Department of Economics  
The University of Akron  
3250:244 Introduction to Economic Analysis – A Web Based Course  
Class homepage is on WebCT – go to http://webct.uakron.edu/  

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Introduction to Economic Analysis

Introduction

Welcome to Introduction to Economic Analysis. In this class we will focus both on macro- and microeconomics. This is a web-based course with no required face-to-face meetings. All contact between professor and students are via the computer. You will be able to work at your own pace and you must manage your time accordingly. The design of this course is for you to achieve mastery over the various competencies and not to be graded as in more traditional courses. The expectation is that everyone has the opportunity to earn an A in the course by the ability to succeed in each of the modules before moving on. You can think of the design of this course as learn, test, relearn, retest. Much of the information in this syllabus is repeated in Module 1.  

Instructional Days

First Day of access to course: Monday August 28, 2006  
Last day to withdraw with signature of adviser and instructor: November 17, 2006 (end of the 12th week)  
Last Day of access to course: Thursday December 7, 2006, 5:00 pm.  
Extensions of time: On an individual basis – see below and contact Dr. Myers.  

Textbook

The textbook for this course is by Michael Parkin, Economics 7th edition with MyEconLab Student Access Kit, Addison-Wesley Publishing; ISBN: 0321246829 (2005). Note that if you get a used book, you may buy online access to MyEconLab.com as told below. I don't believe the eighth edition is available but this course is designed to fit with the 7th edition only.

The required textbook is available in the University Bookstore. However, you may choose to use only the online text. The online text comes with My Econ Lab / Course Compass described below.

Caution: Using an online text means having lots of online Internet access and having to sit at your computer to read. Maybe that sways the benefits and costs a little. Online courses are truly for the self-motivated, and they can reap many benefits net of cost for taking advantage of the online offerings.

To purchase a physical copy  
If you must have a physical copy of it you can find it at the University Bookstore

or
Amazon.com at the link below. You must get a new copy to be assured to have free access to the online website. If you buy a used copy you will need to also pay for online access. Click here for the Amazon.com link for Parkin 7th.

To rent a copy on-line

You get free access to MyEconLab with your text book if it is new or has an unused access code with the used text book.

If you do not have an access code, you may purchase access at https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/buy/coursebuy.jsp and be sure to include the course code of ‘myers33830’ (without the quotes).

For $80.00 (I think) you get an immediate subscription to the online textbook and the other resources. Make sure you choose the Economics textbook and not the Microeconomics nor the Macroeconomics texts. You will have to have a credit card.

The full textbook is available with easy links to animated graphs, web links, glossaries, and practice quizzes. (return to top)

Modular Design

The course is organized into modules. They must be completed in order and you must master each one before being permitted to move forward. They are in order

- Module 1 – An introductory module and orientation to the course (required, but 0 points)
- Module 2-7 – Microeconomic modules (10 points each – 60 total)
- Module 7a - Writing Assignment #1 – A Microeconomic Analysis writing assignment (10 points)
- Module 8 – final Microeconomic module (10 points)
- Module 9-14 Macroeconomic modules (10 points each – 60 total)
- Module 14a - Writing Assignment #2 – A Macroeconomic Writing Assignment (10 points)
- Module 15 – final Macroeconomic module (10 points)
- Final Module – includes final evaluations (10 points for their completion – this is not a grade but a reward for completion of the evaluations and the module assessments)

Total points are 170. See “Grading” below for more information. (return to top)

Grading Policy

The final grade in the course will be based on the following:

- The sum of the scores on the module quizzes (max 10 points each for 140 points).
- Grades received for two writing assignments—after module 7 and 14—that will require some Internet research and writing an essay (max 10 points each).
- Points for the module and final assessments to take place after module 15 (10 points). [Points are awarded for completion of the forms, not for what is said on the form]

The percentage grade is calculated as the sum of your points divided by the total amount possible of 170 points. Grade Scale will be A for 92-100 percent, A- for 90-91, B+ for 78-79, B for 82-87, C+ for 78-79, C for 72-77, C- for 70-71, D+ for 68-69, D for 62-67, D- for 60-61, F below 60 percent. There will be no scaling of results, the class is not competitive with the other students and all will make the grade for which they are qualified. (return to top)

Module 1
is an introductory module and contains much of the orientation of the course including a variety of pre-assessments. You must complete everything in Module 1 before moving to Module 2. The module contains:

- A printable version of this syllabus.
- How to read your UAnet email
- A mapping of the chapters to each module.
- A note on emailing Dr. Myers (always include your UAnetID, full name and use the course number in the subject heading.)
- A head and shoulders picture request (optional – for my recognition only)
- A survey about you.
- Pre-assessments to better understand your learning process and to help me respond to you in a better way.
  - VARK is a test of learning style preferences with specific study recommendations.
  - ISDL4ME is “Is Distance Learning For Me?” and offers advice on how to succeed online.
  - These may appear as scores in your grades, but do not count towards your overall average.
- And the first REQUIRED Learning Assessment.

Modules 2-15

... each may contain the following parts:

- An introduction to the chapters in each module and the learning objectives students are expected to attain. The quizzes are directly related to the learning objectives which are stated in each outline and at the beginning of each chapter.
- An outline and Power Point slide show for each chapter provided by the publisher of our text.
- A worksheet to prompt Economic Thought on the chapter followed by the answers to that worksheet. Test yourself on your economic reasoning.
- Other supportive material as needed.
- A 10 question required quiz based on the material in the module
- A Learning Assessment – a required form for students to assess their learning and provide interaction with the instructor. This form asks open-ended questions about your comments about the module, what you learned, your remaining questions, and your recommendation for useful changes.

