

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Students will be introduced to the analytical tools of microeconomic analysis used to examine the behavior of consumers and producers, and how they interact in various types of market structures to determine prices and outputs. Students are also introduced to market failures and to alternative policies that may be implemented to deal with them.

This course will introduce you to an economist's way of thinking. We will focus on how individuals and firms make choices, and how these choices change when circumstances change. You will learn about the circumstances under which the market economy distributes scarce resources efficiently, and about policies that that government can use to achieve this goal when markets fail.

Successful completion of this course will enable you to:

- Describe the main subject matter, issues, and tools of the field of economics;
- Apply marginal analysis to supply and demand models of goods, services, and productive inputs in both competitive and monopolistic markets;
- Apply partial equilibrium analysis to determine the effects of changes in the determinants of supply and demand, taxes, and price controls;
- Use welfare analysis and the concept of efficiency to analyze how taxes and price controls affect overall welfare; and
- Describe and analyze the role of governments in addressing market failures.

Required Materials

Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Microeconomics*, 2016. Eighth (8th) Edition. Cengage Publishing.

Other editions are fine, but be aware that chapters may be slightly different.

Other resources

Please see the 'Start here' tab on Blackboard for an introductory video and a course guide. Resources for course material will be posted under the 'Other resources' tab.

Instructor

Prof. Hannah Randolph
randolphh@cua.edu

Class Meetings

n/a (asynchronous instruction)

Please note that all due dates are in EST; you will have to make adjustments if you are in a different time zone.

Office Hours

W, F 11am-1pm via Google Hangout (link posted to Blackboard)—please stop by!

Teaching Assistants

TBD

Prerequisites

C- or better in MATH 108 or 110, or equivalent on Math Placement Test

Course Communication

Announcements will be posted to Blackboard and sent via email. You are expected to check Blackboard and email at least once every 1-2 days.

The best way to reach me is via email. I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays and within 36 hours on weekends.

Final Exam

TBD

[Access this at <https://enrollment-services.catholic.edu/academic-calendar/exam-schedule/index.html>]

University Policies

All members of the Catholic University community have a shared responsibility to know and to abide by the University's policies, especially relating to:

- Academic Integrity
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Attendance
- Conduct
- Final Exams
- Grades and appeals

All of Catholic University's policies are detailed at <https://policies.catholic.edu/index.html>. Please follow up with the instructor if you have any policy-related questions.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty at The Catholic University of America is not tolerated (<https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/integrityfull.html> and <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.html>)

As such, academic integrity is not merely avoiding plagiarism or cheating, but it certainly includes those things. Academic integrity means, above all else, taking responsibility for your work, your ideas, and your effort, and giving credit to others for their work, ideas, and effort. If you submit work that is not your own – whether test answers, whole papers, or something in-between – that is considered to be academic dishonesty. University procedures related to academic dishonesty are conducted with respect and dignity, while also preserving accountability, and they presuppose that all participants will treat each other with respect and dignity.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty:

“The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student's past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.”

For more information about what academic integrity means at CUA, including your responsibilities and rights, visit <https://integrity.catholic.edu/index.html>.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need a reasonable accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (<https://dss.catholic.edu/index.html>) by email at CUA-DSS@cua.edu or call 202-319-5211 to make an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. DSS recommends that a student with a disability meet with DSS staff during the first week of every semester since accommodations are not retroactive. Please note that instructors will only provide those accommodations included in the DSS accommodation letter. DSS is located in PRYZ 127.

Instructional Methods and Course Requirements

This course is taught online, primarily through videos and other materials posted to Blackboard. Each week will be organized into two sections of material, each of which will have videos, practice problems, and a homework assignment. You will also complete journal entries and responses to my comments to help me assess your understanding of the content. You are expected to check Blackboard and email frequently for announcements and to keep up with assignments. See the course guide for more information on my expectations and advice.

Each week, you will have several assignments due. These should not take you very long to complete, but they are due frequently. The due dates each week will be:

- **Thursday (11:59pm EST):** Respond to the weekly journal prompt.
- **Sunday (11:59pm EST):** Homework (both sections); respond to professor's comments on journal post.

All assignments are due by 11:59pm EST. Practice problems will be available all semester with unlimited attempts; however, I recommend completing them along with the other materials for each week and then using them to study for exams.

