Course Outline for Economics 1

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

Catalog Description:
ECN 1 - Principles of Microeconomics 3.00 units
Economic analysis of market systems, price theory, including supply and demand analysis, marginal utility, elasticity, cost and revenue concepts, perfect and imperfect competition, international trade theory, pricing of the factors of production, poverty and income inequalities. **Strongly Recommended:** Eligibility for ENGL 1A
Prerequisite: MTH 53 (completed with a grade of "C" or higher), MTH 53B (completed with a grade of "C" or higher), MTH 65 (completed with a grade of "C" or higher), MTH 65B (completed with a grade of "C" or higher) or an appropriate skill level demonstrated through the mathematics assessment process.

Grading Option: Optional

Discipline: Optional

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<th>Type</th>
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<th>Inside of Class Hours</th>
<th>Outside of Class Hours</th>
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Prerequisite Skills:
None

Measurable Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. utilize the concept of scarcity to explain economic trade-offs, opportunity costs, and rational behavior;
2. calculate and interpret measures of elasticity;
3. demonstrate how markets function and what happens in the presence of market failures;
4. analyze production and costs of the firm;
5. demonstrate how firms attempt to optimize their objectives in response to price signals under a variety of market structures in the short and long-run.

Course Content:
1. The central economic problems of each society
2. The function of price in a mixed market system
3. The functions of the consumer, business and the government
4. The elements of supply and demand
   A. Elasticity of supply and demand
   B. Supply and demand applied to agriculture
5. Production and cost in the firm
   A. Introduction to the production function
   B. marginal and average product
   C. Law of diminishing returns
   D. Explicit and implicit cost
   E. Accounting profit vs. economic profit
   F. Total cost, average cost and marginal cost in the short run
   G. Short-run production decisions
   H. Long run average cost curve
   I. Economies and diseconomies of scale
6. Market structures
   A. Perfect competition
   B. Monopoly
   C. Monopolistic competition
   D. Oligopoly
7. Market power in the United States
8. International trade
9. Externalities and economics
10. Market failure and public policy
11. Factor markets and income distribution
12. Specialization and the gains from trade

**Methods of Presentation**
1. Lecture/Discussion
2. Student participation
3. Audio-visual aids
4. In-class problem solving

**Assignments and Methods of Evaluating Student Progress**

1. **Typical Assignments**
   A. After reading Chapter 5, prepare answers to the “Questions for Review” section at the end of the chapter and share your work with the class for discussion and class input.
   B. Write a 2-3 page summary on a contemporary economic topic of the instructor's choosing.
   C. Draw a graph, on the board, of the "perfectly competitive model" to lead a class discussion on this graph.

2. **Methods of Evaluating Student Progress**
   A. Exams/Tests
   B. Papers
   C. Class Participation
   D. Midterm review game
   E. Final Examination

3. **Student Learning Outcomes**
   Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
   A. Demonstrate an understanding of economics terminology.
   B. Demonstrate how to interpret economic graphs.
   C. Demonstrate the ability to solve common economic problems.

**Textbooks (Typical):**

**Special Student Materials**
1. Access to internet
2. Calculator
3. Printer
4. Mechanical pencil
5. French curve
6. General test scoring pencils
7. Four colored pencils

**Abbreviated Class Schedule Description:**

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