University of Texas at El Paso

Syllabus

Principles of Microeconomics 2304 CRN 30236

Summer II 2026{7/7/26-8/3/26} FTF

Instructor: Dr. Boris D. Higgins

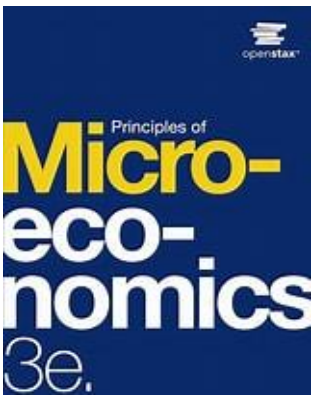
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11:40am-12:50pm and by Appointment

Location: COBA Rm. 239 & On-line Zoom

Telephone: Office:915-747-7718

E-mail: bhiggins@utep.edu

Text:



Course Description and Objective: This course is the second part of the Principles of Economics set. This segment will cover the Microeconomics foundations of Economics which will comprise areas such as elasticity, economic decision making, consumer theory, production theory, market structures, externalities and resource markets among others. The student will be learning the rudimentary aspects of these areas and will be able to comprehend their applications in everyday economic life. At the completion of the course the student should come away with a fundamental grasp of the Microeconomics organic components and their practical utilization.

Methodology: Lecture and Class Discussion-Lecture Intensive

Class Policy: It is recommended that students read the assigned chapters to be prepared for course activities. Please be on time class is held Monday through Friday for the semester. If you

need help please make an appointment to meet with me during my office hours in my office or on-line using Zoom. If you need to contact me please do so by the above means but please don't contact me before six in the morning or after ten at night. When you call please let me know who you are and what class you are in. If you leave a voice mail please leave your name, a call back number and the class you are in. When you e-mail me please let me know what class you are in. The best way to contact me is by messaging in Blackboard. You can also e-mail me at my above e-mail. I will respond to e-mail and other messages within 24 hours of receipt. Please log into Blackboard on a daily basis from 8:00am-11:59pm for notes, announcements, updates, etc. about the course.

Please complete your homework(HW) and exams by the due date no late submissions will be accepted. There will be no make-up homework if you miss the due date. Homework assignments will usually be completed on-line via Blackboard and will be due by 11:59pm MST on the due date. Exams will be administered on-line via Blackboard and will be due by 11:59pm MST on the due date. The Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor is required to take your exams. Please make sure your computer is equipped with a good functioning webcam. There will be only one make up test given if you miss a test. Only one test can be missed. You will have the regular first two class days to contact me from the date of the missed test so arrangements can be made for a make-up test. If you haven't contacted me within those two days you will not be permitted to take a make-up test. There will also be no extra credit assignments given except at the professor's discretion. Please be aware that lecture slides will also be used to make up the tests. Please make sure that you log into Blackboard daily and download the posted lecture slides.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required for this course and will be recorded at every class meeting. If you have more than 3 unexcused absences for the semester you will be dropped from the course regardless of the impact on GPA. Excused absences are defined as illnesses where a doctor's note is required written in English and university approved events or activities where an official letter of excuse is required. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting using IClicker. Participation is imperative for successful completion of this course and is determined by completion of the following activities:

- **Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements**
- **Completing all Module Activities (HW assignments, quizzes, etc.)**
- **Completing all Major Assignments(exams)**
- **Logging into Blackboard on a regular basis**
- **Iclicker class Participation**

If students miss too many homework assignments, exams and are not logging into Blackboard on a regular basis these will be grounds for possibly being dropped from the course regardless of the impact on GPA.

Student Online Behavior:

• Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading your postings.

• Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

• Do not use inappropriate language. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

• The class learning management system is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on or in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s)

Academic Dishonesty:

UTEP students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

Drop Policy:

To drop this class, please contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you drop or the professor drops you before the UTEP drop deadline, you will receive a "W." If you drop yourself or are dropped by the professor after the deadline, you will receive an "F." The final day to withdraw from the course without penalty and receive a "W" is

Monday, July 27th 2026. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the due date if she or he is having difficulty or encountering any unforeseen circumstance. However, if a student has a failing grade leading up to the automatic withdrawal date the student may be withdrawn from the course. Generally, please don't rely on the professor to withdraw you from the course.

