

ECON 2010: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

11:00AM, T & Th | Course 10082, Section 090

12:30PM, T & Th | Course 10109, Section 091

Chemistry Building Auditorium, Room 402

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Wednesdays @2:00-4:15PM

A Personal Note from Mr. Elzinga:

Welcome to Econ 201. For efficiency reasons, I'm going to use the old, shorter number. This is a long syllabus, but the length is not because I'm wordy. It's because large classes have a lot to describe.

A famous economist, John Maynard Keynes, once wrote: "The theory of economics does not furnish a body of settled conclusions immediately applicable to policy. It is a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking which helps its possessor to draw correct conclusions." My objective is to teach this "technique" or way of thinking. If I succeed, you will be able to understand a news article about economics better than the journalist who wrote the story. If you receive an A in Econ 201, you should be able to run the economy of a small country. These claims are void in states where prohibited by law.

While lawyer jokes are a dime a dozen, economist jokes are rare. Here is the shortest economist joke I know: an economist and a friend are walking down a street and the friend (pointing) says, "I'd like to own a car like that." The economist replies: "No you wouldn't." That's the whole joke. Economists find this funny (LOL funny). By semester's end, you should know enough economics to understand this joke - even if you don't find it funny. If you understand why this is funny even before taking Econ 201, send me an email, OK? While the study of economics will help you understand why that joke is funny, for some attempts at humor, economics is of no help. For example, economic theory will not help you understand this riddle. What's the difference between an orange? Answer: A pencil. Why? Because vests don't have sleeves.

While you are only beginning the study of economics, there is nothing I have learned that you cannot. The main difference between you and me is that I've been in school longer. You may learn more in Econ 201 than you can imagine, maybe more than you want, and you can maximize your utility doing so. For those who have asked others about this course, everything you have heard about it may be true.

The shortest definition of Economics is "The science of choice." This squares with what Professor Dumbledore said "It is not your abilities that will show what you truly are. It will be your choices."

Prerequisites:

There is no prerequisite for Econ 201. However, students may benefit from two semesters of Sesame Street, Friends, Survivor, The Office, Money Heist, or their course equivalent.

Helpful Links:

How to do well in Econ 201, a sample final, etc.:

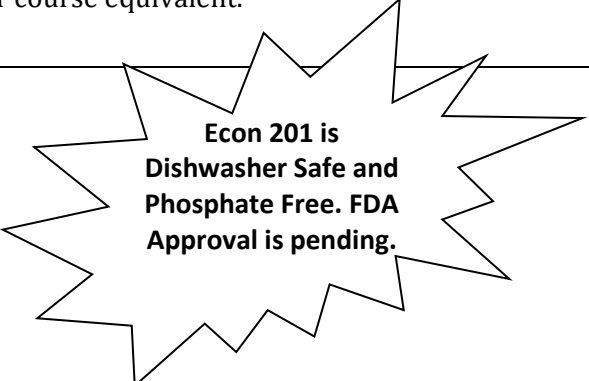
<http://kenelzinga.com/teaching>

Frequently asked questions about an Econ major:

<http://economics.virginia.edu/FAQ-undergraduate>

Please sign the class guest book:

<https://forms.gle/t1Qo6wUdGBLteDyq5>



**Econ 201 is
Dishwasher Safe and
Phosphate Free. FDA
Approval is pending.**

Required Materials:

- Microeconomics, 11th edition, by David Colander (McGraw-Hill)
- Connect software (McGraw-Hill)
- iClicker Student app subscription (see additional information below)

Microeconomics 11e + Connect:

The Colander e-textbook and its accompanying Connect software are inputs for acquiring human capital in Econ 201. They will help you understand the economic way of thinking. Though he divides his time between Middlebury College and Sanibel Island, treat Mr. Colander as a second professor in the course.

The e-textbook is made available through a software called “Connect”. There will be two different links made available to you. One link will be on the main lecture Canvas page and the other link will be on your discussion section Canvas page.

The Lecture Canvas page:

The link to access the e-textbook will be on your lecture Canvas page on the “Home” tab. This link will ONLY give you access to the e-textbook.

Your Discussion Section Canvas page:

By the start of the second week of class, the link to access the e-textbook AND Connect supplemental resources (such as video tutorials and practice problems) will be on your discussion section Canvas page on the “Home” tab. Your TA may also use Connect for quizzes or assignments.

If you buy a used textbook you will not have Connect access.

