

Course Information and Syllabus:

Economics 50, Principles of Economic Analysis, Fall 2023

Tue/Th 1:15-2:30pm, Bauer Forum

Prof. Ricardo Fernholz

Claremont McKenna College

Office: Bauer 306

Office Hours: Tue 11:30am-12:30pm, W 10-11:30am, Th 4:15-5:45pm

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Textbook and Website Reading Material

The textbook for this class is Greg Mankiw's *Essentials of Economics*, 8th edition. This text should be easily available online and at the bookstore. In addition to this book, the reading material includes some articles from the popular press and other sources which will be posted on Sakai. I will also post assignments, lecture notes, short videos, and other materials to this site throughout the semester, and we will use the dropbox tab in Sakai for uploading completed and graded assignments and exams. For a lower cost ebook version of the textbook, go here: <https://www.cengage.com/c/essentials-of-economics-8e-mankiw/9781337091992PF/>

Course Material

This course provides an introduction to economic analysis together with its applications and implications. We will survey both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics deals with decision making by individual units, and in this part of the class we will focus on the economic decisions of individuals and firms, the determination of prices and quantities of individual goods, wages, and international trade. The impact of government policies such as taxes and subsidies will also be considered. Macroeconomics deals with economic aggregates. The topics covered are long-term economic growth, the labor market, and the financial sector. Throughout, we will look at as many real-world examples as possible.

Class Tutors

There are four tutors for this class: Anna Behuniak, Sam Johnson-Saeger, Kate Schwab, and Hudson Yeend. Sam will have regular tutoring hours on Sundays from 8-10pm in BC

24, and can be reached by email at sjohnson26@students.cmc.edu. Kate will have regular tutoring hours on Mondays from 6-8pm in BC 24, and can be reached by email at kschwab26@students.cmc.edu. Anna will have regular tutoring hours on Tuesdays from 6-8pm in BC 1, and can be reached by email at abehuniak26@students.cmc.edu. Hudson will have regular tutoring hours on Wednesdays from 6-8pm in BC 22, and can be reached by email at hyeend26@students.cmc.edu.

MobLab

We will use MobLab occasionally this semester to answer questions as a class and to play a few games that help to illustrate some of the concepts being learned. Please go to www.moblab.com on a computer or download the free MobLab app on a mobile device (the website does not work on mobile devices, however). You can then create a free student account and join the class using the class code 7kt9mcgz3.

Zoom

I will use Zoom this semester for most Wednesday office hours, as well as some out-of-class meetings as is convenient. The Zoom link we will use for all class activities is:

<https://cmc-its.zoom.us/j/85319936893?pwd=ZEJBUEEx5WWNrdjViWC96bkMvVHhLdz09>

The meeting ID is 853 1993 6893

The password is econ050

Assignments, Exams, and Grading

There will be four problem sets in this class and the due dates for these problem sets are noted on the course schedule below. I'll post the problem sets to Sakai approximately two weeks before they are due. It is okay to discuss and collaborate on these, but each person must hand in their own copy of the completed assignments. Completed problem sets are due in class (**25% will be deducted for each day late that they are handed in**).

There will also be two exams in this class, as well as four short multiple-choice quizzes lasting approximately 20 minutes each. **There are no make-up exams or quizzes.** If you must miss a quiz/exam or cannot hand in a homework on time for medical reasons, it is your responsibility to tell me in advance. I will need a note from a doctor or health services if this occurs.

The final grade for this class will be based on participation, problem sets, quizzes, and exams. The participation part of this class will be based on the completion of a series of

brief reading assignments during the semester as well as on attendance and participation in class activities and discussion. The weighting scheme for the final class grade is:

5% Participation/Reading Assignments

15% Problem Sets

20% Quizzes

25% Midterm Exam

35% Final Exam

Reasonable Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Accessibility Services at CMC, please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. You can start this conversation by forwarding me your accommodation letter. If you have not yet established accommodations through Accessibility Services, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability (conditions include but are not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health), you are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services to ask questions and/or begin the process. General information and accommodations request information be found at the CMC Accessibility Services website. Please note that arrangements must be made with advance notice in order to access the reasonable accommodations. You can request accommodations from CMC Accessibility Services at any point in the semester. Be mindful that this process may take some time to complete, and accommodations are not retroactive. It is important to Claremont McKenna College to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you are not a CMC student, please connect with the Disability & Accessibility Services Coordinator on your campus regarding a similar process.

Preliminary Course Schedule

August 29: Introduction

August 31: Comparative Advantage and Trade

(Mankiw Ch. 1, 3, *What is Economics?*)

September 5: Demand and Consumer Surplus

(Mankiw Ch. 4, 7.1)

September 7: Supply and Producer Surplus

(Mankiw Ch. 4, 7.2)

September 12: Supply and Demand Together
(Mankiw Ch. 4, Video: Elasticity of Demand, Moblab: Competitive Market)

September 14: Elasticity, **Quiz 1**
(Mankiw Ch. 5)

September 19: Applications of Elasticity
(Mankiw Ch. 5, Video: Elasticity of Supply)

September 21: Supply, Demand, and the Government
(Mankiw Ch. 6, *Minimum Wages and Racial Inequality*)

September 26: Efficient Markets
(Mankiw Ch. 7)

September 28: Efficient Markets and the Effect of Taxes
(Mankiw Ch. 8, *Sending Potatoes to Idaho?*)

October 3: Externalities, **Problem Set 1 due**
(Mankiw Ch. 10)

October 5: Public Goods, **Quiz 2**
(Mankiw Ch. 11)

October 10: Review
(Moblab: Commons Fishery)

October 12: **Midterm Exam**

October 17: No Class, Fall Break

October 19: Firms and the Cost of Production
(Mankiw Ch. 12)

October 24: Firms, Production Costs, and Competitive Markets
(Mankiw Ch. 12)

October 26: The Behavior of Firms in Competitive Markets
(Mankiw Ch. 13, *Fishing for Perfect Competition*)

October 31: Monopoly, **Problem Set 2 due**
(Mankiw Ch. 14.1-14.3)

November 2: More Monopoly, **Quiz 3**
(Mankiw Ch. 14.4-14.6)

November 7: Intro to Macro
(Mankiw Ch. 15, Video: Intro to Macro)

November 9: Measuring the Macroeconomy

(Mankiw Ch. 15, Video: Real and Nominal GDP, Video: CPI)

November 14: Measuring the Cost of Living

(Mankiw Ch. 16, *The Trouble with GDP*)

November 16: Economic Growth and Productivity, **Problem Set 3 due**

(Mankiw Ch. 17)

November 21: Saving and Investment

(Mankiw Ch. 18, *The Baby-Bust Economy*)

November 23: No Class, Thanksgiving

November 28: Basics of Finance

(Mankiw Ch. 19)

November 30: **Quiz 4**

(Moblab: Asset Market)

December 5: Unemployment and Public Policy

(Mankiw Ch. 20.1-20.2)

December 7: Review, **Problem Set 4 due**

Final Exam Thursday, Dec. 14, 7pm

This schedule is preliminary and is subject to change during the semester as needed.