

## ECN 232 Microeconomics On Line

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### About the Course

Microeconomics explains how consumers and businesses behave in the economy. Students will explore supply and demand, businesses in competitive and monopolistic markets, and international trade and finance. We will also study how wages are determined, how government makes decisions on taxing, spending, and regulating businesses.

ECN 232 is equivalent to introductory microeconomics courses at colleges and universities across the US. It transfers to nearly all schools. Most business majors are required to take Microeconomics but many other people take it to get a general understanding of how the economy works.

This course will contribute to the following Associate Degree Outcomes:

ADO 5 *Understanding human behavior and social systems* Students will learn to:

Recognize factors that determine and govern human behavior. Distinguish between individual and external factors

Understand the methods of analysis and interpretation used by economics to explain economic outcomes

Begin to use appropriate terms and concepts

Describe at least two economic principles that govern human behavior

ADO 7 *Critical thinking* Students will learn to:

Identify impact of human emotion on economic behavior

Describe larger consequences of choices made by individuals and groups

Describe steps in solving an economic problem

Apply an economic principle to a new context

### Taking Economics On Line

Economics is a time consuming course for most people. Successful students say they spend at least six hours a week studying economics. If you have difficulty with your computer or spend a lot of time doing research or discussion you may spend more time than that. Successful on line students create a schedule for their work so they don't put it off and get behind.

Even though the course is on line you are not expected to work alone. Use email and the discussion area to ask the instructor and other students for help. You can contact other students or set up study groups to work together on assignments, just remember the work you turn in must be your own.

There are economics tutors available at the Center for Student Success in BW 123, phone 796 8415.

### **Computer Requirements**

You will need access to a computer with internet capability and a printer. You must also be able to send and receive email. Free email is available from a number internet services or you may use the JCC student email system.

For this course you should have Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0.1 or higher loaded in your computer. Many government documents come in this format. Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free from [http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2\\_allversions.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html)

You may find it useful to use spreadsheet software such as MS Works or Excel for making graphs. If you don't have a spreadsheet, or it's too much trouble you can draw graphs by hand and mail or fax them in.

### **Texts**

The course textbook is *Microeconomics* by McConnell and Brue, 17<sup>th</sup> edition, 2008, published by McGraw-Hill (ISBN 978-0-07-327309-9). You may also want to purchase the accompanying Microeconomics Study Guide 17<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN 978-0-07-327322-8). These books are resources to help you with the assignments. They have questions and problems that are similar to assignment questions and allow you to practice. There is also a web site that accompanies the text at [www.mcconnell17.com](http://www.mcconnell17.com) with good information for students. (At the site click on "Microeconomics" then open the "Student Edition". The best material is under the "Choose One" tab.) A DVD is available that accompanies the text. It has some good videos that explain material from some of the chapters. Not all of the videos are useful, there are DVD reviews available on the course web site to guide you to the best ones. You can purchase the DVD in the bookstore or there are copies on reserve in the JCC library.

Textbooks are available at the JCC bookstore on main campus any time. During the first week of the semester books are available at JCC's off campus centers. If you would like to order on line from the JCC bookstore go to [www.jackson.bkstr.com](http://www.jackson.bkstr.com) or use another on line bookstore. Sometimes books ordered online take a long time for delivery so keep this in mind when ordering online.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

The JCC Academic Honesty Policy outlines the behavior expected from students and teachers. This policy and others are contained in the campus policy manual and can be found in the college catalog or by clicking on <http://www.jccmi.edu/administration/deans/Policies/Academic%20Honesty%20Policy.doc> You should print a copy of this for yourself.

## Class Requirements

### Assignments

Students must complete 14 assignments during the semester. For each assignment students will answer questions and solve problems using one chapter of the text plus other readings. Assignments will be worth 35 to 45 points depending on the amount of work required. There will not be any tests or final exam.

#### Assignment Question Grading

Most assignment questions should be answered in one to two paragraphs. You should write a thorough answer, including all the information necessary to explain your ideas. Write your answer as if you were writing for a friend who is not taking the class. Include the explanation they would need to understand your answer.

