# Principles of Microeconomics

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **C-ID Number** | ECON 201 |
| **Discipline** | Economics |
| **Date Approved** | August 07, 2012 |

## General Course Description

This is an introductory course focusing on choices of individual economic decision-makers. Topics include scarcity, specialization and trade, market equilibrium, elasticity, production and cost theory, market structures, factor markets, and market failure.

## Minimum Units

3.0

## Any rationale or comments

## Advisories/Recommendations

Intermediate Algebra

## Course Content

Fundamentals of Economic Thinking Scarcity Opportunity Costs Production Possibilities Marginal Analysis Rational Behavior Positive v. Normative Distinction How Markets Operate Definition of a market Factors of production Supply and demand Price mechanism Producer and consumer surplus Price controls Elasticity Consumer demand Production and cost in the firm Introduction to the production function Marginal and average product Law of diminishing returns Explicit and implicit cost Accounting profit v. economic profit Total cost, average cost and marginal cost in short-run Short-run production decisions Long run average cost curve Economies and diseconomies of scale Market structures Perfect competition Monopoly Monopolistic competition Oligopoly Introduction to factor markets Market failure and public policy Specialization and gains from trade

## Laboratory Activities

## Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to: Utilize the concept of scarcity to explain economic trade-offs, opportunity costs, and rational behavior. Calculate and interpret measures of elasticity.  Demonstrate how markets function and what happens in the presence of market failures.  Analyze production and costs of the firm. Demonstrate how firms attempt to optimize their objectives in response to price signals under a variety of market structures in the short and long-run.

## Prerequisites

Elementary Algebra

## Corequisites

None

## Methods of Evaluation

 Assessed written work is recommended for this course and may include any of the following (colleges are encouraged to work with local CSU and UC departments to determine writing requirements):            Current event analysis            Term papers                      Essay questions on exams        Exams and Quizzes containing one or more:           Multiple Choice questions           Short answers           Problem Solving           True/False           Essays Homework Problem Sets Presentations Debates and class discussion Group projects Experiments

## Sample Textbooks

These are two-semester textbooks covering both Macroeconomics and Microeconomics. The one-semester edition covering only Microeconomics is acceptable. Arnold, R. A. Economics. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning. Boyes, W., Melvin, M., Economics.  Mason,OH: Cengage. Case, K. E., Fair, R. C., and Oster, S. M. Principles of economics. Boston: Prentice-Hall. Colander, D.  Economics.  New York: McGraw-Hill Irwin. Cowen, T., and Tabarrok, A. Modern principles of economics. New York: Worth. Frank, R. H., and Bernanke, B. S. Principles of economics. New York: McGraw-Hill Irwin. Hubbard, R. G., and O’Brien, A. P. Economics. Boston: Pearson. Krugman, P. and Wells, R. Economics. New York: Worth. Mankiw, N. G. Principles of economics. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning. McConnell, C. R., Brue, S. L., and Flynn, S. M. Economics: Principles,problems and policies. New York: McGraw-Hill Irwin. Miller, R. L. Economics today. Boston: Pearson. Rittenberg, L., and Tregarthen, T. Principles of economics. Flat World Knowledge. Schiller, B. R. The economy today. New York: McGraw-Hill Irwin. Sexton, R. L. Exploring economics. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning. Slavin, S. Economics. New York:  McGraw-Hill Irwin. Tucker, I. B. Economics for today. Mason, OH: Cengage Learning.

## Notes