Students with Disabilities: The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) aspires to provide students with disabilities, accommodations and support services to help them pursue their academic, graduation, and career goals. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the center to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Contact: Monday thru Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Phone:(915) 747-5148. Location: Union Building East Room 106. E-mail: cass@utep.edu

Assessment and Grading: There will be four exams including the final given throughout the course and the final will be comprehensive in nature. It is recommended that students take all exams since if you miss an exam only one make up will be given. So, if you miss more than one of the three exams before the final you will not pass the class. No one will be exempt from the final it is mandatory. **Everyone has to take the final on the day mandated by the university please schedule your activity around that date.** The exams will be a combination of true/false, fill in the blanks and multiple choice questions for each of the four exams including the final. There will be 50 questions for each of the three exams and 65 on the final exam. There will be pedagogical homework assignments employed that will comprise your grade. Grades will be assigned according to the official university scale:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

Below 60 = F

Incomplete = I

Withdrawn = W

Grading for this course will be done in the following way:

Test l- 20%

Test 2- 20%

Test 3- 20%

Test 4- 25%

HW- 10%

Attendance- 5%

Total- 100%

A Note on Grading: Your grade in the course will be located in Blackboard under the section "Current Grade" not "Points." Please monitor your grade on a regular basis especially after the submission of assignments and exams since this grade will stand throughout the course. If there are any issues or concerns please contact me as soon as you can so I can address them. Extra points awarded for extra credit assignments are provided at my discretion. These are not points that must be provided. I reserve the right not to award these points if I deem necessary.

Incomplete: An incomplete will not be granted because of poor performance in the course or to repeat the course. An incomplete is granted only in exceptional circumstances such as medical illness, military leave or reassignment, job re-location, certain personal hardships among other things. If such an exceptional circumstance arises please inform me before the final exam in order to consider this possibility. An incomplete will not be granted after the final exam no matter what's the reason.

Topic Coverage

07/07/26-07/10/26 **Topics: 1-3 (Segment I)**

Ch.1) Welcome to Economics

Ch.2) Choice in a World of Scarcity

Ch.3) Demand and Supply

07/13/26-07/17/26	**Topics: 4-7 (Segment II)**
	Ch.4) Labor and Financial Markets
	Ch.5) Elasticity
	Ch. 6) Consumer Choices
	Ch. 7) Production, Costs and Industry Structure
07/20/26-07/24/26	**Topics: 8, 9, 10 & 11 (Segment III)**
	Ch.8) Perfect Competition
	Ch.9) Monopoly
	Ch.10) Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
	Ch.11) Monopoly and Antitrust Policy
07/27/26-07/31/26	**Topics: 12, 13 & 15 (Segment IV)**
	Ch.12) Environmental Protection and Negative Externalities
	Ch.13) Positive Externalities and Public Goods
	Ch.15) Poverty and Economic Inequality

Test Dates

07/10/26	Test I
07/17/26	Test II
07/24/26	Test III
08/04/26	Test IV: Final(Comprehensive); Tuesday: 10:00am-12:45pm) On-line

NETIQUETTE GUIDE FOR ONLINE COURSES

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette.

SECURITY:

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

• Don't share your password with anyone

• Change your password if you think someone else might know it

• Always logout when you are finished using the system

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

When communicating online, you should always:

• Treat instructor with respect, even in email or in any other online communication

• Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you in doubt use Mr. or Ms.

• Unless specifically invited, don't refer to them by first name.

• Use clear and concise language

• Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar

• Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you"

• Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 pt. font

• Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING

• Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :)

• Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or offensive

• Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's)

• Do not send confidential patient information via e-mail

EMAIL NETIQUETTE:

When you send an email to your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates, you should:

• Use a descriptive subject line

• Be brief

• Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them

• Avoid HTML in favor of plain text

• Sign your message with your name and return e-mail address

• Think before you send the e-mail to more than one person. Does everyone really need to see your message?

• Be sure you REALLY want everyone to receive your response when you click, “reply all”

• Be sure that the message author intended for the information to be passed along before you click the “forward” button

MESSAGE BOARD NETIQUETTE AND GUIDELINES:

When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, you should:

• Make posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material

• Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending

• Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment

• Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source

• Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying

• Don’t repeat someone else’s post without adding something of your own to it

• Avoid short, generic replies such as, “I agree.” You should include why you agree or add to the previous point

• Always be respectful of others’ opinions even when they differ from your own

• When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way

• Do not make personal or insulting remarks

• Be open-minded

TECHNOLOGY

As you prepare to take an online course at UTEP, we want to share with you some basic information about technology to make this a successful experience. Having your computer requirements checked and all software up to date is essential to access course content. Please take some time to read through this page and ensure you have the information you need to get successfully started.

