

ECON 110 Principles of Economics

Section 03

College of the Holy Cross

Fall 2026

Professor

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Office hours: T/TH: 1:00–3:00 p.m; F: 9 am to 11 am (Stein 456A)

Class Meetings

T/TH: 9:30–10:45 a.m. (Stein 205)

W: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. (Stein 216)

Course Description and Objectives

Economics is the study of how individuals, firms, governments, and societies make choices under scarcity. This course provides an introduction to the major ideas and tools of microeconomics and macroeconomics. We will study how markets allocate resources, when markets may fail, and how government policy can affect economic outcomes. We will also examine economic growth, unemployment, inflation, financial markets, and monetary and fiscal policy.

The goal of the course is to develop fluency with basic economic reasoning and to apply economic models to real-world questions. Throughout the semester, we will use current events, economic data, graphs, and simple mathematics to connect economic theory to the world around us. By the end of the course, students should be better able to interpret economic arguments, evaluate trade-offs, and use economic reasoning to analyze policy and everyday decisions.

Prerequisites

This course has **no prerequisites**. Algebra and graphing will be used extensively. Students who have taken ECON 111 or ECON 112 may not enroll in ECON 110.

Course Materials

Textbook *Principles of Economics*, 10th Edition (2024), by N. Gregory Mankiw.

ISBN-13: 9780357722848.

You can purchase or rent a (print or electronic) copy through the publisher or a book retailer. **Please note** I will not use Cengage's learning platform "MindTap". I will also suggest specific readings throughout the semester from CORE Economics, a free online textbook. CORE also offers study materials you may find useful, such as online quizzes.

Materials to Bring to Class Please bring paper, colored pens or pencils, and a straightedge (such as a ruler) to class. We will do a substantial amount of graphing and other written work during class, including in-class assignments. For exams and quizzes I will provide a calculator when appropriate.

Canvas Site I will share general course information, assignments, solutions, and other materials throughout the semester through Canvas. **Please check Canvas regularly!**

Technology Policy

Phones should be silent and unseen. You are expected to be an active participant in the classroom. If you are expecting an **urgent** message, an exception can be made, but please let me know beforehand to minimize disruption.

I highly discourage the use of **laptops** in class. This class will require a lot of graphing and in-class writing which makes laptops not ideal. Research has found classroom laptop use negatively affects both **your own performance** and that of nearby classmates. If you wish to use one, please have a discussion with me.

Grading

Your final grade in the class will be calculated according to the formula below.

15%	Homework	
15%	Exam I	<u>September 23rd</u>
20%	Exam II	<u>October 22nd</u>
25%	In-Class Assignments	
25%	Final Exam (Exam III)	<u>December 10th, 3:00 to 5:30 PM</u>

Grading Scale

		B+	86.5 – 89.4	C+	76.5 – 79.4	D+	66.5 – 69.4
A	93.5 – 100.0	B	82.5 – 86.4	C	72.5 – 76.4	D	59.5 – 66.4
A-	89.5 – 93.4	B-	79.5 – 82.4	C-	69.5 – 72.4	F	0.0 – 59.4

I will round final course averages to one decimal place.

Homework

Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas generally one week before they are due. Assignments must be submitted through Canvas as a single PDF by the start of class on the assigned due date. Please use the file specification Lastname_ECON110_HomeworkX (where X is the assignment number).

Homework will be graded for **completeness and a good-faith effort**. I will review your work to identify concepts that may require additional clarification and to provide you feedback and support. You may work alone or in a small group, but if you choose to work with classmates, *you must each* turn in an individual assignment that you write yourself and list the names of everyone with whom you worked at the top of the paper.

Homework will be graded on a scale between 0 and 3. 3 points will be awarded if every part of every problem is complete, 2 points awarded if more than half but less than all the problem set completed, 1 point awarded if less than half of the problem set is complete, 0 points if no problem set is turned in.

Late homework will receive a one-point deduction immediately after the deadline and an additional one-point deduction for each subsequent 24-hour period. I cannot guarantee individualized feedback on late assignments.

In-Class Assignments

I expect you to attend all classes and be ready to participate by asking questions, offering answers, and joining discussions. Part of being prepared is completing the readings prior to the start of class. There will be **regular** short in-class activities including quizzes, and group problem-solving worksheets. These activities are designed to reinforce your understanding of the course material with support from your classmates and me, and they will guide you through questions similar to those on the exams. Each in-class activity will be equally weighted, and will be graded for completeness and correctness.

Your two lowest in-class assignment scores will automatically be dropped when calculating your final grade. If an extended or College-recognized absence causes you to miss more than two in-class assignments, please contact me to determine an appropriate alternative. In general in-class assignments cannot be made-up; however I reserve the right to assign make-up assignments for college excused absences.

Exams

There will be three exams in this course. The first two exams will cover the microeconomic material, and the third will be cumulative, but will focus on macroeconomic concepts. Make-up exams will only be given for a College-recognized excused absence.

Course Policies

Class Recordings

Consistent with applicable federal and state law, this course may be video/audio recorded as an accommodation only with permission from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. Students are not permitted to record the contents of this class under any other circumstances.

Academic Integrity

Students should carefully read and abide by the College's [Academic Integrity Policy](#), which explains the standards, procedures, and possible sanctions pertaining to academic dishonesty. Potential violations include giving or receiving unauthorized help on an exam or assignment, copying another student's work, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, and failure to cite sources properly. Suspected violations will be handled according to the procedures established in the College policy.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

Do not use AI to generate answers to assignments submitted for credit; if you use it in another way related to an assignment, disclose and cite that use. I grade homework on completeness because I wish to see your mistakes! Mistakes help identify where I can provide better support. AI tools may prove useful in generating additional practice problems, however, AI tools commonly make factual errors and incorrect calculations. You are responsible for all material that you submit.

