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About the Course

This course covers microeconomics: the market structure of firms operating in competition and monopoly, labor markets and unions, how income is distributed, current economic problems, international economics and alternative economic systems. Prerequisites: MAT 135 preferred, MAT 131, 133 or 139 accepted; ENG 131

Microeconomics explains how consumers and businesses behave in the economy. Students will explore supply and demand, businesses in competitive and monopolistic markets, and international trade and finance. We will also study environmental economics and income inequality in the US.

ECN 232 is equivalent to introductory microeconomics courses at colleges and universities across the US. It transfers to nearly all schools. Most business majors are required to take Microeconomics but many other people take it to get a general understanding of how the economy works.

The primary Associate Degree Outcome for this course is ADO 5 *Understanding human behavior and social systems*. To achieve this outcome students will:

Recognize factors that determine and govern human behavior. Distinguish between individual and external factors

Use methods of analysis and interpretation used by economics to explain economic outcomes

Begin to use appropriate terms and concepts

Describe at least two economic principles that govern human behavior

Taking Economics On Line

Economics is a time consuming course for most people. Assignments are due every 5 or 6 days. Successful students say they spend four to six hours on each assignment plus time spent participating in Forums. If you have difficulty with your computer or spend a lot of

time doing research or discussion you may spend more time than that. Successful on line students create a schedule for their work so they don't put it off and get behind.

Even though the course is on line you are not expected to work alone. Use email and the Forums to ask the instructor and other students for help. You can contact other students or set up study groups to work together on assignments, just remember the work you turn in must be your own.

There are economics tutors available at the Center for Student Success, Potter Center Federer C, phone 796 8415.

Computer Requirements

You will need access to a computer with internet capability and a printer. You must also be able to send and receive email. All students automatically have a JC student email account. The instructor will use the JC system to send information to you so you will need to check this email regularly.

For this course you should have Adobe Acrobat Reader 8.0 or higher loaded in your computer. Course assignments and many government documents come in this format. Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free from http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html

Textbook

The course textbook is *Microeconomics for Today* by Irvin B. Tucker, 8th edition, 2014, published by South Western (ISBN-10: 1-133-43506-8 or ISBN-13: 978-1-133-43506-8). There is also a web site that accompanies the text with good information for students at <http://coursemate.cengage.com/CPReader/View/9781285166148/default.aspx?anon=True>

You can purchase or rent the textbook from many sources. The JC bookstore on main campus, in Hillsdale and Adrian sells and rents books. If you would like to order on line from the JC bookstore go to www.jackson.bkstr.com or use this link: <http://www.bkstr.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10001&categoryId=152754&langId=-1&productId=400000000002730262&storeId=216405&productStoreId=216405>

The publisher offers an E-book or rental at the textbook website <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781133435068> . Books are also available at many online sites. Sometimes books ordered online take a long time for delivery so keep this in mind if you choose to order online.

Academic Honesty Policy

The JC Academic Honesty Policy outlines the behavior expected from students and teachers. This policy and others are contained in the campus policy manual and can be found in the college catalog or at <https://www.jccmi.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/1004.pdf>. This is an important college policy and it affects how your work is graded. Especially read about plagiarism, most people misunderstand this problem.

Class Requirements

Assignments

Students must complete 13 assignments during the semester. For each assignment students will answer questions and solve problems using one chapter of the text plus other readings. Assignments will be worth 35 to 45 points depending on the amount of work required. There will not be any tests or final exam.

Assignment Question Scoring

Most assignment questions should be answered in one to two paragraphs. You should write a thorough answer, including all the information necessary to explain your ideas. Write your answer as if you were writing for a friend who is not taking the class. Include the explanation they would need to understand your answer.

Each assignment question is usually worth 5 points and will be scored as follows:

5 points The answer is explained clearly and thoroughly in your own words, not copied from the textbook or other source. Economic terms are used correctly. When appropriate use your own examples (not ones from the textbook) to illustrate your ideas.

4 points The answer is mostly correct but not fully explained or there are slight errors. Examples are taken from the textbook or assigned readings, not original.

3 points The answer is accurate but not explained completely, or may be partly incorrect. Important examples or explanations are missing. Some of the writing is copied from the textbook or article, not the student's own words.

1-2 points There is some correct information but the answer is poorly explained.

0 points The answer is wrong, no correct information is given. All or most of the answer is copied from the textbook, another student, or other source.

Numerical problems (points will vary):

Maximum points Correct formulas are used and the answer is correct. All signs (+, -) and labels (\$, %, etc,) are provided and are correct.

Partial credit Signs or labels may be missing. Formula is correct but answer is miscalculated. Important information is missing or wrong.

