

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**  
**ECON200--Principles of Microeconomics**  
**Winter 2011 Online**

**Instructor: Adriana Vamosiu**

Web Page: <https://elms.umd.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>, sign in (or create a username and password) and you should automatically be able to see this course added to your account if you are officially registered. Hereafter, this course webpage is referenced as ELMS.

**Course Access:** Please note that I cannot help you resolve any problems with payment of tuition, which will most likely prevent you from accessing Blackboard/all course materials, doing the assignments and taking the tests. All such matters should be addressed to the **Office of Extended Studies**.

**Online Discussion Board Q&A:**

- please post all your questions in ELMS under Discussion Board by Tue, Thur and Sunday by 2 pm. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions there (participation via answering peer posted questions is 5% of the grade). I will answer all questions posted on the previously named days by 2 pm EST that same day (Tue, Thur and Sunday) by 4 pm EST. All questions posted after 2 pm will be answered next time.

E-mail: [avamosiu@umd.edu](mailto:avamosiu@umd.edu)

**Course Structure and Meeting Times:**

- This course will be conducted ENTIRELY online, including lectures, discussion boards, exam reviews, homework and exams.
- All the lectures are posted on ELMS. These recorded powerpoint presentations can be viewed at your convenience in the week before the deadlines listed later in this syllabus. Each lecture presentation covers part of a chapter and includes a verbal explanation of visual learning aids. Each chapter will have a minimum of 3 associated lecture presentations. You should view each set of before presentations before the relevant chapter homework is due. *To save a lecture on your computer, please right click on the link and select Save Link As.*
- The homework is also online (but a different website than ELMS – more details later in the syllabus) and can be done anytime before the deadline. The assignments do not need to be done in one sitting, so you can work on it at your convenience as long as it is all completed by the deadline. Deadlines for homework assignments will be listed on the homework's website.
- We will be using the DISCUSSION BOARD feature in ELMS for answering any questions you may have regarding the material. Please post your questions there. All students are encouraged to check it regularly and answer their peers' questions (this is also 5% of your final grade). **I will go into the Discussion Board every Tue, Thur and Sun to answer any remaining/unanswered questions that were posted by 2 pm EST that day. My answers will be up by 4 pm EST on the same day.**
- There will be two **online tests** (using the homework website) covering the material for that week and an **online cumulative final examination**.

**Course Description:**

ECON200 is the first half of a two-semester introductory sequence in economics. The focus of the

course is microeconomics. ECON201 covers macroeconomics. We generally recommend that students complete ECON200 before taking ECON201, and I will assume that this is your first course in economics.

The goal of the course is to introduce you to the field of economics and ways of economic thinking. We will address questions such as: What is economics about? What are some important economic issues? And how do economists form ideas and policies? At the heart of all of economics is the question of how individuals make decisions. Ordinary people make decisions, but so do other decision-makers such as small businesses, non-profit organizations, giant corporations, and governments. We will ask how all of these decisions come together to shape the economy. Topics will include the competitive market model of supply and demand, market efficiency, externalities and public goods, monopoly, oligopoly, government policy, and labor markets.

Learning to solve problems is the most important skill for doing well on exams in economics, and we will have lots of practice questions, past exams and homework assignments to fully prepare you for that.

### Required Text :

- The textbook is N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics, Fifth Edition, South-Western Publishers. The book is required for the course. Towards the end of the semester, supplemental readings might be required for a few lectures. These readings will be placed on the course web page.
- In addition, we will be using the APLIA system that accompanies the textbook. APLIA is an online product that contains both a digital version of the textbook and online homework. Your homework will be assigned, submitted and graded through APLIA, as will one of the two exams.
- The textbook and access to the APLIA website can be purchased separately or together. I have attached additional information regarding available payment options, as well as registration instructions for APLIA(see end of this document).
- It is in your best interest to read and understand the information in this attached document before making any purchase decisions. You may register and use the APLIA website without paying the fee until 01/09/2011. Use this grace period to decide which purchase option works best for you. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you decide to stay in the course. You need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site.

### Homework:

- I will assign about 25 problem sets throughout the course, some will be for practice (optional, to prepare you for the graded ones) and most will be graded.
- A schedule of assignment due-dates will be posted on the course web page.
- Homework will be assigned and graded via APLIA; **you have three attempts to answer each problem** (after an incorrect answer, the correct one will pop up with an explanation, then a very similar problem will give you another chance at it). **ONLY THE HIGHEST SCORE WILL BE COUNTED for each problem** (so if you miss the question twice but get it right the third time, you get full points).
- Since problem sets are graded automatically immediately after their due date has passed, there is no way to make up missed assignments. That is why **I will count towards your grade only the highest 15 overall scores on problem sets (you can drop your lowest ones).**
- Before each exam I will make some practice problems sets available on the course webpage together with older tests and solutions for all. You are not required to turn in these problem sets and they will not count toward your grade, but you will probably benefit if you do them.

### Exams:

- There will be **two online tests covering the material for the week that ended** and a **cumulative online final examination**.
- The questions on the exams will be BOTH multiple-choice and true-false.

