MICROECONOMICS

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title: ECON 1020 N1 Microeconomic Principles (Online)

Semester: Year Spring 2015

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Schellberg

Office: Room 175, Liesinger Hall, 125 College Dr., Casper College, Casper, WY 82601

Phone: 307-268-2454

Office Hours: MWF 11:00 - 11:50 AM, TTh 10:00 - 10:50 AM, W 6:00 - 6:50 PM
I will be in my office at Casper College during these hours. Feel free to call me or visit me in person during these hours.

E-mail: schellbe@caspercollege.edu (Note: I would strongly encourage students to use the email inside the course, if the email concerns a matter directly related to this course.)

Course Description: An introduction to the economic behavior of firms and households in a market economy and the environment in which they operate. The course also studies the roles of government and foreign trade, as they relate to the decisions of firms and households.

Statement of Prerequisites: The student should have computer access to Moodle and a basic knowledge of the use of the internet. Knowledge of graphing and coordinate geometry is recommended.

General Objectives: The student will gain an understanding of markets and how they can be analyzed to evaluate the critical issues of our day.

Specific Objectives: See the course "Calendar" and the unit links. These show the units to be covered in this course.

Methodology: Microeconomic Principles will be presented using a combination of textbook readings, course outlines, homework (assignments), and discussions.

The required textbook for this course is: Arnold, Roger A, Economics 11th Edition 2014, South Western/Thompson Learning, ISBN 13: 978-1-133-18975-6. This hardcover text includes both macroeconomics and microeconomics. The Arnold text is also available as "splits". The splits consist of a soft-cover microeconomics text and a soft-cover macroeconomics text. Those who purchase their text through the Casper College bookstore obtain the hardcover text. If you plan to take macroeconomics over the internet or in class through Casper College, you should hold onto the text. I want to stress that either the hardcover text or the micro split is acceptable.
**Recommended for this course**: Arnold, Roger A. Microeconomics Video Office Hours, 11th ed. South Western/Thompson Learning ISBN. This provides taped lectures, prepared by the author. Also, I have provided taped lectures, free of charge, found in each of the units of this course.

**Important:**

The tenth edition of the economics text can be used for this course. The changes to the eleventh edition are minimal. Some students may have access to the ninth edition, which has different chapter numbers due to a tenth edition revision. If you have the ninth edition, refer to the chapter titles found in the online content. Do not waste money upgrading to the eleventh edition if you have access to an earlier edition.

**General Information on the Course:**

The course will be divided into eight units, each covering one or two chapters. Unit summaries can be found by visiting the links at the middle of the screen below the phrase “Welcome to Microeconomics”. Shown will be a "General Information" link where you found this syllabus, followed by eight content units plus a section reserved for the final exam. Within each unit are links to discussion (forum) questions, power point lectures, quizzes, and assignments. Discussion forums can also be accessed through the “Navigation” block on the left-hand-side of the screen. Also found on the left-hand-side is a link entitled "Grades" and an email link entitled “MCC Moodle Mail”. These links allow you to check your course grade and to email messages to the instructor or other students individually or to the entire class. On the right-hand side are the calendar and a list of upcoming events. Familiarize yourself with each of these by clicking on the appropriate links. When done, click on Moodle4me and the course link at the top of the screen and then “Syllabus” to get back to this page.

If you find all this moving around inside Moodle confusing, you may wish to print this document.

There are no formal in-class lectures in this course, so students are responsible for learning the material using a combination of textbook readings, course outlines, recorded lectures, homework assignments, and required discussions with other class members. The student must read the assigned readings, study the online course materials, and complete the required quizzes, exams, assignments, and discussion postings in a timely fashion.

My job as an instructor is that of a facilitator and evaluator. I will be available to answer any questions posed either publicly or privately, provide individual help, read your assignments, and evaluate your work.

