Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
College of Business
Course Syllabus for Microeconomics Principles (ECON 2302), Section 02
Spring 2020

Course number: ECON 2302.002  Instructor: Ahmed H. Kamara
Semester: Spring 2020  Office Location: OCNR 373
Classroom: OCNR-145  Office Telephone: 361-825-5802
Class Time: MWF,12:00pm - 12:50pm  Email: ahmed.kamara@tamucc.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number:</th>
<th>ECON 2302.002  MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm</th>
<th>CRN: 22065</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours:</td>
<td>MWF 10:50am - 11:50am or by appointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet:</td>
<td>You may wish to visit the following link before emailing Dr. Kamara or another faculty member: <a href="https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Email-Etiquette.html">https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Email-Etiquette.html</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional Materials:</td>
<td>Textbook Study Guide</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites:</td>
<td>None. However, students taking remedial courses in Basic English (ENGL 0399) and/or Mathematics (MATH 0398 &amp; 0399) are not recommended to take this course concurrently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructional Methodology:</td>
<td>Lecture, class discussions and activities, readings, quizzes, exams, Junior Achievement teaching &amp; extra credit.</td>
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</table>

Course Description
The main objective of this course is to teach you to think and approach economic problems “like an economist.” To achieve this, this course will endow you with the tools that will help you understand and analyze the economic issues. Demand and supply, consumer behavior, elasticity, production costs, perfect and imperfect market structures and models of the modern market price system are analyzed. Emphasis is on use of marginal analysis to determine prices, output, income and economic welfare in a market price system. Satisfies the social and behavioral sciences component of the University core curriculum.

Course Prerequisites
None. However, students taking remedial courses in Basic English (ENGL 0399) and/or Mathematics (MATH 0398 & 0399) are not recommended to take this course concurrently.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students would be able to:

- Understand the structure of a market for a particular good or service and the efficiency to which economic resources can be allocated through the market system (BBA Goal 2, Objective 1)
• Understand the concept of elasticity and its applications in pricing decisions and in assessing the burden of a per unit tax (BBA Goal 2, Objective 1)
• Be cognizant of the factors that influence whether or not an individual purchases a good which leads to the goal of satisfaction (utility) maximization. (BBA Goal 3, Objective 1).
• Identify the four market structures that a firm could be part of and the differences between those market structures (BBA Goal 2, Objective 1 and 3).
• Understand the role of marginal analysis in determining the optimum level of production and prices (BBA Goal 2, Objective 1).
• Effectively review and prepare for the Major Field Test for business majors (BBA Goal 2, Objective 1)

ECON2301 IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Relationship to the University Core Curriculum Program: As an integral part of TAMU-CC’s Core Curriculum Program within the framework of the various curriculum perspectives outlined in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Undergraduate Catalog, through its extensive coverage of related topics and other course requirements, Economics 2302 seeks to enhance students’ intellectual skills in the areas of written and oral communications, mathematical competency and critical thinking.

How Economics 2302 enhances the Texas Core Curriculum skills:
Throughout the course, students in Economics 2302 will have ample opportunities to enhance their proficiency in the four intellectual skills specified in the TCC in relation to social and behavioral sciences:

Communications Skills (COM)
Students do have opportunities to participate in class discussions, ask and answer questions. Homework assignments offer another opportunity for students to exchange ideas in class and/or online and to enhance their listening skills. Students also submit written answers and/or written projects to improve written communication skills with regard to discussing economic issues.

Critical Thinking Skills (CT)
The study of economics is not possible without enhancing the critical thinking skills (CT) found within the TCC core curriculum objectives. The fundamental economic concept of “opportunity cost” and its applications in decision-making process provide Economics 2302 students with a valuable critical thinking tool. The opportunity to employ economic theories and policies to analyze current issues also encourages students to sharpen their critical thinking skills.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)
The study of economics also requires a certain level of empirical and quantitative skills (EQS) found within the TCC core objectives. ECON 2302 requires data analysis and computation in a variety of economics topics.
Social Responsibility (SR)
In ECON 2302, Students are given the chance to study topics that may include economic growth, development, government policy, income distribution, incentives, and property rights. These topics introduce a variety of ethical and intercultural issues that address social responsibility.

Major Field Test (MFT)
This course has been identified as critical to student mastery of the content covered by the Major Field Test (MFT). The MFT is required for all students pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Students register for the MFT in BUSI0088, Major Field Test in Business. To prepare for this test, business majors are advised to retain their class notes, textbooks, and other relevant materials from their business core courses in the areas referenced below. Completion of all College of Business core courses except MGMT 4388 is required. BUSI 0088 is CR/NC.