The UVA Bookstore and McGraw-Hill work together to provide the Inclusive Access program, which offers a discounted rate on the e-textbook and Connect software. ALL students enrolled in the class will have immediate access to the digital course materials through their UVA Canvas course site for the first 2 weeks of class—for free. After the first two weeks of class, **your student account will be charged \$94.21.**

Inclusive Access is optional for students enrolled in Econ 201 but in order not to be charged you must actively opt out by September 6. Due to the special pricing, no refunds can be processed.

If you have any questions regarding the Inclusive Access program or wish to opt out, please email UVAInclusiveAccess@virginia.edu.

For those of you who work best with a hard copy, you can purchase a loose-leaf version of the textbook in addition to the e-book version that comes with Connect. The loose-leaf version is available at the bookstore for \$37.50.

iClicker:

For in-class questions, we will use the iClicker mobile app. You do not need to buy a physical clicker device but you do need to:

1. Purchase an iClicker subscription using your UVA computing ID.
2. Download the iClicker Student app from App Store (Apple) or Play Store (Android).

Create your account at: <https://student.iclicker.com/#/account/create>. Be sure to enter your UVA computing ID in the Student ID field to ensure that you receive credit for your answers. Buying the 6-month subscription (\$15.99) will be sufficient for this course, though if you plan on taking 2020 (Principles of Macroeconomics) in the spring semester you can save a few bucks by buying a one-year subscription (\$24.99). If you already have an active subscription from another course, there is no need to buy another one.

There will be ample opportunity to earn the full 15 clicker points during the semester and there is no way to make up missed clicker questions. Mr. Garrison has prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions found on the course Canvas site. Please review these materials soon in order to avoid pitfalls later in the semester.

Attendance:

There will be two 55-minute classes each week in the Chem Auditorium. There also will be weekly discussion sections led by Teaching Assistants. You must be registered in both the lecture and a discussion section. Lecture attendance is at your discretion. I do have one request: if you attend, please be on time. The cost you impose upon me and the class by entering late is what economists call a negative externality. Your parents might call it bad manners. Also, because of fire regulations, there can be no sitting in the aisles. During the lectures, please turn off all electric razors, boom boxes, cell phones and other audio equipment. Pacemakers, Fitbits and electronic tracking devices (if you are out on parole) may be left on.

A story about attendance. Robert Bruner, the former Dean of the Darden Graduate School of Business at UVA (and an outstanding teacher) tells his students a story of when he was in Las Vegas at a game of roulette. A sign above the roulette table read, *"You must be present to win."* Mr. Bruner suggests that his Darden students consider whether there is a lesson in that sign with regard to class attendance. You may interpret this story as you see fit.

Lectures:

Because of the class size, lectures will start five minutes late (at 11:05 or 12:35), and last about 55 minutes (until 12:00 or 1:30). Lectures do not parrot the text but are correlated to the assigned reading.

PowerPoint slides from the lectures will be uploaded to Canvas after each lecture.

Econ Minutes:

In addition to being responsible for material in the lectures and the textbook, from time to time you will encounter material through "Econ Minutes" on a particular topic, such as the economics of sports, the economics of happiness, and the economics of health care. The Econ Minutes have been pre-recorded and I will announce in class when a particular Econ Minute is available. Econ 201 students will have one week to view the Econ Minute through Panopto and then it will be removed.

Discussion Sections:

Every student must be enrolled in a discussion section led by a particular Teaching Assistant. The discussion section is the place to raise questions about the Colander textbook and the lectures. You also may raise questions during your TA's office hours. Your TA will grade your tests. The Head TA, Justin Garrison, manages the discussion sections and other enrollment matters.

Adding, Dropping & Withdrawing:

The last day to add a discussion section or to change a grade option is **Tuesday, September 5**. The last day to drop the lecture or a discussion section is **Wednesday, September 6**. The last day to withdraw is **Tuesday, October 17**. For withdrawing, a grade of W will be given in all cases.

Course Grade:

The first and second exam are worth 80 points each, and the final examination 200. Clicker questions are worth 15 points if you get 15-20 correct, 10 points for 10-14 correct, and 0 points for below 10 correct. In addition, your TA will allot up to 25 points based on your performance and attendance in discussion section. This adds to a total of 400 points.

Dutch Knockout: Your grade for the course will be based on one of two grading methods: 1) a 400 point method based on the entire semester's work, or 2) a 200 point method based on the final exam only. As an act of generosity, characteristic of the Dutch, you will be given the higher of the two grades. Thus it is possible to do poorly on the first two exams (or even skip them altogether), get zero TA points, never get a single clicker question right during the lectures, and still redeem yourself (in a secular sense) by doing well on the final. This is not a strategy your academic dean or faculty advisor recommends.

