

**Economics 110**  
**Principles of Economics I, Microeconomics**  
**Department of Economics, University at Albany**  
**Fall 2019**

Prof. Pinka Chatterji  
Classroom: LC 25  
Office Hours: Mon 9:00-10:30 AM; Fri 9:00-10:30 AM  
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Call No. 5658  
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**Course Description:**

In this course, we examine the problems facing society in allocating resources. First, we learn about basic economic concepts such as opportunity cost, comparative advantage, and gains from trade. Next, we study the operation of the market in determining who supplies the good, who gets the good, and what price is paid. Related subjects include the possible role of government in influencing allocation, the organization of industry and firm behavior, and markets for factors of production. The three major goals for student achievement are:

1. Learning basic economic principles and concepts.
2. Mastering the graphical and mathematical techniques used in economic analysis.
3. Applying economic concepts to real economic situations and to analysis of government policy.

Eco 110 is a General Education Course in the Social Sciences Category. Further information about its General Education features is available at [http://www.albany.edu/gened/dp\\_socsci.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/gened/dp_socsci.shtml). The prerequisites for this course are plane geometry plus intermediate algebra (high school level), or a course in pre-calculus.

**Blackboard Website (BLS):** <https://blackboard.albany.edu/> I will post all materials for the course and any class announcements here. I will post exam grades and One Minute Quiz points (described below) on BLS. Register your iClicker2 on BLS – see left-hand sidebar after you log into BLS. Do not e-mail me through BLS; instead, use the e-mail address: pchatterji@albany.edu.

**Tutoring and Mindtap Help:** The Economics department offers daily, drop-in, free tutoring. I will announce the tutoring schedule in class and post it on BLS. I offer extra help without an appointment during my office hours. We have a Teaching Assistant who will specialize in offering Mindtap assistance. Her name is Deepti Sikri and her office is located in Room 240 in Building 25 (Hudson). She will have office hours on Wednesdays from noon to 300 PM. Her e-mail address is: dsikri@albany.edu. Office hours start on Wednesday, September 4. Please do not go to the TA for technical issues – please call 1-866-994-2427 for technical assistance or contact Mindtap technical support through the BLS link. You may e-mail me as well.

**Calendar:** This semester, we have no class on Tuesday, October 15 (Fall Break) and Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving).

**Course Activities and Required Materials:**

**Students in this class need the following materials:** (1) access to the textbook *Principles of Economics* (Eighth Edition), by N. Gregory Mankiw (Cengage Publishers); (2) access to the online homework system (Mindtap); and (3) an iClicker2. **There is an additional handout posted on BLS providing detailed information on purchasing options for these course materials, and I will discuss options on the first day.**

**Registering for Mindtap and Doing Mindtap Homework:**

In this class, students access, complete, and submit all homework on-line through a platform called “Mindtap.” To register for Mindtap, go to our BLS website and click on the Mindtap course icon. You can then follow the prompts to register. Payment is not required until two weeks after your registration date. If you cannot pay, please see me immediately. If you bought the textbook bundled with an access code to Mindtap at the bookstore, you can enter the access code to pay for Mindtap once you click on the Mindtap icon on BLS. You also can buy the Mindtap code separately from the bookstore, or you can pay online using a credit or debit card, or PayPal (see additional handout on course materials purchase options). If you have already registered an access code from a prior semester, you should be able to gain access to this course by logging in with your username and password. You can check your system configurations by clicking on the “system check” button once you log into Mindtap.