Student Accommodations

Students with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations through the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#). Information about available accommodations and the request process is provided on the office's website. If you have already been approved for accommodations, please contact me and provide your current accommodation letter as soon as possible so that I can ensure your accommodations are implemented. All accommodations must be approved by the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If your circumstances change during the semester or you encounter unexpected barriers in the course, please contact the office and speak with me as soon as possible.

Re-grade Requests

You may resubmit an exam with an additional sheet explaining **in a few words** your concern. Re-grade requests will be accepted for one week after the exam is returned. I will re-score the entire exam, which may cause the score to go up or down. I will **scan all answer sheets you turn in**. Any modification to an original answer will result in sanctions for academic dishonesty. Out of fairness to all students, I will not "bump" final grades upon request.

Additional Information and Resources

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

I intend to create a learning environment that encourages diversity of thought and perspective while honoring the diverse experiences and identities of our class. Economics is among the least socioeconomically diverse fields in academia. The American Economic Association publishes annual reports on diversity within the field; the most recent report can be found [here](#). We all share responsibility for fostering an inclusive and respectful classroom and discipline. I expect all students to respect the perspectives, experiences, and identities of others. Like anyone, I am always learning, so please let me know if I, or someone else in the class, says or does something that makes you uncomfortable. I will also provide opportunities for anonymous feedback. Finally, if you ever feel that you are not qualified to be in this class, in the field, or at this College, please know that you belong here. Please feel free to come talk to me if you need help or support.

Confidentiality and mandatory reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as your professor. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep the information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, any information that you disclose that addresses sexual misconduct or relates to a prior suicide attempt or an intention to attempt suicide requires my sharing that information with those on campus who are able to provide you with necessary resources. Following the College's Sexual Misconduct Policy, I will share information about sexual misconduct with the College's Office of Title IX Initiatives. If you would like to talk to Title IX directly, they can be reached at 508-793-3336 or [email](#). For more information, please visit the [Sexual Respect and Title IX website](#). If you would like to discuss the matter confidentially, the following confidential resources are available to you: [Counseling Center](#), 508-793-3363; [Health Services](#), 508-793-2276; [Chaplains' Office](#), 508-793-2448.

Following the College's Suicide Protocol, if you disclose a prior suicide attempt or an intention or plan to attempt suicide, I will share that information with the Chair of our [Student CARE Team](#), who will engage in appropriate outreach.

Textbook Affordability

It is expected that you will have textbooks and other required class materials in order to achieve academic success. If you are unable to purchase course materials, please go to the [Financial Aid Office website](#) to contact a staff member, who will be happy to provide you with information and assistance.

Some eBooks may be available via the [Library website](#). The [Office of Multicultural Education Lending Library](#) rents books to students for free for the entire semester. To request a book, please visit their website.

Course Calendar (Subject to change)

PART I: Microeconomics

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	8/25	Thinking Like an Economist	Ch. 2	HW0: Canvas
	8/26	Interdependence and Inequality	Ch. 3	
	8/27	Supply and Demand	Ch. 4	
2	9/1	Supply and Demand	Ch. 4	HW1: Supply Demand
	9/2	Elasticity	Ch. 5	
	9/3	Elasticity	Ch. 5	
3	9/8	Market Efficiency	Ch. 7	HW2: Elasticity Market Efficiency
	9/9	Price Controls	Ch. 6	
	9/10	Taxes	Ch. 8	
4	9/15	Trade	Ch. 9	HW3: Price Controls, Trade, Taxes
	9/16	Externalities	Ch. 10	
	9/17	Externalities / Public Goods	Ch. 11	
5	9/22	Public Goods / Exam Review		
	9/23	Exam I (Micro)		
	9/24	Production Costs	Ch. 14	
6	9/29	Production Costs	Ch. 14	HW4: Prod. Costs / Comp. Firms
	9/30	Competitive Firms	Ch. 15	
	10/1	Monopolies	Ch. 16	
7	10/6	Monopolies	Ch. 16	HW5: Market Power
	10/7	Monopolistic Competition	Ch. 17	
	10/8	Catch-up Day		
8		FALL BREAK		
9	10/20	Labor Market	Ch. 19	
	10/21	Micro Review		
	10/22	Exam II (Micro)		

PART II: Macroeconomics

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
10	10/27	GDP	Ch. 24	
	10/28	Inflation	Ch. 25	
	10/29	Unemployment	Ch. 29	
11	11/3	Economic Growth	Ch. 26	HW6: Measuring Economy
	11/4	Financial System	Ch. 27	
	11/5	Financial System	Ch. 27	
12	11/10	Basic Finance Tools	Ch. 28	HW7: Growth / Financial System
	11/11	Monetary System	Ch. 30	
	11/12	Inflation	Ch. 31	
13	11/17	Aggregate Demand and Supply	Ch. 34	HW8: Money
	11/18	Aggregate Demand and Supply	Ch. 34	
	11/19	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	Ch. 35	
14	11/24	Catch-Up Day		
	11/25	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING		
	11/26	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING		
15	12/1	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	Ch. 35	HW9: AD-AS; Policy
	12/2	Phillips Curve and Short-Run Trade-Offs	Ch. 36	
	12/3	Final Exam Review		
16	12/10	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>		