The course grades will be set according to a scale (which may not conform to your high school scale). The scale is determined the day after the final exam. Thus, exams will not have letter grades assigned to them. If you have a question about the grading of an exam, you may submit a written appeal to your TA, using the Grade Appeal Form available on Canvas. If you are not satisfied, bring the signed form to the Head TA. If you are still unsatisfied, see me. All of this must be completed within three weeks of the exam date. For other grading questions (not specific exam appeals), contact me or the Head TA by **Tuesday, December 5**.

Exams:

Two midterm exams will be given during your scheduled lecture period on **Tuesday, September 26**, and **Tuesday, October 31**.

Make-Up Exam:

There will be a ***comprehensive*** make-up exam on **Tuesday, November 14, 6:30–8:00pm** for students who missed the first or second exam and have an acceptable excuse. Acceptable excuses are: death in the family, University-sponsored event that takes you out of town, a serious illness, or accepting the Nobel Prize in Economics from the King of Sweden on the day of the midterm. To request permission to take the make-up exam please submit a Make-Up Exam Form, found at the link below, to the Head TA who will respond to you promptly. The deadline for requesting to take the make-up exam is **Tuesday, November 7**. **Make-Up Exam Form:** <https://forms.gle/7xdfP26BMEJVbTnx6>

Final Exam:

Because of class size, excuses from the final exam are rare and seldom approved by the Dean's Office. The two-hour final examination is on **Thursday, December 14, 7:00-9:00pm**. For many of you, the Econ 201 final will be the capstone academic event of your time at the University. You may want to dress up for the occasion.

Special Accommodations for Tests or Lectures:

Student Disability Access Center (SDAC) accommodations must be arranged through SDAC and communicated to me, the Head TA, and your TA no later than seven days before an exam. Accommodations can be granted only to students who have SDAC approval.

Copyright Material:

Students are prohibited from selling notes or any video material from this course to any person, other institution, or commercial firm (or being paid to take notes) without the express, written permission of Mr. Elzinga. Copyright, 2023, Kenneth G. Elzinga, as to this syllabus and all lectures.

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The Honor System:

Because of the Honor System at Mr. Jefferson's University, I assume Econ 201 students will be truthful in dealing with their TA, the Head TA, and me and will not cheat on their exams. In the unlikely event that you witness an incident of cheating, you are to contact an Honor Advisor. The Honor System is one of the University's most valuable assets, making it distinct from most other colleges and universities. I admire and support the principle of student self-governance upon which the Honor System rests.

Blogs:

If you want to follow an economics blog, the four most-visited are listed here:

Marginal Revolution

<http://marginalrevolution.com/>

Greg Mankiw's Blog

<http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/>

The Grumpy Economist

<https://johnhcochrane.blogspot.com/>

Overcoming Bias

<http://www.overcomingbias.com/>

Econ 201 Course Outline

All reading assignments are from the Colander text (11e).

UNIT	LECTURES	ASSIGNED READING
1 - <i>The Central Economic Problems and the Approach of Economics</i>	1-2	• Chapters 1, 2 (review Appendix) & 3
2 - <i>Market Allocation, Non-Market Allocation, and Elasticity</i>	3-8	• Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7
3 - <i>The Theory of Demand: Consumer Behavior</i>	9-10	• Chapter 19

FIRST EXAM: Tuesday, September 26

4 - <i>The Theory of Supply: Firm Behavior</i>	11-12	• Chapters 11-12
5 - <i>When the Market "Works": Competitive Pricing</i>	13-15	• Chapter 13
6 - <i>When the Market "Fails": Monopoly Pricing</i>	16-18	• Chapter 14

SECOND EXAM: Tuesday, October 31

7 - <i>Applied Economics: Brewing</i>	19	• Chapters 15-16
8 - <i>When the Market "Fails": Externalities</i>	20	• Chapter 8
9 - <i>Income Distribution: Who Gets What?</i>	21-23	• Chapters 17-18
10 - <i>Getting Rich the Econ Way</i>	24-25	• No Reading Assignment



Thinking of majoring in Economics? Chapters 21-23 in the Colander textbook may help you decide (but they are not assigned reading for the course).

MAKE-UP EXAM: Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Only for those with prior Head TA approval

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 14, 7:00 – 9:00pm