**The first homework assignment is due Friday, 8/30/19 (strict due date, even if you add the class late). Assignments generally are due every Friday at 11 PM – please be aware that towards the end of the semester, I sometimes extend the deadlines and will announce these extensions in class.** Also, note that some assignments are due on Tuesdays towards the end of the semester (see schedule below). Some weeks have multiple assignments. When students submit an answer, Mindtap informs the student immediately whether the answer is right or wrong and provides an explanation. If the student is wrong, s/he can answer a different version of the question. The homework problem can be repeated up to 3 times to get it correct, and the score on the problem will be the highest of scores on the three attempts. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to complete the assignment at that point. **Mindtap assignments must be completed by the due date – there are no exceptions to this rule.**

Sometimes the homework will cover material that has not been covered in class. The lowest two homework grades will be dropped. Every homework assignment is weighted equally – at the end of the semester, I compute an average of the percentage scores. In addition to graded homework assignments, Mindtap also offers video tutorials, practice assignments, and practice tests. These materials are optional and are not graded. **However, the practice materials are highly recommended – especially the Adaptive Test Prep which will give you practice with exam questions.**

**One minute quizzes (Using iClicker2s in this course):** During each class, I will give one or more graded one-question quizzes using the iClicker2. **We will start these quizzes on Thursday, 8/29/19.** Students should bring their clickers to every class session. Students will receive 1 point for participating in each quiz – you do not have to get the correct answer to receive the point. **Each student will receive four “free” quiz points to allow for forgotten clickers, malfunctioning clickers, all kinds of excused absences, including athletic event-related absences, and including missing the quiz because you are late to class or leave class early.** If you need to miss more than four days of class for some other reason, please see me. **This “four free quizzes” policy is not permission to miss four classes; it is intended to cover legitimate excuses only.**

Students can buy clickers directly from the campus bookstore. To register your clicker, so that your responses will be recognized and recorded, log into BLS and select this course. Click **iClicker Registration** on the Course Menu on the left of the screen. In the page that appears, enter your iClicker Remote ID and submit. Your iClicker Remote ID appears for ten seconds when you turn your iClicker on, and it is written on the back of your clicker. You cannot get credit for these quizzes without registering your clicker. It is a violation of academic integrity to use another person’s clicker, or to allow another person to use your clicker. I will use tested procedures to determine whether students are using their own clickers. Any student who brings more than one clicker to class, or whose clicker is being used in class in his/her absence, is violating academic integrity

rules. More information about clickers at UAlbany is available at: [http://www.albany.edu/its/svc\\_clickers.php](http://www.albany.edu/its/svc_clickers.php) and students can go to the ITS Service desk at the main university library for clicker issues.

**Grading:** The course is graded A-E. The distribution of final grades will be curved so that about 50% of students get A's and B's, consistent with department guidelines. The final grade will depend on exam grades, homework, and One Minute Quizzes, weighted as follows:

<b>First Exam (Chapters 1-5)</b>	<b>Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> in class</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Second Exam (Chapters 6-9)</b>	<b>Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> in class</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam (Chapters 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19)</b>	<b>Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 PM</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>On-line (Mindtap)</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>One minute quizzes</b>	<b>In class</b>	<b>15%</b>

**Exams:** All exams take place in our classroom. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. There will be review sessions and extra office hours before each exam. I will post exam grades as soon as possible on the BLS website. Students must be prepared to show their University ID cards at exams. They should bring a Number 2 pencil, and a simple calculator if they want to use one. Students may **not** use a large calculator that shows multiple lines of calculations. Students may **not** use cellphones or ipods or earbuds. I will strictly adhere to the policies on academic integrity listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin, and will make use of the penalties and procedures for violations of academic integrity listed there. Make-up exams will be given at my discretion based on criteria listed in University regulations. Final grades will be posted at the BLS.

### **Student Responsibilities**

1. Come to class before it starts and leave only after it ends
2. Obtain and register your clicker before class on August 29th
3. Bring your clicker in working order to each class period
4. Register for Mindtap and pay for within two weeks
5. Complete your Mindtap homework on time (first due date 8/30/19, no exceptions)
6. Learn your Student ID by the first exam
7. Bring a number 2 pencil and a small calculator to exams
8. Be prepared to take exams at the regularly scheduled times
9. Do not text or use a cellphone in class
10. Keep your copy of this syllabus handy so you do not need to ask questions that are answered on it
11. Email me at [pchatterji@albany.edu](mailto:pchatterji@albany.edu) instead of through the BLS site
12. Students are responsible for text material not covered in class