Modules 7a and 14a

... are written assignments. The first is an analytical essay, the second is an essay which requires more complex thinking. Those modules and writing requirements are revealed after module 7 and after module 14.

A Mastery-Based Course Design
“Rules of the Game”

Each module quiz will consist of 10 questions randomly drawn from the test bank within each learning objective for each chapter covered. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz and must wait at least one hour before you may take another quiz.

Acceptable progress

A student who make a perfect score (10) on a module quiz and completes the module evaluation will be permitted to begin the next module. Students who don’t attain a perfect score on the first module quiz will have two additional attempts to do so. After the third attempt, if you have scored at least a score of 8, you will be permitted to begin the next module and the best score you received in any of the quizzes will be
recorded as your grade. The goal is that you reach mastery over the competencies in the material before you move on. You will be well advised to study the material again especially in the areas you have missed before your second or third attempts. You must complete a module assessment after the last attempt regardless of score.  

Unacceptable progress

Any student who receives a final score of 7 out of 10 for a module quiz will receive a warning and for 6 or less a notice from Dr. Myers requesting an online meeting. You will not be permitted to continue in the course without that meeting and a successful resolution of the problem that led to the score of 6 or less. In short, do what is necessary to avoid that score. (Note: A 6 of 10 is commiserate with a letter grade of D and, therefore, indicates un-acceptable progress.)

Is advance Automatic or Manual?

WebCT is a great course management system, but it is not up to the design of this course. The only thing automatic in this version of the course is: If you score a 10 on any quiz, the next module will automatically appear. At all other times, the magical appearance of the next module or assignment requires me to read your assessments, examine your scores and to advance you manually. If you are even in doubt that something isn’t working for you, just contact me.

Self-paced, self-disciplined Design

“Be careful not to fall behind”

While a comfortable rate of progress is to complete one module per week, you may accelerate that pace at your own choosing. However, do not underestimate the time requirements for this distance learning class. Once you have completed reading the module introduction, the chapters and PowerPoint lessons, you may take the quiz at the end of that module. At anytime you may contact the professor or other students and may through the use of discussions and online chats discuss concepts with anyone.

It is impossible to complete this course in a few weeks! Therefore, don’t expect to successfully finish the class if you wait until the last month of the spring semester to start. Also, keep in mind that the College of Arts and Sciences will not permit me to give you an incomplete for the course “if you have not completed most of the course.” In light of this policy I will not even entertain a proposal for an incomplete for this course if you have not completed most of the modules before the end of the 12th week and have a passing average at that point.

Academic Honor - Important

Taking the quizzes for this course is NOT a “team” activity. The work should be entirely on your own and not done in consultation with classmates or others. Any violation of this policy including reference to any student work past or present will result in the grade of “F” for the course. You should be aware that WebCT tracks all activity that takes place within the program.

Computer Requirements

In order to fully participate in the course, you need to have the following:

1. Each student must acquire a UAnet id (https://gozips.uakron.edu/zid/user.html). Every student should already have this. To be familiar with services available check this after you have your uanet and password (https://gozips.uakron.edu/zid/app/info.cgi).
2. Each student will need to be familiar with Internet Explorer to access this course and other resources. Students may also use Netscape Navigator but some pages might not resolve in browsers other than Internet Explorer.
3. Students must use Webmail or Zipline [http://zipline.uakron.edu](http://zipline.uakron.edu) or forward their UAnet ID to an email address they read often. Go here [https://gozips.uakron.edu/zid/user.html](https://gozips.uakron.edu/zid/user.html) and choose 'email management' to forward your email.

4. Interested students can seek help for off-campus use in the basement of the library at the Technology Learning Support Center. Their phone numbers is (330) 972-6888, or email them at tlsc@uakron.edu. Hours are on the page listed in the next link.


6. Students are required to use the class homepage at [http://WebCT.uakron.edu](http://WebCT.uakron.edu).

7. Other information of interest to you in that support page includes getting roadrunner (OBEN) for high-speed access. Help in using the university library including full text access from home is here [http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/](http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/)

Communication Requirements

(1) You must regularly read your UAnet email or have it forwarded to your preferred email account. See some of the links above or go to my online page [http://gozips.uakron.edu/~myers/online](http://gozips.uakron.edu/~myers/online). If I communicate to your UAnet email account I will assume you have read it within two days. There is no exception to this.

(2) We will be using the communication features of WebCT extensively in this class. I will respond to any email address you use, but when I am mailing to you I will either email internally in WebCT or to your UAnet address only.

(3) We may also use the threaded discussion and chat functions in WebCT, so make sure you are familiar with them.  

How To Raise Questions Of A General Nature

**Contacting Dr. Myers when you think your question is of general interest.**
Use the discussion section of WebCT. Be careful to select a useful and helpful title for your discussion since these will stay in everyone’s discussion list for the entire term.

**Contact fellow students when you think your question is of general interest.**
The discussion section of WebCT is a great place to start conversations with other student. You may email other students as well within WebCT.

Contacting Dr. Myers OFFLINE (Asynchronously)
- Email for Dr. Myers is [myers@uakron.edu](mailto:myers@uakron.edu). You will get the fastest response by using that email address. This is the only email address you may use for me.
- My Office is 445 in the New Arts and Sciences building, but this is a distance course, so that probably won’t work.
- My phone is (330) 972-7421 at the office for when I am there. You can leave a message but I do not check it everyday.
- Fax is (240) 371-0575.
- The only email you may use for me is [myers@uakron.edu](mailto:myers@uakron.edu). I prefer you not to use the email within WebCT.

Contacting Dr. Myers ONLINE (Synchronously)
- WebCT chat (typing and graphics tablet)
- An experimental program called Virtual Office Hours is in testing now. I will let you know when it might be used and should replace other synchronous communications between students and professor.