The major difference between an online course of this form and a traditional class is the absence of a formal lecture. You are expected to learn the material using the alternative methods discussed above. For this three credit course, I recommend the student put in at least nine hours of work per week. This is the time spent reading and studying, preparing assignments, taking tests, and contributing to class discussions. Although the nine hours is the same as is recommended in a traditional class (three lecture hours and six of outside study), it is
easy to get behind in an online course. To succeed in this course, the student must keep up with the work.

Evaluation Criteria:

The course will cover eleven chapters in the textbook. An online quiz will be required for each chapter. The quizzes will be open book and open note, although I recommend reading and digesting the material before attempting the quiz. The quizzes are accessed through the appropriate link under the "units" icon in the middle of the screen.

The course will be divided into eight units, each covering one, two, or three chapters. For each unit, you must make three significant and timely postings to the class discussions.

There will be five graded homework assignments. Your work on the homework assignments is expected to be your own.

To access the homework assignments, click the "Assignment" link found within the current unit. Download and complete the assignment. You may submit the assignment using the assignment link, by email ("MCC Moodle Mail"), through the US or intercampus mail, or by depositing it in the drop slot in my office door. (Liesinger Hall, Room 175G, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Casper College). Do not post your work on the class discussion area; you will receive a zero on the assignment if you do.

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. These will be closed-book and closed-note, and will be proctored. Those in the Casper area may take these exams at the Casper College testing center located in the Thorsen Business Building. Those using the CC testing center must make a reservation 24 hours in advance. Those out of town must arrange to have the exam proctored by a local disinterested third party.

The course grade is figured as follows:

Eight discussion grades: 30 points each... Total 240
Ten quizzes: 30 points... Total 300
Five homework assignments: 60 points each..... Total 300
Midterm exam: 180 points
Final Exam: 180 points
Total: 1200 points, with the following grading scale:

A = 1080 points or more
B = 960 - 1079 points
C = 840 - 959 points
D = 720 - 839 points
F = below 720 points
These totals correspond to 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% for the grades of A, B, C, and D, respectively.

**Deadlines:**

It is important (and required) that you keep up in this course. For that reason, there are deadlines after which work will not be accepted, or will receive reduced credit.

Refer to the online calendar. This shows seven things.

(1) The date that each unit begins
(2) The date that each quiz is made available
(3) The date that the midterm and the final exam are made available
(4) The date that each homework assignment is made available
(5) The date that each homework assignment is due
(6) The date that each quiz or test ends
(7) The date that each unit closes

The quizzes, exams, and homework assignments can be accessed through Moodle on the dates shown on the calendar, but not before the opening dates or after the deadlines.

**Deadlines are as follows:**

(1) Unit discussion postings must be completed before the new unit begins. For example (refer to the calendar), unit 1 begins on January 21, and unit 2 begins on February 4. After February 3, all discussions for unit 1 will be closed off, and no further postings can be made. You may, however, read the postings of closed discussions at any time during the course. Unit 8, our last unit, closes on Thursday, May 15, at 11:55 PM. These dates are shown on the "Calendar".

(2) Quizzes must be completed within one month of the date they are made available. For example, quiz 1 opens on January 21, and closes at 11:55 PM on February 20. The exception to this rule applies to quizzes at the end of the semester, since all work must be completed by Thursday May 15 at 11:55 PM. These dates are shown on the "Calendar", and can also be found by clicking on the link to the relevant quiz in the "Unit" or "Activities" block.

(3) The midterm exam will be available from Monday March 17 until Monday March 24 at 2:00 PM. The final exam will be available from Friday May 9 until Friday May 16 at 11:55 PM. These dates are shown on the "Calendar", and can also be found by clicking on the link to the relevant assignment in the "Unit" or "Activities" block.

(4) The homework assignments must be submitted to the instructor within one month of the date they are made available. For example, the first assignment opens on January 21. Your competed assignment must be submitted, emailed, dropped in my mailbox, or postmarked by 11:55 PM February 20 for full credit. Late assignments will be assigned a ten point penalty for each week submitted after the due date. These dates are shown on the "Calendar", and can also be found by clicking on the link to the relevant assignment in the "Forums" or "Activities" block.
**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.