*Each assignment question is usually worth 5 points and will be scored as follows:*

5 points	The answer is explained clearly and thoroughly in your own words, <u>not copied from the text</u> . Economic terms are used correctly. When appropriate use your own examples (not ones from the text) to illustrate your ideas.
4-4 1/2 points	The answer is mostly correct but not fully explained or there are slight errors. Examples are taken from the text or assigned readings, not original.
3-3 1/2 points	The answer is accurate but not explained completely, or may be partly incorrect. Important examples or explanations are missing. Writing is copied from the text or article, not the student's own words.
1-2 ½ points	There is some correct information but the answer is poorly explained.
0 points	The answer is wrong, no correct information is given.

### *Numerical problems (points will vary):*

Maximum points	Correct formulas are used and the answer is correct. All signs (+, -) and labels (\$, %, etc.) are provided and are correct.
Partial credit	Signs or labels may be missing. Formula is correct but answer is miscalculated. Important information is missing or wrong.
0 points	No correct information provided.

### *Graphs and tables (points will vary):*

Maximum points	Correct graph is provided, all axes and lines are labeled correctly. All changes are clearly indicated, important points and intersections are labeled. A title is included.  Table information is complete and correct. Necessary signs, labels and a title are included.
Partial credit	Graph is mostly correct, some labels or lines are missing or incorrect.  Some table information, signs or labels are missing or incorrect.
0 points	No correct information provided.

## **Forums**

Discussion is an important part of the class. It is where students and the instructor share ideas and information about economic issues. For each Assignment there will be a new forum on an issue related to the Assignment. The forum will be open for about 7 days and you may post as many responses as you like. You are encouraged to find articles (from the internet or other sources) and share them with the class.

### Forum Etiquette

Discussion should be a positive experience for everyone. Many students are anxious at first about participating. For this reason it is important that no one is turned off by someone's remarks. We want to discuss controversial ideas but we want the ideas to conflict, not the people involved. If you disagree with something,

make it clear that you are disagreeing with the idea, not the person posting (who may not even agree with the idea themselves). In short, treat people and their remarks with respect, even when disagreeing. The instructor will remove postings that in his judgment are abusive or inhibit the free discussion of all students.

### Forum Grading

To earn full credit for each forum post at least two messages on different days. You should read other student's postings and add something new to the ideas being discussed.

- ◆ Each posting is worth up to 5 points and you can earn a maximum of 5 points per day. Each days best posting will be scored. You may earn up to 10 points in a forum by posting on different days.
- ◆ You may post as many messages as you like but for each forum a maximum of 10 points can be earned.
- ◆ You may post messages any time but messages posted after the closing date will not be graded.
- ◆ Over the semester you may earn a maximum of 140 points.

### *Forum postings will be scored as follows:*

5 points	A posting that brings new information or ideas to the discussion. If you state an opinion it should be supported with some information from the text or an article. The message may explain some relevant information from an article. The article's correct web address is included.
4-4.5 points	The posting has some new information or ideas. Opinions are weakly supported. Information from the text or an article is provided but there is no explanation about it. The article's address is missing, incorrect or the link doesn't work.
3-3.5 points	Posting has little new information. Opinions are not supported with any outside information.
1-2.5 points	Posting has very little new or relevant information. Posting gets off the subject. The

posting just agrees with another message and adds very little to the discussion.

0 points

Posting bring no information to the discussion.

Often students post simple messages agreeing with another posting. Or a student may want to express a personal opinion about something off the subject. It's fine to post these messages but they won't earn any points.

## Due Dates and Late Work

**Late assignments** will be accepted with no penalty for **one week** after the due date. After one week late assignments will not be accepted. If you need more time for some reason please let the instructor know and arrangements can be made. All assignments must be completed by the last day of the semester.

**Forums close on the closing date, no exceptions.** Messages can be posted after the closing date but they will not be graded. If you miss a week it is possible to make up the points by earning extra points in other discussions. See the Forum Grading policies for complete details.

## Grading Scale

Grades are assigned according to the percentage of total points earned out of total points possible using the following scale:

90-100%	4.0
85-89	3.5
80-84	3.0
75-79	2.5
70-74	2.0
65-69	1.5
60-64	1.0
50-59	0.5

You can estimate your grade at any time by using the percentage found on your grade screen. At the end of the semester your percentage will be matched with this scale to figure your grade.