

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY ECO 202 – PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS II (3 CR.)

Course Description

Introduces the basic concepts of microeconomics. Explores the free market concepts with coverage of economic models and graphs, scarcity and choices, supply and demand, elasticities, marginal benefits and costs, profits, and production and distribution. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of economic analysis, issues, and institutions that emphasize on the use of information about costs and benefits to analyze the decision making of individuals, firms, and industries.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Describe the foundation of current economic thought and identify basic economic issues using principles of scarcity, opportunity costs, marginal costs and benefits, and profit maximizing
- b) Analyze current economic issues using analytical tools such as supply and demand, marginal analysis and cost and benefits to analyze decisions made by households and businesses.
- c) Demonstrate proficiency in using mathematics, statistics, graphs and verbal analysis to analyze current economic issues
- d) Evaluate and explain how different market structures (perfect completion, monopoly, monopolistic completion, and oligopoly) maximize profits and achieve efficiency
- e) Recognize the role of government regulations due to market failures and evaluate government policies
- f) Differentiate amongst economic facts, opinions, assumption, and inferences as they relate to current economic topics and issues
- g) Discuss the importance of international trade and its impact on the domestic economy using comparative and absolute advantage, tariffs, and exchange rates
- h) Develop competencies in critical thinking skills to take higher level economics courses at four-year institutions
- i) Recognize the role of economics in a well-informed citizen in the community

Major Topics to be Included

1. Foundations of Economic Analysis
 - definition, scope, and methodology of economics
 - introduction to the economizing problem
 - use and limitations of social science modeling
 - definition and description of the factors of production
 - production possibility analysis
 - demand and supply analysis
 - analysis of the price mechanism

2. Economics of the Firm
 - theory of consumer demand, including utility and elasticity
 - consumer and producer surplus
 - quotas, price ceilings and price floors

- costs of production
- Price and output determination in various market structures, including perfect competition, monopoly, oligopolies and monopolistic competition

3. Pricing and Employment of Resources

- wage determination
- economic rent
- interest and profit

4. Current Domestic Economic Issues (Instructor to select among the following)

- government regulation of business
- unions
- income distribution and poverty
- externalities
- urban problems
- the farm problem
- health care economics
- economic growth
- comparative economic systems