

Economics 2102  
Principles of Microeconomics  
Spring 2021  
Honors Section

Instructor: Ted Amato  
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Office Hours: T, R 8:00-10:00  
T 4:30-5:30 (and immediately after MBA class)  
Email me during office hours, we will decide if we need to talk by phone or by zoom

BEFORE EMAILING WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING COURSE PROCEDURES

Read the course syllabus. If you email regarding an issue covered in the course syllabus, you will receive a one sentence response indicating that the answer to your question can be found in the course syllabus. It is best to email using gmail email. Canvas email doesn't come to my regular email account.

Required Texts: *The Micro Economy Today 15<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Schiller, Bradley and Karen Gebhardt, McGraw Hill . Publishing Company, ISBN 978-1260105322

You are also required to purchase Connect homework manager. The link for our connect section is:

<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-amato-honors-section>

*The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.*

*UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office in Fretwell 230.*

**Fully Online Class:**

This class is fully online. A Zoom session will be held each regular class time. Material will be presented as close to a face to face lecture style as possible in an online environment. **Directions for logging onto Zoom will be sent via email prior to the first class. Zoom will be accessed from the course Canvas page.** You should come to class every day expecting to devote your full attention to economics. Doing this may prove more challenging in an online setting, but it is really important.

**Daily Quizzes**

Every class will begin with a short quiz. The quizzes can only be completed using the **Poll Everywhere** system. The quiz will open at 10:00 AM each class day and close at 10:15. Because one motive for including the daily quizzes is to encourage attendance, missed quizzes cannot be made up. We will begin class immediately following the quiz. A link will be sent just prior to 10:00 each day via Canvas email. Individual students occasionally report that the link does not come via email. As a backup, I will begin posting the quiz link to the zoom chat box at 10:00 and continue doing so until 10:10. If you do not receive the poll everywhere link via email you should go directly to the course zoom session and begun checking the chat box,

Daily quiz grades will be posted to Canvas by the end of business each class day. Students are responsible to check Canvas on a daily basis to insure that quiz scores are properly recorded to the student's individual Canvas account and to report recording errors to the course instructor prior to the next class meeting. **Failure to report daily quiz score recording errors prior to the next class meeting will result in permanent loss of the opportunity to have the error corrected.**

**Connect:**

Homework assignments and tests/exam will be completed using the McGraw Hill "connect" online educational software. Access to the software is included with a new book purchase. If you purchase a used copy of the text or an e-book, you will be required to purchase connect separately. **All students must enroll in connect in order to complete the homework and test portions of the course. The web address for the connect section that accompanies this course can be found at this link:** <https://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-amato-honors-section>

A connect homework assignment will generally be made available by 10:00 AM every Friday during the semester. The assignment will typically be due by 11:59 PM the following Wednesday. Departures from this schedule will be announced in class and/or by email to your UNC Charlotte account. You need to check your UNC Charlotte email regularly. Questions regarding homework assignments will not be taken in class until after the deadline for completing the assignment expires. Once the deadline for the homework assignment has passed, students are strongly encouraged to ask homework questions. **Students are to complete connect homework assignments with no assistance from any other person, including no assistance from classmates.** Once the due date passes, a study version of the homework will be created which you can open without fear of affecting your grade.

**Tests/exam will also be administered using connect.**

**Grading Basis and Examination:**

Grades will be based upon three tests, group project, daily quizzes, homework assignments, and a cumulative final examination. The tests, group project and exam are weighted equally and constitute 80% of the final grade. Daily quizzes and homework assignments each comprise 10% of the final grade.

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60- 69
- F Below 60

Grades are rounded to the nearest whole percentage. To that end, 89.499999 is a B, 79.499999 a C and so forth. Students may either drop their lowest test score or choose to not take the final exam. Once taken, final exam scores cannot be dropped. So be advised, if you take the final exam, it will count.

**Last Date of Attendance/Participation.** The US Dept. of Education requires the Office of Financial Aid to determine if a student who receives financial aid and fails to earn a passing grade in a course has actually attended and/or completed the course. Students cannot receive (or will have to pay back) financial aid for a course they did not attend. If they attended part of the semester, the last date of attendance is used to determine how much financial aid the student will have to pay back. Faculty who report a grade of F or U must enter the last date of attendance/participation. For this course, attendance is

determined using the poll everywhere quiz administered daily. If you fail to complete the quiz, you are counted absent that day.

### **Group Project:**

Students will conduct a group project on a topic relevant to the course material. The group project grade will be weighted equally with the tests and final exam. The assignment is to prepare a group project covering a microeconomic topic. Each group is to conduct research and prepare a Powerpoint presentation. Initial project topics are due February 2 submitted via Canvas. The proposal should include references. An outline including references (a minimum of 8) is due March 2. A rough draft is due March 23. The final project is due April 15. Projects may not include more than two internet sites among the references. (Note: library reference material accessed online does not count as an internet source). The course textbook is a good initial starting point for topic ideas, but cannot be used as a source for the project.