As an integral part of the College of Business’ Assurance of Learning program, the Major Field Test (MFT) is a nationally-normed, standardized multiple-choice test developed by the Educational Testing Service and administered to senior-level business students at many AACSB International accredited institutions in the United States. It is designed to measure students’ academic achievement through demonstration of their basic knowledge and understanding of key concepts, theories, and analytical methods in the functional areas of business. This test covers the areas of accounting, economics, finance, international issues, legal and social environment of business, management, marketing, quantitative business analysis, and information systems.

Performance Evaluation and Grading
Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of quizzes, three midterm exams and an OPTIONAL but COMPREHENSIVE final exam. The material covered on exams may include scheduled material from the text, lectures and other activities such as homework assignments. There are also extra credit opportunities through class attendance, in-class activities and participation in the Junior Achievement teaching project.

Exams: 75%
There will be three (3) midterm exams. Of the 3 exams, your highest grade accounts for 30% of your overall grade, your middle grade accounts for 25% whereas your lowest grade accounts for 20%. If you miss one of the three midterm exams, and you presented an official, acceptable, and verifiable excuse BEFORE the exam, you will be allowed to makeup the exam that you missed as early as possible. However, if you miss one of the midterm exams without any prior excuse, you may take the final exam as your make-up. PLEASE NOTE, the final exam, although optional, is COMPREHENSIVE. Students may also choose to take the final exam in order to replace the lowest of the midterm grades.

Homework and Quizzes: 25%
Homework and quizzes are an important part of the course and is worth 25% of the overall grade. These would be assigned and scored online in Blackboard.

Extra Credit: 10%
Extra credit for class attendance and for participation in the Junior Achievement Teaching Project.

- **Junior Achievement Project (7%): This is equivalent to 35 points on a 500-point scale.** The information on orientation sessions will be announced in class. Deadlines for turning in documentation: October 3, November 21 & November 28. Please refer to page 6 for details on this project.
• **Class Attendance (3%)**: Attendance is REQUIRED and would be MONITORED throughout the semester. Your record of attendance and other in-class activities would determine how much extra credit you are awarded. Generally, a 100% attendance would guarantee 3% extra credit.

**The Official Course Grade is determined by the following scale:**

- A = 90% or above
- B = 80% - 89.99%
- C = 70% - 79.99%
- D = 60% - 69.99%
- F = below 60%

**Example on how to calculate your final grade**: A student scores 79%, 95%, and 88% on her three exams. She also scores a total of 96% on her homework and quizzes. Her final grade before any extra credit is obtained as follows:

\[79(0.2) + 88(0.25) + 95(0.30) + 96(0.25) = 90.3\% = A\]

The student’s performance, not the instructor, determines the course grade. No additional work will be given after the final exam to supplement a course grade. Grades are given based solely on student performance, not needs or any personal reasons. It is the students’ own responsibility to ensure that all scores are correct.

**NOTE**: Do NOT rely on the percentage reported to you by Blackboard. That score is based on what you have submitted, NOT on what has been assigned.

**Exam Calendar (Tentative)**

- Exam 1: Wed, Feb. 26th
- Exam 2: Wed, March 25th
- Exam 3: Wed., May 6th (Last day of class)
- Final Exam: Final exam day (TBD)

**Important University Dates and Policies**

For important university days please visit [http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/2018_fall.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/2018_fall.html)

For academic policies please go to [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=177](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=177)

**Other Aspects of the Course**

**Relationship to Other Coursework**: The student will have an opportunity to apply quantitative skills introduced in other courses to solve economic problems. In addition, this course will emphasize the following specific skills: mathematical competency, critical thinking, writing, reading, listening and speaking. The emphasis on the development of these specific skills in this course should benefit the student in other courses undertaken regardless of major.

**Ethical Perspectives**: This course considers both the positive approach to macroeconomic issues (i.e., what is) and the normative approach (i.e., what ought to be). As a result, students can develop insight into ethical issues.
**Global Perspectives:** Global economic trends, the economic performance and trade policy impact macroeconomic analysis and policy decisions. As a result, the global and intergenerational perspectives are critical to macroeconomic study.

**Demographic Diversity Perspectives:** Macroeconomic policy impacts various demographic groups differently, while these groups are also able to influence macroeconomic policy differently. Hence, the distributional effects of macroeconomic policy will be examined and discussed.

**Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory, and Environmental Perspectives:** In discussing the role of the government in an economy, various political, social, legal, regulatory, and environment issues and questions arise. These questions and issues are examined in the macroeconomic context, and sometimes, from the macroeconomic viewpoint.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are held responsible for class attendance. Class attendance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for active class participation and satisfactory course performance. Students absent from classes are responsible for making arrangements to submit assignments due, material discussed, and announcements made in class. Assignments/quizzes and exams missed due to absences cannot be made up except for illness, official university travel or other emergencies, in which case a doctor’s note or other official documentation is required to accompany the assignment. **Class attendance will be taken,** and good attendance will be considered when assigning final letter grades if a student’s average is just below the borderline cutoff between letter grades.

