

**BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
City University of New York

**Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, & Criminal Justice**

**Title of Course: Microeconomics (Hons.)**

**Class Hours: Online**

**ECO 202H Section 050W Writing Intensive**

**Semester: Spring 2021**

**Instructor Information: Dr. S. Bishop, sbishop@bmcc.cuny.edu**

**Office Hours: TBD**

**3 Credits**

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the topics of microeconomics, which include market supply and demand, theories of the firm and individual behavior, competition and monopoly, externalities, public goods, and income distribution. Students will learn ways to analyze the basic economic activities of consumption and production, and how to evaluate the allocation of resources and products achieved through markets. The role of government policy in addressing markets failures will be emphasized throughout the course, with special focus on contemporary economic problems.

**Prerequisites/Co-requisites** Prerequisite - Mat 056, Co-requisite – Mat 301

**Other Requirements for the Course:** You need to make sure that you check the **Announcements** section of your course on Blackboard as well as your **emails at least once a day** since that is how I will be communicating with you. My information is available here as well as under “Meet Prof. Bishop” on your Blackboard page.

| <b>Course Student Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to...)</b>   | <b>Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)</b>  |
|---|---|
| 1. demonstrate a basic understanding of microeconomics theory   | 1. <b>Class participation:</b> oral and written test of student’s ability to explain the basic concepts of microeconomic theory and individual decision making. |
| 2. use supply and demand analysis to predict or evaluate the effects of government policies or other events on society’s allocation of resources, and be able to provide clear written explanations of what the graphic analysis indicates. | 2. <b>problem sets:</b> test of student understanding of supply and demand analysis   |
| 3. evaluate and interpret the way businesses and consumers make decisions and the interaction between markets, individuals and the government   | 3. <b>Midterm and Final exams:</b> test of student understanding of consumer and firm decision making (using multiple choice and short essay format).           |

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| 4. show how the production and pricing decisions of firms depend on costs and the degree of competition faced by firms.                          | 4. <b>problem sets:</b> test of student understanding of theory of the firm and cost structure.                       |
| 5. compare and contrast the performance of various market structures ranging from perfect competition to monopoly.                               | 5. <b>Group Research paper:</b> conduct a market analysis of a for-profit non-financial firm                          |
| 6. illustrate the welfare loss resulting from market failures such as externalities, and evaluate government policies to address those failures. | 6. <b>problem sets:</b> test of student understanding of market failures and government policies to address the same. |

**Honors Courses must meet the following student learning outcomes (SLOs):**

| <b>Honors Courses Goals</b>   | <b>Measurements (means of assessment for honors courses goals listed in the first column)</b>  |
|---|--|
| 1. Communicate clearly, knowledgeably, and effectively in written, spoken, visual, oral, and technological modes for a variety of purposes, with different audiences in various contexts, using appropriate formats and technologies. | <b>Research presentation:</b> test the student's ability to apply microeconomics decision making concepts using real world examples. |
| 2. Conceive, plan and execute a high quality (multi) disciplinary research, creative, or applied project, using multiple modes and technologies, including qualitative methods and other modes of inquiry and research.               | <b>Group Research paper:</b> conduct a market analysis of a for-profit non-financial firm  |
| 3. Demonstrate an ability to give constructive criticism and accept feedback as part of the process of peer review.   | <b>Peer review:</b> Conduct a peer-review of another group's research paper providing constructive criticism                         |

**What makes this course a Writing Intensive Course?**

This is a Writing Intensive course that fulfills the WI requirement for graduation. Writing intensive courses pay special attention to developing critical reading, writing, and analytic skills to prepare students for college-level coursework in general. Both informal and formal writing will be designed to maximize your understanding of the subject matter. Formal writing assignments, at least 10-12 pages total, account for a significant portion of your grade and will include opportunities for revision.

| <b>Student Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to...)</b>   | <b>Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)</b>  |
|--|---|
| 1. complete (a) formal writing assignment(s) of at least 10-12 pages in length that has/have gone through the revision process | 1. <b>Paper:</b> write formal paper (with revisions) demonstrating the student's ability to apply the theoretical concepts learned in |

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| (e.g. research paper, content-related report, essay).   | the class to a real-world firm and market and evaluate government policies as they apply to this firm  |
| 2. generate pieces of informal writing in response to a variety of prompts, concepts, situations or reading assignment. | <b>2. Class participation/Discussion boards and in-class quizzes:</b> informal writing to test student's ability to explain the basic concepts of microeconomic theory and decision making at the level of the economy. This includes responses to weekly discussion questions as well participation in class discussions and short-essay responses on problem sets. |