### **Week 1: Getting organized and Introduction to the discipline**

Dates: August 27-29

Reading: Text, Chapters 1-2

Students should register for Mindtap this week (please see instructions above – there is no need to pay yet if there is a chance that you may drop the course); Obtain and register your Clicker

Graded assignments: (1) How to do homework assignments  
(2) Refresh your math and graphing skills  
**Due on 8/30/19 at 11:00 PM**

### **Week 2: Interdependence and Gains from Trade**

Dates: Sept. 3-5

Reading: Text, Chapter 3

Graded Assignments: (1) Ten Principles of Economics (HW Chapter 1)  
(2) Thinking like an Economist (HW Chapter 2)  
**Due on 9/6/19 at 11:00 PM**

### **Week 3: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand**

Dates: Sept. 10-12

Reading: Text, Chapter 4

Graded Assignments: (1) Interdependence and Gains from Trade (HW Chapter 3)  
**Due on 9/13/19 at 11:00 PM**

### **Week 4: Elasticity and its Applications**

Dates: Sept. 17-19

Reading: Text, Chapter 5

Graded Assignments: (1) Market forces of supply and demand (HW Chapter 4)  
**Due on 9/20/19 at 11:00 PM**

### **Week 5: Supply, Demand, and Government Policies**

Dates: Sept. 24-26

Reading: Text, Chapter 6

Graded Assignments: (1) Elasticity and its application (HW Chapter 5)  
**Due on 9/27/19 at 11:00 PM**

### **Week 6: Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets**

Dates: Oct. 1-3

**EXAM ON TUESDAY OCT 1ST IN CLASS, COVERING CHAPTERS 1-5**

Reading: Text, Chapter 7

Graded Assignments: (1) Supply, demand and government policies (HW Chapter 6)  
**Due on Tuesday, 10/8/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 7: Costs of Taxation**

Dates: Oct. 8-10

Reading: Text, Chapter 8

Graded Assignments: (1) Consumers, producers, efficiency of markets (HW Chapter 7)  
**Due on 10/11/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 8: International Trade; Externalities**

Dates: Oct. 17 (Fall Break on Oct. 15)

Reading: Text, Chapters 9-10

Graded Assignments: (1) Costs of taxation (HW Chapter 8)  
**Due on 10/18/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 9: Public Goods and Common Resources; The Costs of Production**

Dates: Oct. 22-24

Reading: Text, Chapters 11 and 13

Graded Assignments: (1) International Trade (HW Chapter 9)  
**Due on 10/25/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 10: Firms in Competitive Markets**

Dates: Oct. 29-31

Reading: Text, Chapter 14

Graded Assignments: (1) Externalities (HW Chapter 10)

(2) Public Goods and Common Resources (HW Chapter 11)  
**Due on Tuesday, 11/5/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 11: Monopoly**

Dates: Nov. 5-7

Reading: Text, Chapter 15

**EXAM ON TUESDAY NOV 5TH IN CLASS, COVERING CHAPTERS 6-9**

Graded Assignments: None, but start on Chapter 13 assignment

**Week 12: Oligopoly**

Dates: Nov. 12-14

Reading: Text, Chapter 17

Graded Assignments: (1) Costs of Production (HW Chapter 13)  
**Due on 11/15/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 13: The Markets for the Factors of Production**

Dates: Nov. 19-21

Reading: Text, Chapter 18

Graded Assignments: (1) Firms in competitive markets (HW Chapter 14)  
**Due on 11/22/19 at 11:00 PM**

**Week 14: Earnings and Discrimination**

Dates: Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving on Nov. 28)

Reading: Text, Chapter 19

Graded Assignments: None

**Week 15: Catch-up**

Dates: Dec. 3-5

Graded Assignments: (1) Monopoly (HW Chapter 15)  
**Due on 12/6/19 at 11:00 PM**