0 points No correct information provided.

Graphs and tables (points will vary):

Maximum points Correct graph is provided, all axes and lines are labeled correctly. All changes are clearly indicated, important points and intersections are labeled. A title is included. Table information is complete and correct. Necessary signs, labels and a title are included.

Partial credit Graph is mostly correct, some labels or lines are missing or incorrect. Some table information, signs or labels are missing or incorrect.

0 points No correct information provided.

Forums

Discussion is an important part of the class. It is where students and the instructor share ideas and information about economic issues. For each Assignment there will be a new forum on an issue related to the Assignment. The Forum will be open for 6 or 7 days and you may post as many responses as you like. You are encouraged to find articles (from the internet or other sources) and share them with the class.

Forum Etiquette

Discussion should be a positive experience for everyone. Many students are anxious at first about participating. For this reason it is important that no one is discouraged from participating by someone's remarks. We want to discuss controversial ideas but we want the ideas to conflict, not the people. If you disagree with something, make it clear that you are disagreeing with the idea, not the person posting (who may not even agree with the idea themselves). In short, treat people and their postings with respect, even when disagreeing. The instructor will remove postings that in his judgment are abusive or inhibit the free discussion of all students.

Forum Scoring

To earn full credit for each forum post at least two messages on different days. You should read other student's postings and add something new to the ideas being discussed.

- ◆ Each posting is worth up to 5 points. You may post as many messages as you like but only one posting per day will be scored. Each day's best posting will be scored. To earn full credit for a Forum you must post on at least two different days.
- ◆ You may post as many messages as you like but for each forum a maximum of 10 points can be earned.
- ◆ You may post messages any time but messages posted after the closing date will not be scored.

Forum postings will be scored as follows:

5 points A posting that brings new information or ideas to the discussion. The message may explain some relevant information from an article or the textbook. The article's correct web address is included and the link goes right to the article. If you state an opinion it should be supported with some information from the textbook or an article.

4 points The posting has some new information or ideas. Opinions are weakly supported. An article is provided but there is no explanation about it. The article's address is missing, incorrect or the link doesn't work.

3 points The posting has little new information. Opinions are not supported with any outside information.

1-2 points Posting has very little new or relevant information. Posting gets off the subject. The posting just agrees with another message and adds very little to the discussion.

0 points Posting bring no information to the discussion.

Often students post simple messages agreeing with another posting. Or a student may want to express a personal opinion about something off the subject. It's fine to post these messages but they won't earn any points.

Due Dates and Late Work

Late assignments will be accepted with no penalty for **one week** after the due date. After one week late assignments will not be accepted. If you need more time for some reason please let the instructor know and arrangements can be made. All assignments must be completed by the last day of the semester.

Forums close on the closing date, no exceptions. Messages can be posted after the closing date but they will not be graded. Missed Forums cannot be made up. See the Forum Grading policies for complete details.

Vacations If you are planning a vacation this summer and need more time on an assignment please contact the instructor. Forums close and can't be made up so keep this in mind as you make your plans.

Grade Scale

The JetNet system shows your points when you open the "Grades" page. A grade scale will be posted several times during the semester so you can see how you are doing. Contact the instructor any time you have questions about your grade.

Final grades will be assigned according to the percentage of total points earned out of total points possible using the following scale:

90-100%	4.0
85-89	3.5
80-84	3.0
75-79	2.5
70-74	2.0
65-69	1.5
60-64	1.0
50-59	0.5

Schedule

This is a 12 week class so assignments are due often and they will be due on different days of the week. Remember you have one week past the due date to submit an assignment without penalty so use the extra time when you need to.

Assignment 1	Due Fri May 27	Forum closes midnight May 27
Assignment 2	Due Thurs Jun 2	Forum closes midnight Jun 3
Assignment 3	Due Wed Jun 8	Forum closes midnight Jun 9
Assignment 4	Due Tue Jun 14	Forum closes midnight Jun 15
Assignment 5	Due Mon Jun 20	Forum closes midnight Jun 21
Assignment 6	Due Mon Jun 27	Forum closes midnight Jun 28
Assignment 7	Due Thu Jul 7	Forum closes midnight Jul 8
Assignment 8	Due Wed Jul 13	Forum closes midnight Jul 14
Assignment 9	Due Tue Jul 19	Forum closes midnight Jul 20
Assignment 10	Due Mon Jul 25	Forum closes midnight Jul 26
Assignment 11	Due Tues Aug 2	Forum closes midnight Aug 3

Assignment 12	Due Mon Aug 8	Forum closes midnight Aug 9
Assignment 13	Due Mon Aug 15	Forum closes midnight Aug 15