Supported Browsers:

For a PC: Firefox, Internet Explorer (Do NOT use IE7), and Chrome

For a Mac: Safari, Firefox, and Chrome

Blackboard will work most efficiently when you

1. Allow pop-ups
2. Regularly clear your browser cache

Plug-ins:

Cookies, pop-ups and Java are all required in order for your learning management system to function correctly.

Check Your Java:

1. Go to http://java.com
2. Click on "Do I Have Java?"
3. Click on "Verify Java Version."
4. Update Java if needed.

You may also need additional browser plug-ins to view some content that your instructor may share on the learning management system. Common plug-ins include:

Adobe Reader

Flash Player

Windows Media Player

VLC Player

QuickTime

Additional Software:

When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., you must use Microsoft Office or a compatible program. The UTEP-IT website can also provide you with any applications, compatibility packs, patches, and updates you may need.

UTEP Virtual Private Network:

UTEP's electronic resources such as electronic books and articles from the library, are available to registered students when working from outside the campus network. In order to access these resources, you will need to set up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) that recognizes you are a UTEP student.

One More Tip: File Names

When saving and giving your file a name: NO SYMBOLS, except dash and underscore; a space is a symbol.

File names should contain letters, numbers, and/or a dash (-) and/or an underscore (_) only. Otherwise, a file may not open.

Example of a Bad Filename: Mr. Joe's analysis # 3.1 5/10/2013.doc

Example of a Good Filename: Mr_Joe_analysis_3_1_5-10-2013.doc

Example of a Better Filename: Joe_analysis-3-1.doc

For PC Users: When uploading a file, make sure you locate the actual folder you have the file in, Do NOT use the "Recent" folder, as that is only a link to your file.
If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

STUDENT RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- Military Student Success Center: UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- Miner Learning Center: Students in certain classes (usually core courses) have access to online tutoring through the Miner Learning Center.

OTHER:

LECTURE NOTES

My lecture notes are provided to everyone for their benefit at no extra cost. Please don't provide my lecture notes to any on-line services for sale to any student at this university or anywhere else. Anyone who violates this policy will be subject to full disciplinary actions by the university.

RESPONDUS LOCKDOWN BROWSER AND MONITOR ON ADDITIONAL COMPUTERS

The TACC Lab in Rm. 306 in the Woody L. Hunt College of Business has computers equipped with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor ask at the service counter. The Library also has computers equipped with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor ask at the circulation desks.

UTEP EDGE ADVANTAGES

1. Critical Thinking

2. Problem Solving

3. Confidence

4. Social Responsibility

ECONOMICS TUTORING

Location: Woody L. Hunt College of Business(College of Business Administration)-Department of Economics and Finance Rm. 236

Hours: M-F 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

IMPORTANT DATES

7/27/25 Withdrawal Deadline for an Automatic "W"

8/4/26 Summer II Final Exams; classes don't meet

WALL STREET JOURNAL MEMBERSHIP

http://wsj.com/ActivateUTEP

COVID-19

UTEP has established policies to help protect the health of our community and make our campus safe.

COVID-19 Pre-cautions:

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at COVIDaction@utep.edu.

If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

Student Responsibilities:

• Wear a face covering at all times(recommended).

• Maintain 6 feet of separation at all times, including when talking with other students(recommended).

Complete COVID-19 student training at this site.

• Contact your professor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure)-continue to log into Blackboard to stay abreast of the class activities. Please have proof via medical documentation such as test results to provide to your professor.

• Participate in UTEP's UTEP's COVID testing program

• Follow signage indicating specific entry and exit doors and pathways.

• Do not cluster in groups and keep hallways open.

• adhere to room/space limitations on number of occupants.

• Wash hands and/or apply hand sanitizer prior to entering classroom and after leaving a classroom. Do not touch face until after hands are washed/sanitized.

• Use an alcohol wipe, provided outside of classrooms, to sanitize the desk, chair, or table.

All Appropriate Contents in the Syllabus are Subject to Change.