**Below are the college's general education goals that will be covered in this course.**

| <b>General Education Goals</b>   | <b>Measurements (means of assessment for general education goals listed in the first column)</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>Social and Behavioral Sciences-</b> Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences                          | <b>Research paper/presentations:</b> test the student's ability to apply microeconomics decision making concepts using real world examples.                          |
| <b>Quantitative Reasoning-</b> Students will be able to use quantitative skills and the concepts and methods of mathematics to solve problems. | <b>Standardized test:</b> test a student's ability to represent economic theory using basic mathematical models as presented in the textbook and discussed in class. |

### **Required Text & Readings**

The textbook for this course is Case, Fair and Oster, *Principles of Microeconomics* 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (ISBN: 0131388851), Prentice Hall. 11<sup>th</sup> edition or 12<sup>th</sup> edition is also acceptable. Books are available at your college bookstore.

### **The Online Weekly Schedule**

The course week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Please see the following for a break down of the week:

Day 1 - Monday

Day 2 - Tuesday

Day 3 - Wednesday

Day 4 - Thursday

Day 5 - Friday

Day 6 - Saturday

Day 7 - Sunday

## Evaluation & Requirements of Students

Course grades will be determined according to the following:

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|---|-------------|
| Class participation, conduct and attendance | 15%         |
| Problem sets (best 5 out of 6)              | 20%         |
| Team Research paper                         | 20%         |
| Presentation                                | 5%          |
| Peer review                                 | 10%         |
| Midterm                                     | 15%         |
| Final                                       | 15%         |
| Total                                       | <b>100%</b> |

Some of the assignments might require use of the internet.

### Class Participation

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student's responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.

BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help.

**Single Stop** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/singlestop](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/singlestop), room S230, 212-220-8195. If you are having problems with food or housing insecurity, finances, health insurance or anything else that might get in the way of your studies at BMCC, come by the Single Stop Office for advice and assistance. Assistance is also available through the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220- 8130.

**Counseling Center** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling), room S343, 212-220-8140. Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

**Office of Compliance and Diversity** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/aac](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/aac), room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email [olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu), or [twade@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:twade@bmcc.cuny.edu). If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public safety at 212-220-8080.

**Office of Accessibility** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility), room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180. This office collaborates with students who have documented disabilities, to coordinate support services, reasonable accommodations, and programs that enable

equal access to education and college life. To request an accommodation due to a documented disability, please visit or call the office.

### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's Web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

### **Honor Code:**

You are all on an honor code in this class. Scholastic dishonesty is broadly defined as any act by a student that misrepresents the student's own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Examples include (but are not limited to) receiving or giving help on exams, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another), unauthorized collaboration on assignments or exams, or sabotaging another student's work. **The penalty for scholastic dishonesty in this course will be a grade of zero on the entire assignment or exam.**

### **Information about Group Paper, Presentation, and Peer Review:**

Included separately

### **Outline of Topics (Tentative)**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Chapters and Topics</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| Week 1      | Introduction Chap 1; <b>Paper topic selection due</b>   |
| Week 2      | PPF and trade Chap 2; <b>Problem Set 1 due</b>  |
| Week 3      | Demand & Supply Chap 3; <b>Overview due</b>   |
| Week 4      | Demand & Supply Chap 3; <b>Problem Set 2 due; Peer review 1 due</b>                               |
| Week 5      | Applications Chap 4; <b>Demand Supply portion of paper due</b>                                    |
| Week 6      | Elasticity Chap 5; <b>Peer review 2 due</b>   |
| Week 7      | Consumer Behavior Chap 6; <b>Problem Set 3 due</b>  |
| Week 8      | <b>Midterm; Elasticity portion of paper due</b>   |
| Week 9      | Production Chap 7; <b>peer review 3 due</b>   |
| Week 10     | Costs Chap 8; <b>Productivity and cost part of paper due</b>                                      |
| Week 11     | Costs Chap 9; <b>Problem Set 4 due; peer review 4 due</b>   |
| Week 12     | Perfect Competition Chap 12; <b>Problem Set 5 due</b>   |
| Week 13     | Monopoly Chap 13; <b>Market structure portion of paper due</b>                                    |
| Week 14     | Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly Chaps 14 & 15; <b>Problem Set 6 due; Peer review 5 due</b> |
| Week 15     | <b>Final Exam; Final Paper due; Presentation due</b>  |