**Extra Credit** will be made available from time to time, with each extra credit opportunity worth a maximum of 10%.

**Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage:** Cell phones are **not** to be used during class. If your individual circumstances REQUIRE that you be available for an urgent phone call, you should turn your ringer on silent. You may not use a laptop for taking notes, unless preapproved by Dr. Kamara, and in such a case, you will be required to sit in the first or second row.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism***
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a score of zero for the assignment or test, and possibly (1) the grade of “F” for the course, and/or a record of this offense in your permanent university file.

Turning in another student’s work (assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.) without the knowledge of the instructor constitutes forgery of both the student turning in another one’s work and the student who completes the work.

**Student Code of Ethics:** This course, and all other courses offered by the College of Business (COB), requires all of its students to abide by the COB Student Code of Ethics (available online at [www.cob.tamu.edu](http://www.cob.tamu.edu)). Provisions and stipulations in the code are applicable to all students taking College of Business courses regardless of whether or not they are pursuing a degree awarded by the COB.
**Dropping a Class***

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. *Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **April 10** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Statement of Civility***

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Grade Appeals***

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Disabilities Accommodations***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

*If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.*

**Statement of Academic Continuity***

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow
continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Last Day of Withdrawal:** Only students who complete the course withdrawal form to withdraw from all classes by the April 10 deadline will receive an automatic grade of “W.”

### The Junior Achievement Project (Teaching Project)

This project involves Teaching the Junior Achievement 5-session economics curriculum to elementary school students. You are encouraged to complete this in groups of 2.

NOTE: Junior Achievement requires specific paper forms for completion of the teaching project. Those paper forms must be handed in to Dr. Kamara at the beginning of class on or before the deadlines.

In order to accomplish this project, you must successfully complete these 8 steps:

1. Select a teaching partner, before or during the Junior Achievement (JA) orientation and training for volunteers. *The dates and times of these sessions will be announced in class.*

2. Successfully complete the JA orientation and training for volunteers.

3. VERY SOON after the orientation, you must contact your assigned – or self-selected - elementary school teacher to set up a face-to-face appointment.

4. At that appointment, you will discuss the curriculum, the teacher's role and expectations, set up time to observe the class, and schedule your teaching times/dates.

5. Observe the teacher and students.

6. At the very beginning of your 1st session, administer the pre-program questionnaire.

7. Deliver the Junior Achievement curriculum as planned.

8. At the very end of your 5th session, administer the post-program questionnaire.

Your grade will in part be based on the elementary school cooperating teacher's evaluation of your work, using the standard JA evaluation form, which your cooperating teacher will fax to JA, and then JA will fax to me.

**WARNING 1:** You must wear appropriate attire. Please observe what teachers are wearing.

You may wish to ask your cooperating teacher what is, and what is not, appropriate attire. Dress code violations will result in your removal from the Junior Achievement teaching project, resulting in a failing grade on this portion of the course.

**Rubric for the Junior Achievement Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric for the Junior Achievement Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handed in JA “Teacher Confirmation Form” <strong>early or on time</strong>, April 19</td>
<td>Not on time (0 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handed in JA “Teacher Verification Form” <strong>early or on time</strong>, November 20</td>
<td>Not on time (0 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Does Not Meet Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught the Junior Achievement curriculum to the elementary class (five units)</td>
<td>Taught 2 classes (4 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of your work by the cooperating teacher, faxed by the teacher from the school to the JA office</td>
<td>Earned &lt; 70% of points possible on teacher evaluation (6 points)</td>
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</table>

**DEADLINES:**

By **February 21**: JA’s “Teacher Confirmation Form,” which documents your agreement with your cooperating teacher, brought **BY EACH INDIVIDUAL** to Dr. Kamara at the beginning of class.

By **April 24**: Submit the completed Participation Record and Verification Form.

**ECON 2302 TENTATIVE* COURSE OUTLINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Economics: Foundations and Models.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, Market System / Comparative Advantage and Gains from International Trade.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supply and Demand.</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Midterm 1, February 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Economic Efficiency, Government Price Setting, and Taxes.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elasticity: Responsiveness of Supply &amp; Demand.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consumer Choice and Behavioral Economics.</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Midterm 2, March 25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Technology, Production, and Costs.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Firms in Perfectly Competitive Markets.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Monopoly.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Monopolistic Competition.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Oligopoly: Firms in Less Competitive Markets.</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Midterm 3, May 6 (Last day of class)**

**Optional COMPREHENSIVE Final Exam: Final Exam Day (TBD).**

* Schedule may change due to unexpected circumstances. Any such changes will be announced in class and on Bb.