A full schedule of which chapters are covered in each week and what work to submit is at the end of this syllabus.

Final Exam: The final exam must be given on the day and time assigned by Enrollment Services. Please plan accordingly for travel, work, special events, or appointments.

The exams will be open-book and open-note, although there will be a time limit. You will have 24 hours on the day of the exam to take the test on Blackboard. I will post a more detailed exam guide before the first midterm.

A student having an exam scheduling conflict as defined in the policy must report to her/his school's Academic Dean's Office no later than fourteen calendar days before the end of classes. The dean will assist the student in rescheduling the exam(s) for the course having the lowest enrollment(s). All make-up exams must be completed at the earliest possible time during the final examination period.

Class Policies

Technology

The course is based in Blackboard, and communication will take place mainly through announcements posted to Blackboard and sent to email. You are expected to check Blackboard and email at least once every 1-2 days. You will be assigned homework, exams, and journals via Blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with how any of these works on Blackboard, please visit the Blackboard help site to learn more.

Other technology: YouTube (for viewing instructional videos), Google Hangouts (office hours), and Google Forms (occasional check-in surveys)

Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams

Make-up exams are allowed only with medical documentation of an inability to take the test on the original date. Late homework assignments, journals, and discussion board posts and responses will not receive credit; however, the lowest three homework scores will be dropped, and I will excuse two missed journals. You have unlimited attempts to get full points on the practice problems before the end of the course, but I recommend completing them along with the other materials for each week and then using them to study for exams.

Grades

Exams (Midterm and final worth 20% each)	40%
Homework	30%
Practice problems	10%
Journal entries and responses to professor comments	20%

The grading scale for this course is the following:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
100 – 96	95 – 91	90 – 86	85 – 81	80 – 76	75 – 71	70 – 66	65 – 60	59 – 55	<54

The weighted average in Blackboard will reflect your current standing in the course, but will not reflect work that has not yet been completed. Therefore, it will not always estimate your grade correctly.

The University grading system is available at

<https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/gradesfull.html#II> for undergraduates.

Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on

<https://csprd.cua.edu/psp/csprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>.

University Resources

Libraries <https://libraries.catholic.edu/>

Center for Academic and Career Success <https://success.catholic.edu/>

Math Center <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/math-center/index.html>

Tutoring Services <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/tutoring-services/index.html>

Writing Center <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/writing-center/index.html>

Office of Disability Support Services <https://dss.catholic.edu/index.html>

Counseling Center <https://counseling.catholic.edu/index.html>

Student Health Services <https://health.catholic.edu/index.html>

Dean of Students Office <https://deanofstudents.catholic.edu/index.html>

Course Schedule

Week	Start date (Monday)	Section 1 covers	Section 2 covers	Complete by Thursday (11:59pm EST)	Complete by Sunday (11:59pm EST)	Exams
1	11 May	Math review	Ch. 1-2	Intro in discussion board	Respond to class mtg survey Math review HW Ch. 1-2	
2	18 May	Ch. 3	Ch. 4	Journal wk. 2	HW Ch. 3 HW Ch. 4	
3	25 May	Ch. 5-6	Ch. 7	Journal wk. 3	HW Ch. 5-6 HW Ch. 7	
4	1 June	Ch. 8-9	Ch. 10	Journal wk. 4	HW Ch. 8-9 HW Ch. 10	
5	8 June	Ch. 11	Review for midterm	Journal wk. 5 (midterm review)	MIDTERM (Due by 11:59pm EST on June 14)	
6	15 June	Ch. 13	Ch. 14	Journal wk. 6	HW Ch. 13 HW Ch. 14	
7	22 June	Ch. 15	Ch. 16	Journal wk. 7	HW Ch. 15 HW Ch. 16	
8	29 June	Ch. 17	Ch. 18	Journal wk. 8	HW Ch. 17 HW Ch. 18	
9	6 July	Ch. 19-20	Ch. 21	Journal wk. 9	HW Ch. 19-20 HW Ch. 21	
10	13 July	Review for final exam		Journal wk. 10 (exam review)	FINAL EXAM (Exact date TBD)	

Final exam date and time are TBD, but I will edit this syllabus to reflect the university schedule once it has been posted. (<https://enrollment-services.catholic.edu/academic-calendar/exam-schedule/index.html>)