

**Lecture Info:** Tu,Th, 12:15-1:30, August 20 – November 26 | Tate 132  
**Professor:** Dr. Doug Walker | 427 Beatty | (843) 953-8192 | walkerd@cofc.edu | walkerd.people.cofc.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tu,Th 10:30 – 11:30, 3:00 – 3:30; and by appointment M,W 9:00-3:00 [ending Nov. 26]

**Course Description:** Microeconomics focuses on understanding individuals' behavior, especially consumer and producer behavior, in market economies. This is the intermediate-level microeconomics course that follows ECON 200. This course provides a much more in-depth, theoretical, and technical analysis than principles, as it develops key tools of microeconomic analysis. The tools developed in this class are applied in a variety of elective micro courses, and represent a key part of the foundation needed for graduate study in economics.

This syllabus outlines the policies for the class. Please read the syllabus carefully and make sure you understand it.

**Prerequisites:** ECON 200 and 201; MATH 104 or 250; MATH 105 or 120; or permission of the instructor. Grades of A or B in ECON 200 and 201 are strongly recommended.

**Communicating with Me:** If you have questions about the course material or the economics major, I encourage you to come talk to me at my office. If my posted office hours are inconvenient for you, stop by at another time or make an appointment using Appointment Manager. Questions about the course material are typically not suitable for email, so I prefer to talk in person. Under no circumstances do I discuss students' grades via email or phone. My interpretation of federal privacy laws is that such issues must be discussed in person to guarantee privacy.

**Attendance Policy:** None; I neither explicitly reward attendance nor penalize absence. However, there is a positive correlation between attendance and exam performance, so you should attend all lectures. I do not require advance notice of, or excuses after, lecture absences. I do not repeat lectures to students who miss class, whatever the cause of absence.

**Required Books:** *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications*, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, by E. Browning and M. Zupan. © 2015, Wiley. ISBN 978-1118758878. Amazon price: \$30 rental; \$35-45 used

*Misbehaving: The Making of Behavioral Economics*, by R. Thaler. © 2015, W.W. Norton. ISBN 978-0393352795. Amazon price: \$10 used

You may use the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Browning and Zupan if you want (used copies for \$5 on Amazon), but you are responsible for all of the material I assign, which will be from the 12<sup>th</sup> edition.

In addition to the required books, I may occasionally assign academic journal articles or other readings. I will provide copies of these readings on the course webpage and/or in class.

**Grading:** Your course grade is based on your performance on a series of quizzes and exams. Exams and quizzes may include a variety of questions and problems, e.g., multiple choice, graphical analysis, short answer. Some exam problems on critical material may be graded "all or nothing" (i.e., no partial credit). The Final Exam will include a comprehensive component.

**Assignment Weights and Schedule:**

Assignment	Point Value	Date(s)
Midterm Exam	100	on or before Tues., Oct. 22
Thaler Quizzes (6)	60	beginning late Sept. or early Oct.
Final Exam	100	Sat., Dec. 7, 12:00
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>260</b>	

A schedule of Thaler quiz dates and assigned chapters will be provided once we begin reading the book (in late September, probably). I expect to have 6 quizzes, each worth 10 points.

You will be given at least one week's notice before each quiz/exam. The Final Exam period is scheduled by the College, and all students are required to take the exam at that time (Saturday, December 7, 12:00-3:00). If the exam is not written as a 3-hour exam, I may modify the time within the scheduled time block.

**Missing Exams or Quizzes:** Make-up exams or quizzes are not offered except to College athletes who have official athletic events, or in cases of religious holidays. However, to qualify for a make-up, you must provide me with a schedule of official athletic events or religious holidays occurring during the semester by **Tuesday, September 3**. If you miss the Midterm Exam or Thaler quiz(zes) without an athletic or religious (documented) excuse, your Final Exam score will substitute for any missed exam/quiz, minus a 25% penalty, at my discretion.

**Grading Scale:** Your course grade will be based on this scale: 90% (A), 80% (B), 70% (C), 60% (D), < 60% (F). Plus and minus grades may be assigned at the discretion of the professor. Midterm grades will be assigned, but may not include +/- marks. If you miss the Midterm Exam – for any reason – your midterm grade will be reported as an F.

**Extra Credit:** You should not expect extra credit, but I may offer limited opportunities (e.g., guest lectures) for extra credit points that apply to your final grade. Extra credit is not guaranteed, and I am not obligated to provide opportunities that fit every student's schedule and/or preferences. Details will be announced in class.

**Cheating:** I take cheating very seriously. If you are caught cheating or attempting to cheat, the penalty is an XF grade for the course. For additional information, see the Honor Code and the Student Code of Conduct in the CofC *Student Handbook*. Ignorance of college rules is not an excuse for breaking them. During exams and quizzes I will ask that students remove hats, conceal notes, books, cell phones, calculators, etc. I may also rearrange seating.

### **Other Information:**

**Students with Learning Disabilities:** If you require special accommodations, please submit a copy of the Professor Notification Letter to me from the Center for Disability Services (Lightsey Center 104) by **Tuesday, September 3**. To take the exams or quizzes elsewhere, please provide the form to me at least 3 calendar days before the exam/quiz.

**Dropping the Course:** The last day to withdraw from the course (with a W grade) is **Friday, October 25**.

**Catalog Description:** A study of the analytical techniques used in investigating the determination of product and factor prices under different market structures, to include analysis of consumer behavior, production theory, market structures and factor pricing.

**Department of Economics Learning Goals:** This course will contribute to the Department goals of “understanding major economic problems” and “quantitative fluency.” In developing the basic tools of microeconomic analysis, we examine a variety of economic problems and policy issues, using graphical and empirical analytical techniques. An understanding of these issues and techniques is developed through readings and lectures. Students demonstrate the achievement of these goals through their performance on exams.

**Course Outline:** Most, but not all, of what we cover is in the textbook. We may adjust topic coverage depending on how much time we have for lectures. Chapters indicated with “\*” focus on applications, and you will be required to read these chapters without accompanying lectures.

An introduction to microeconomics (ch. 1\*)  
Supply and demand (ch. 2\*)  
The theory of consumer choice (ch. 3)  
Individual and market demand (ch. 4)  
Using consumer choice theory (ch. 5)  
Lancaster's and other theories of consumer behavior  
Exchange, efficiency, and prices (ch. 6)

### **[Midterm Exam]**

Production (ch. 7)  
The cost of production (ch. 8)  
Profit maximization in perfectly competitive markets (ch. 9)  
Using the competitive model (ch. 10\*)  
Monopoly (ch. 11)  
Product pricing with monopoly power (ch. 12\*)  
Game theory and the economics of information (ch. 14)  
Using noncompetitive market models (ch. 15\*)  
General equilibrium analysis and economic efficiency (ch. 19)  
Public goods, Lindahl prices, and externalities (ch. 20)

### **[Final Exam]**