- The final exam will be cumulative, covering all material discussed in the course.
- Make-up examinations will be given to students with a valid excuse for missing an exam, according to the Undergraduate Catalog for examination procedures (<http://www.umd.edu/catalog>). You must contact me as soon as possible, so that I can schedule the make-up.

### Exam Schedule

<b>Test 1</b>	online, <b>CLOSED BOOK</b> , timed for 1h, <b>available between Sunday, January 9th 4pm EST and Monday, January 10th 7 pm EST</b>
<b>Test 2</b>	online, <b>CLOSED BOOK</b> , timed for 1h, <b>available between Sunday, January 17th 4pm EST and Tuesday, January 19th 1pm EST</b> (longer time window just in case you are away for MLK week-end☺)
<b>Final Exam</b>	online, <b>CLOSED BOOK</b> , timed for 2h, <b>available between Saturday, January 22nd 8am EST and Sunday, January 23rd 5pm EST</b>

### Grading

Your grade will be determined as follows:

<b>Test 1</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Test 2</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Graded Homework Assignments (top 15 scores)</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Discussion board participation (answering colleagues questions)</b>	<b>5%</b>

### Grading Scale:

*A: 90% and above; B: 80-89%; C: 65-79%; D: 50-64%; F: below 50%.*

NOTE: These cutoffs may be changed slightly depending on overall class performance.

### Other Policy Statements:

- Students are bound by the Code of Academic integrity at the University of Maryland, College Park. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>. Violations of this code will be reported. Penalties include, but are not limited to: 1) a score of zero on the assignment the student is caught cheating on; 2) a failing grade for the course.

- I will abide by the university policy regarding **students with learning disabilities** who need special examination procedures (extended time on online tests and final). Those students **need to notify me and provide the appropriate documentation as soon as possible and at least three days before the date for the first exam.**

### Topics and Readings (next page):

## Topics and Readings:

We will cover most of the material in the textbook:

### **WEEK 1:**

#### Part 1: *Introduction to Microeconomics*

Readings: Chapters 1-2 (by Monday, January 3rd, 8 pm)

#### Part 2: *Markets & Welfare Part I*

Readings: Chapters 4 – 5 (by Tuesday, January 4th, 8 pm)

Chapters 7 (by Thursday, January 6th, 8 pm)

#### Part 3: *Markets, Welfare and its applications: Part II*

Readings: Chapter 6 & 8 (by Sunday, January 9th, 4 pm)

- **Test 1: online, CLOSED BOOK, timed for 1h, available between Sunday, January 9th 4pm EST and Monday, January 10th 7 pm EST**
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### **WEEK 2:**

#### Part 4: *Firms and the Organization of Industry- Part A*

Readings: Chapters 13 & 14 (by Tuesday, January 11th, 8 pm)

#### *Firms and the Organization of Industry- Part B*

Readings: Chapters 15 (by Thursday, January 13th, 8 pm)

Chapter 16-17 (by Sunday, January 15th, 4 pm)

- **Test 2: online, CLOSED BOOK, timed for 1h, available between Sunday, January 17th 4pm EST and Tuesday, January 19th 1pm EST (longer time window just in case you are away for MLK week-end and don't have internet access to take the online test☺)**
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### **WEEK 3:**

#### Part 5: *The Public Sector*

Readings: Chapters 10 – 11 (by Tuesday, January 18th, 8 pm)

#### Part 6: *International Trade*

Readings: Chapter 3 & 9 (by Thursday, January 20th 8 pm)

- **Cumulative Final Exam: online, CLOSED BOOK, timed for 2h, available between Saturday, January 22nd 8am EST and Sunday, January 23rd 5pm EST**

# How to access your Aplia course

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Vamosiu, ECON 200 Microeconomics (Mankiw) WN 11

**Instructor:** Adriana Vamosiu

**Start Date:** 01/02/2011

**Course Key:** Q9BQ-G6YV-JREP

**You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!**

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
- In most cases, you can save money if you buy Aplia and your textbook together. See payment options below.
- You will have access to a digital version of your textbook on Aplia through the end of this course.
- Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in once and access your materials and courses.

## Registration

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com>.
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (**Q9BQ-G6YV-JREP**) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button.

**If you don't have an account**, click the *Create an Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: **Q9BQ-G6YV-JREP**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

## Payment

After you register for your course, you will have a variety of payment options. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 01/09/2011.

### Option 1: Looseleaf Textbook with Aplia Access (Aplia also includes digital textbook)

- **RECOMMENDED AND CHEAPEST: From Special UMD Student Website:** Go to <http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/umdecon200> and select 'Bundle Option 1' for US\$80.00.
- **From the UMD Bookstore:** Purchase the looseleaf textbook bundled with an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore.

### Option 2: Softcover textbook with Aplia Access (Aplia also includes digital textbook)

- **From Special UMD Student Website:** Go to <http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/umdecon200> and select 'Bundle Option 2' for US\$125.00.
- **From UMD Bookstore:** Purchase the textbook bundled with an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore.