Syllabus
Economics 225A – Microeconomics
Tuesday/Thursday 8:50 – 10:00 AM

Dr. Peter von Allmen               Spring 2009
Office: Comenius 216          Phone: 610-861-1413
mepva01@moravian.edu

Office Hours:
Monday/Wednesday: 10:30 – 11:30AM; 1 – 2PM
Others by appointment.

GOAL
The purpose of this course is to become familiar with the economic theories which
describe the behavior of both firms and consumers. We will examine how and why
consumers make the choices that they do, and what it means for firms to maximize profits
and minimize costs. The efficiency of the pricing system under various market conditions
will also be discussed in detail.

Specific expected outcomes include:
• The ability to evaluate economic decision making by individuals and firms using the
  economic models introduced in the class.
• The ability to solve models quantitatively and show solutions using graphs.
• To understand how assumptions about models and changes in those assumptions
  impact outcomes.
• Gain an understanding of how to balance the benefits of market outcomes with
  issues of market failure; and the role of government in making optimal allocation
  choices.

TEXTS
Microeconomics, 7th edition
        by Robert S. Pindyck and Daniel L. Rubinfeld

Study Guide to Accompany Microeconomics is optional.

GRADING
Your grade will be determined by the combination of 5 homework quizzes, three exams and
a final exam. Class participation and attendance are expected. The intent of the quizzes is
to create additional incentive to read the chapters and apply the material BEFORE you must
do so in an exam setting. You should note that this course is quantitative in nature, making
satisfactory exam performance heavily dependent on practicing of the methods and
techniques used in problem solving. Make-up exams are not normally given. Students
failing to take an exam on the scheduled date without prior permission of the
instructor will receive a grade of zero on that exam.
Graded work will be weighted as follows:

- 5 Homework/quizzes 4% each 20%
- EXAMS 1-3 20% each 60%
- FINAL EXAM 20%

Academic Honesty: I endorse and strictly enforce the College’s academic honesty policy. Cheating violations of any kind will result in failure for the semester, no exceptions. The academic honesty policy can be found in the college handbook. Make sure you have read it and understand it.

CELL PHONE USE: CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN CLASS. THIS INCLUDES TALKING, TEXTING, LISTENING TO MESSAGES, AND USE AS A CALCULATOR. PHONES SHOULD BE OFF AND PUT AWAY DURING CLASS.

**Schedule** (to be adjusted as needed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>Introduction/supply and demand review</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<td>1/22</td>
<td>Demand and Supply review/Calc. review; In-class 1b</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>1/27</td>
<td>In Class Problem Set #1</td>
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<td>1/29</td>
<td><strong>HW quiz #1 (ch. 2);</strong> Consumer Behavior</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>2/3</td>
<td>Consumer Behavior (Skip 3.6)</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>2/5</td>
<td><strong>HW quiz #2 (ch. 3);</strong> Individual Demand</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>2/10</td>
<td>Market Demand/elasticity</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>2/12</td>
<td>Ch4 hw review/Est. of Dem. Curves/In-class #2</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>2/17</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4)</strong></td>
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<td>2/19</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td>2/24</td>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td>2/26</td>
<td><strong>HW quiz #3 (ch. 6);</strong> Cost</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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March 3 -5 Spring Break – no classes
3/10  Cost          Ch. 7
3/12  Cost
3/17  Ch 7 hw review/In-class #3
3/19  Exam #2 (Chapters 6 -7)
3/24  Profit Maximization/Perfect Competition  Ch. 8
3/26  Profit Maximization/Perfect Competition  Ch. 8
3/31  Perfect competition/Analysis of compet. mkts.  Ch. 8 - 9
4/2    HW quiz #4 (Ch. 8); Analysis of Competitive mkts.  Ch. 9
4/7    Monopoly/Monopsony  Ch. 10
4/9    Monopoly  Ch. 10
4/14   Monopoly  Ch. 10
4/16   Ch 10. HW review/In Class #4
4/21   Exam #3 (Chapters 8 – 10)
4/23   Pricing Strategy  Ch. 11
4/28   HW quiz #5 (Ch. 11) Pricing Strategy  Ch. 11
4/30   Monopolistic Competition
       Oligopoly 423-430/game theory

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 7 at 1:30PM.** Be sure that you do not plan travel or other commitments during this time! Also note that travel immediately before or after breaks is not excused.