**Boston College Mission Statement**

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

**Course Description**

This course is an analysis of prices, output, and income distribution through the interaction of households and business firms in a modern Western economy. The appropriate role of government intervention is examined, and basic analytical tools are applied to current economic problems.

**Course Objectives**

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories in the field of economics. At the end of this class you should have a basic understanding of the tools of economic decision making for firms and consumers, the working of economic markets, and how markets respond to certain government interventions.

2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions). I would like to see you introduced into the “economic way of thinking”, an approach to decision making that stems from the classic economic decision problems of firms and households, and apply this way of thinking to personal decision problems in your everyday life.

3. The student will demonstrate critical thinking skills across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in economics as demonstrated by e.g. the minimum wage discussion.

4. The student will demonstrate ethical conduct pertaining to class discussion as demonstrated by respectful behavior towards differing opinions of class mates.

**Required Learning Materials**

The required textbook for this class is R. Glenn Hubbard and Anthony Patrick O'Brien, 2014, Microeconomics, 5th Edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall. Homework problems will be assigned via the required software MyEconLab. There are three purchasing options:

1. Paperback textbook plus online access to MyEconLab (ISBN: 9780133826685), OR
2. Loose-leaf version of the textbook (“Student Value Edition”) plus online access to MyEconLab (ISBN: 9780133827057), OR
3. Electronic version of the textbook plus online access to MyEconLab (ISBN: 9780133456431)
You can purchase each of these options at the BC bookstore. Your purchase will include an access code that you can use to register on MyEconLab. You can do so directly through Canvas course website. Please sign up as soon as possible. All students must be registered for MyEconLab by Friday, June 26, 2015. You will not be able to register thereafter.

Alternatively, you can buy the physical textbook from a third party (e.g. Amazon), but please be aware that it likely will not include access to MyEconLab and you will need to separately purchase MyEconLab access.

**Information Dissemination**
Class announcements will be sent out via email. All supplementary class materials will be posted on the course website on Canvas. Please check Canvas frequently as more information will become available throughout the semester. In addition, MyEconLab contains some other useful materials.

**Course Assignments (Readings & Homework)**
At the beginning of each class, I will assign the readings for the next class. Please expect to spend one hour on the readings for every lecture.

Additionally, you will be responsible for an average of two weekly homework assignments on the MyEconLab site. You may work in groups but you each have to turn in your own work. There are no late submissions. The homeworks can be of varying length, so plan for one to three hours on each homework.

Before exams I will make additional practice questions available on MyEconLab. These are optional, but I especially encourage students who are struggling with regular homework questions to complete these additional modules.

It is expected that around 12 hours per week of your study time out will be spent on the online homeworks, readings, review questions and regular review of the lectures. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 12 hours per week over the semester.

**Specific readings and homework assignments are listed below:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/23/2015</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chapters 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/25/2015</td>
<td>Demand &amp; Supply; Elasticities</td>
<td>Chapters 3 and 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2015</td>
<td>Market Equilibrium; Consumer &amp; Producer Surplus</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2/2015</td>
<td>Government Price Setting</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7/2015</td>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>Chapters 4 and 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/14/2014</td>
<td>Theory of the Consumer</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16/2014</td>
<td>Theory of the Firm I</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/21/2014</td>
<td>Theory of the Firm II; Perfect Competition</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/23/2014</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/28/2014</td>
<td>Oligopoly &amp; Game Theory</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Homeworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/25/2015</td>
<td>Demand &amp; Supply; Elasticities</td>
<td>HW 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2015</td>
<td>Market Equilibrium; Consumer &amp; Producer Surplus</td>
<td>HW 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2/2015</td>
<td>Government Price Setting</td>
<td>HW 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7/2015</td>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>HW 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/14/2014</td>
<td>Theory of the Consumer</td>
<td>HW 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16/2014</td>
<td>Theory of the Firm I</td>
<td>HW 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/21/2014</td>
<td>Theory of the Firm II; Perfect Competition</td>
<td>HW 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/23/2014</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
<td>HW 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/28/2014</td>
<td>Oligopoly &amp; Game Theory</td>
<td>HW 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examinations
There will be two in-class quizzes, one in-class midterm exam, and one final exam. The dates are listed below. Please mark these dates in your calendars.

- Quiz 1 (30min): Thursday, July 2, in class
- Midterm (60min): Thursday, July 9, in class
- Quiz 2 (30min): Thursday, July 23, in class
- Final: Thursday, July 30, in class

All exams will be closed book. The exams will be more challenging and require more critical analysis than the homework. I will distribute practice exams through the Canvas course site prior to each exam, and will go over select problems in class.

Missed Examinations
If you need to miss an exam, please contact your Dean as soon as you find out. I can only excuse you from an exam at the Dean’s recommendation. If I excuse you from an exam, the weight of your subsequent exams will be increased proportionally. In the rare case that a student misses more than one exam, I might schedule a make-up exam or require other make-up work. This is completely up to my discretion, however. Any unverified absence from an exam will result in a zero score for that exam. Please note that neither an extracurricular activity nor coursework for other classes is a valid reason to miss an exam.

Grading
Your grade typically will be determined using the following weighting scheme:

- Attendance and Participation: 15%
- Homework: 15%
- Quizzes: 10% each
- Midterm (cumulative): 20%
- Final Exam (cumulative): 30%

In rare cases, this weighting may vary to reflect excused exams, academic integrity violations, or other circumstances at the instructor’s discretion.

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.
Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

**Important Policies**
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

**Written Work**
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

**Request for Accommodations**
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or ADHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

**Attendance, Participation and Classroom Conduct:**
Regular attendance and active participation is expected and necessary for doing well in the class. The class contents will be presented and explained on the blackboard for you to follow and take notes. If a student misses a lecture, it is his/her responsibility to get the lecture notes from a classmate; the instructor will not make the lecture notes available.

The concepts we cover in this course are complex. Thus asking questions is an essential step in understanding class materials. I explicitly encourage you to ask questions during class. So if you don’t understand something, please speak up! Your classmates will be grateful for your questions, as at least some of them will have trouble understanding as well. I will take attendance and class participation will determine part of your grade. If you do not attend class regularly, expect a 0% for this portion of your grade.
Always be respectful towards your classmates. I personally don’t consider laptops to be conducive to a good learning atmosphere in the classroom. We will be drawing a lot of graphs and they are easiest to draw with pen/pencil and paper. If you need to have an open laptop in front of you though, please sit in the last row of the classroom so that you do not distract other students. Phones must be silenced or turned off.

**Deadlines**
Assignments are due as announced in class and displayed by the software MyEconLab. Late assignments will not be accepted.