

---

# EC 111

## Introduction to Economics

---

Fall 2015

MWF 2:00-2:50

ARH 305

Instructor: Logan Lee

E-Mail: leelogan@grinnell.edu

Phone: (641)269-4015

Office: CARN 203

Office Hours: Monday 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Thursday: 11:00 AM – 12:00

and by appointment

Mentor: Zach Leibman

Zach's E-mail: liebmanz@grinnell.edu

---

### Important Dates

---

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Exam #1

---

**October 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

Fall Break

---

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

Exam #2

---

**November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Thanksgiving Break

---

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (2:00 PM)**

Final Exam

### Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic principles of economic thought. Most of the course is divided into two segments, microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics emphasizes human decision-making and the behavior of firms in specific markets. Macroeconomics, on the other hand, focuses on nations and considers important outcomes such as gross domestic product (GDP), unemployment, trade, and inflation. In sum, the course is designed to provide you with a solid foundation for further study in economics. By the end of the semester, you should understand central economic principles and theories and be able to formulate economic hypotheses and critically evaluate evidence that relates to these hypotheses.

### Required Text Book

Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock

*Principles of Economics (PE)*

W. W. Norton, 2014

ISBN: 978-0-393-283366-5

Additional Readings may be placed on reserve in the library or posed to PWeb.

### Evaluation

Grades in this class will be based on 8 problem sets, 2 midterm exams, 3 short papers, and one final exam. In addition, you are expected to actively participate in class. I reserve the right to give additional short in class quizzes that will be counted towards your participation points. Grades will be weighted as follows:

10% - Participation, Quizzes

20% - Homework and Econ Journal

40% - Midterms (20% Each)

30% - Final

### Time Expectations

Students should expect to spend between two and three hours reading, working problems, and studying outside of class for each hour of class time.

## Problem Sets

Problems sets are due at the beginning of class on their listed due date. No late assignments will be accepted. You must turn in a physical copy of each problem set in order to receive credit; e-mail delivery of assignments will not be accepted. Working with others on homework assignments is encouraged. The worst score from the homework assignments and quizzes will be automatically dropped. This is done to accommodate any unforeseen absences, and no additional considerations will be given.

## Econ Journal

Your Econ Journal will be comprised of three short papers, no more than one double-spaced page in length, detailing your response to an assigned article, podcast, or video. In particular, I would like you to compare how the ideas presented compare to the economic models we have studied in class. You should briefly discuss any ways in which our economic models support or contradict the central thesis of the assigned piece. Each paper will be turned in separately on the required date.

## Exams

There will be two midterms and one final in this class. Each exam will contain multiple choice and short answer questions. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and in the assigned readings. Students unable to take a midterm must provide proper documentation to the instructor prior to the exam. In the case of a missed midterm due to unanticipated emergency situations, the student will be allowed to put the weight of the missed exam on the other exam, provided notification is received as soon as possible and there is verification of the emergency.

## Testing Procedures

The same procedure will apply during all exams. You will be allowed one non-programmable calculator and a writing implement. Minor items such as drinks and pencil cases are also allowed. Nothing else will be allowed on your desks during the exams. Please close your backpacks for the duration of the exam.

## Students with Disabilities

I encourage students with documented disabilities, including invisible disabilities such as chronic illness, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. You will also need to contact Autmun Wilke, located on the third floor of the Joe Rosenfield Center (x3702), and provide documentation of your disability.

## Academic Honesty

Grinnell College's Academic Honesty Policy is located in the Student Handbook available online at: <http://catalog.grinnell.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2537>. It is the College's expectation that students be aware of and meet the expectations expressed in this policy. In addition, in this course it is my expectation that students may collaborate on homework assignments and but each student needs to individually hand in each assignment. If you have questions about what level of collaboration is acceptable on a particular assignment or about how a particular assignment relates to the College's policy I am happy to discuss the assignment with you in advance of the assignment's due date.

## Religious Holidays

I encourage students who plan to observe holy days that coincide with class meetings or assignment due dates to consult with me in the first three weeks of classes so that we may reach a mutual understanding of how you can meet the terms of your religious observance and also the requirements for this course.

## Tentative Schedule

Below is a schedule of topics and readings that we will cover in lecture. This schedule is subject to change given the pace of the class. All changes will be announced in class and posted on blackboard. Note that some of the topics will be based solely on lecture notes or other assigned readings not found in your textbook.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Aug 31 – Sep 4</b>	<b>Introduction and Economic Modeling</b> <i>Opportunity Costs, PPF, Gains from Trade</i>	Chapters 1 and 2
<b>Sep 7 – 11</b>	<b>Supply and Demand</b>	Chapter 3
<b>Sep 14 – 18</b>	<b>Supply and Demand</b> <i>Price Controls, Welfare</i>	Chapters 5 and 6
<b>Sep 21 - 25</b>	<b>Supply and Demand</b> <i>Elasticity, Review</i>	Chapter 4
<b>Sep 28 – Oct 2</b>	<b>Externalities</b> <i>Exam #1 on Monday</i>	Chapter 7
<b>Oct 5 – 9</b>	<b>Theory of the Firm</b> <i>Production and Costs</i>	Chapter 8
<b>Oct 12 – 16</b>	<b>Theory of the Firm</b> <i>Profit Maximization, Perfect Competition</i>	Chapter 9
<b>Oct 19 - 23</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	None
<b>Oct 26 - 30</b>	<b>Imperfect Competition</b> <i>Monopoly Power, Price Discrimination</i>	Chapters 11 and 12
<b>Nov 2 – 6</b>	<b>Macroeconomics</b> <i>Exam # 2 on Monday, Introduction</i>	Chapters 19, 20, and 21
<b>Nov 9 - 13</b>	<b>Long-Run Macroeconomics</b> <i>Solow Growth Model</i>	Outside Reading on PWeb
<b>Nov 16 - 20</b>	<b>Long-Run Macroeconomics</b> <i>Solow Growth Model</i>	None
<b>Nov 23 - 27</b>	<b>Short-Run Macroeconomics</b> <i>Keynesian Cross, Thanksgiving Break</i>	Outside Reading on e-reserve, Chapter 26
<b>Nov 30 – Dec 4</b>	<b>Short Run Macroeconomics</b> <i>Fiscal Policy</i>	Chapter 29
<b>Dec 7 - 11</b>	<b>Short Run Macroeconomics</b> <i>Money, Monetary Policy</i>	Chapters 30 and 31