 3rd edition just comes out this April, so there should be no problem for a good buy-back price.

Worth publishing also has a free website to provide you additional practice problems and interactive features: http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/krugmanwellsmicro3
2. Wall Street Journal
(six weeks subscription for $11.95: http://subscribe.wsj.com/summer6)

Economics should be learned in connection with daily life. WSJ contains many interesting articles in many different areas (and it is easy and fun to read). 2 dollars a week gives you access to both printed and electronic versions (including iPad). You have use articles in WSJ as your source of group presentation (see below). I also will post article links related to our class on ANGEL.

**Important Dates:**
- Monday, May 14th: First class meeting
- Monday, June 4th: Midterm (in class)
- Monday, June 25th: Group presentation
- Wednesday, June 27th: Final (in class)
- Every Monday: in-class quiz (but not week 1, midterm, and presentation)

**Grading Scheme:**
- **4 Weekly Quizzes:** 30%
  - Every Monday
  - 5-10 multiple choice questions, covering previous week’s material
  - Only the best 3 scores will count out of 4
    - You can effectively miss 1 without being penalized
    - No make-ups allowed

- **Midterm Exam:** 30%
  - In class on Monday, June 4th
  - Multiple choice (similar to quiz / problem set)

- **Final Exam:** 40%
  - In class on Wednesday, June 27th
  - Comprehensive
  - Multiple choice (similar to quiz / problem set)

- **Problem Set:**
  The **ungraded** problem sets are intended to give you a specific guide to the exams. About one-third of an exam effectively will come straight from the problem sets, one-third will represent minor extensions of the problem sets, and one-third will represent more substantial extensions.

- **Group Presentation:** extra 10%
  - 10 minutes presentation, 4 people a group.
  - Pick one or more articles from WSJ, for example, a new policy, then use economic logic/theory to explain/predict/dispute. I will provide detail instruction later in the class.
• Grading Scale (nonnegotiable, curved in your favor if necessary)
  o ≥ 90 : 4.0
  o 85-89 : 3.5
  o 80-84 : 3.0
  o 75-79 : 2.5
  o 70-74 : 2.0
  o 65-69 : 1.5
  o 60-64 : 1.0
  o ≤ 59 : 0.0

• Attendance
  o Is not taken and will not directly count towards your grade
  o Is encouraged!
  o We will be covering a lot of content in 6 weeks
  o The weekly quizzes are intended to keep you up to date
  o Make-up quizzes are never allowed (you can miss one)
  o Make-up exams will be allowed only in the case of university-approved emergency situations. I must be notified in writing, in advance (at least one week), in such cases.
  o No make-up exams will be given after an exam

Course expectations:
In addition to attending class, it is expected that you read the book chapters and work on the problem sets as we move along. I will also post the slides on ANGEL to help you to catch the material. Remember, it is never a good idea to study slides without reading textbook.

General Policies:

E-mail is the best (only) way to contact me outside of class and office hours. No appointment is necessary for my office hours; feel free to drop by unannounced. I will usually reply email immediately, and always within 24 hours. Also, feel free to approach me before or after class with questions, comments, concerns, etc.

Cheating of any form is not allowed. If I suspect you of cheating on an exam I may either give you a zero on the exam, or ask you to retake the exam at a later date. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, talking during the exam, using a cell phone or computer during the exam, copying off a neighbor, and leaving notes or books open on the floor.

Persons with disabilities: consult the RCPD or their website for information on the proper procedures: http://www.rcpd.msu.edu/. Basically, you should provide me with a form from RCPD (sample: http://rcpd.msu.edu/Forms/Sample%20VISA.pdf). I will respect and accommodate all requests. If you will be utilizing the RCPD, please inform me of this during the first week of class either via email, at office hours, or in person after class.
Class Schedule

I will work hard to follow this schedule for lecture material. If changes must be made for lecture material coverage, I will announce them on ANGEL. **Exams dates will not be changed.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Starting</th>
<th>Chaps</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Special</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Introduction and Basics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supply &amp; Demand</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Supply &amp; Demand (conti.)</td>
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<td>Economic Surplus &amp; Efficiency</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Quantity and Price Restrictions</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Elasticity</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Taxes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Demand: the Consumer</td>
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<td>Jun 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Supply: the Firm</td>
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<td>Jun 11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Supply: the Market</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
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<td>14, 15</td>
<td>Industrial Organization</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Externalities</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Public Goods</td>
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<td>Jun 27</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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* Because of the time constraints, we will cover less of some chapters. I will notify you as class proceeds.
Michigan State University  
Economics Department  
Evaluations  
Summer Semester 2012

Job number - 7  Instructor CHU YUWEI EC 201 101

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Responses</th>
<th>Far above average</th>
<th>Above average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below average</th>
<th>Far below average</th>
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<td>5  15.6</td>
<td>.  .</td>
<td>2.56  0.95  32.0</td>
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Department Averages for Summer, 2012

Item 1 (26).  Rate the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness.
Item 2 (27).  Rate the overall quality of the course
Item 3.  Rate the instructor's ability to explain course materials and concepts clearly.
Item 4.  Rate the instructor's ability to motivate your interest in the subject.
Item 5.  Rate the amount you learned in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Item 1</th>
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<th>Item 4</th>
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AVERAGES (1-5 rating scale; **1 is best**)