**Missed Test:** Makeup tests are administered for excused absences only (e.g. sickness, death in family etc). If you miss a test, you need to provide written evidence justifying the excuse and request that a makeup test be administered.

**Exam Schedule:** The University has very specific guidelines regarding the circumstances under which students are permitted to reschedule final examinations. These guidelines will be followed to the letter. Students who do not meet the specific guidelines set forth by the university will not be permitted to take the final examination at a time other than the officially proscribed period for any reason. **No accommodation will be made for students who book travel and then need to take the final exam.**

### **Statement of Educational Philosophy:**

Each student is responsible for his/her own education. The ultimate goal of a college education is for each student to develop independent learning skills and to cultivate a desire for life time learning. Each of you will likely face several career changes over your lifetime with each change presenting new challenges and requiring a new set of abilities. Returning to college or some other educational institution each time your career changes is not a viable alternative. Perhaps the most important benefit that you can take from college is the ability and confidence to learn independently. To that end, no purpose is served in my requiring tasks of you that demand regurgitation of material that was previously presented in class. I realize that students are extremely grade conscious and I understand the source of your anxiety over grades. However, the purpose of an education is not to pass tests. In the interest of helping you to develop independent learning skills and to foster critical thinking, I will often refuse to follow strategies that make your experience easier but also limit your opportunity to develop independent learning skills.

I am an economist and believe that economics provides a very useful framework for analyzing problems and developing critical thinking. In short, economic theory has value separate and apart from any applications. This course covers a large volume of economic theory and in many cases the application of the theory is not immediately obvious. As a result, many times during the course of the semester you may question the value of all this theory. You must accept on faith that if you truly master the concepts in this course, you will be able to figure out how to apply them.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of [The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity](#) . (This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated

by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

### **Title IX Reporting Responsibilities:**

UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that many UNC Charlotte employees, including all faculty members, are considered [Responsible Employees](#) who are required to relay any information or reports of sexual misconduct they receive to the Title IX Coordinator. **This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator.** Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator: (1) University Counseling Center ([counselingcenter.uncc.edu](http://counselingcenter.uncc.edu), 7-0311); (2) Student Health Center ([studenthealth.uncc.edu](http://studenthealth.uncc.edu), 7-7400); or (3) Center for Wellness Promotion ([wellness.uncc.edu](http://wellness.uncc.edu), 7-7407). Additional information about your options is also available at [titleix.uncc.edu](http://titleix.uncc.edu) under the "Students" tab.

### Course Outline May Be Modified Based Upon Time Constraints

Jan 21	Introduction to Course Chapter 1
Jan 26	Market Supply and Demand)
Feb 2	Chapter 3 ( <i>Independent Thinking, Problem Solving Skills</i> )
Feb 4-16	Public Sector, The Role of Government Chapter 4 ( <i>Legal and Regulatory Issues</i> ) <b>(Feb 8-13 Spring Break)</b>
Feb 18- Feb 23	Consumer Choice Chapter 5 ( <i>Independent Thinking, Problem Solving Skills</i> )
Feb 25- Mar 2	Elasticity Chapter 6 ( <i>Independent Thinking, Problem Solving Skills</i> )
<b>Mar 4</b>	<b>Test 1</b>

- Mar 9-11 Short and Long run Production and Cost Relationships  
Chapter 7 (*Independent Thinking, Problem Solving Skills*)
- Mar 16-23 Begin Perfect Competition  
Chapter 8 (*Independent Thinking, Problem Solving Skills*)
- Mar 25-30 The Firm and Market Under Conditions of Perfect Competition  
Chapters 8 and 9 (*Independent Thinking, Problem Solving Skills, Social Issues*)
- Apr 1 Test 2**
- Apr 6-8 Monopoly  
Chapter 10 (*Independent Thinking, Social Issues*)
- Apr 13-15 Imperfect Competition: The Case of Oligopoly  
Chapter 11 (*Independent Thinking, Social Issues*)
- Apr 20 Imperfect Competition: The Case of Monopolistic Competition  
Chapter 12 (*Independent Thinking, Social Issues*)
- Apr 22 -29 Input Markets, The Pricing of Factors of Production  
Chapter 16 (*Independent Thinking*)
- May 4 Test 3**

**Final Exam Period** Exams are scheduled for May 7-13. The exact exam time will be communicated once the final exam scheduled is announced. The final exam will be administered via McGraw Hill Connect.