

**Course Syllabus -- Fall 2015**  
**Economics for Policy Analysis and Planning I**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays – 8:15 – 9:30 am in 415 Blegen Hall**

**Instructor:** Professor Judy Temple  
139 Humphrey School  
Office hours: Mondays 9:30 – 11 am and Tuesdays 10:30 - noon  
(other times by arrangement)  
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**TA:** Thomas Durfee  
Discussion section: Wednesdays at 11:15am -12:30 in 415 Blegen  
Office hours: TBA  
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**Objective:** This is a course in intermediate microeconomics. A course in introductory microeconomics is the prerequisite. The objective of this course is for you to understand consumer and firm decisions and to understand when government intervention in the private market may be efficient and/or equitable. We will explore how resources are allocated in a market economy and we will investigate the role of government in a market economy (or mixed economy) such as the United States. We will focus most of our time developing the analytical microeconomic tools needed to discuss efficiency and fairness concerns and throughout the semester we will apply these tools to various relevant public policy examples. This course contributes to several learning objectives for the MPP program, especially (3) “to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve complex problems, and make decisions” and (4) to understand the role of government in a market economy.

**Textbook:** Microeconomics (8<sup>th</sup> edition) by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld  
Students are encouraged to purchase a copy of the textbook. Note that all three sections of PA 5021 are using the same text this year. Students who prefer to read the relevant chapters from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition may do so.

**Discussion section:**

The TA leads a discussion section on Wednesdays. The TA may discuss material from lecture, material from the book that was not discussed in lecture, and may present examples of problems that are related to those on

the homework assignments. The homework assignments will be handed out or made available on Mondays to be turned in the following Monday. The TA also will contribute some questions to the midterms and final exam.

**Evaluation:**

The course grade will be based on the homeworks, in class exams, quizzes, and the cumulative final exam. There will be 6 homework assignments worth 20 points each and the lowest homework assignment grade will be dropped. There will be 3 short in-class quizzes worth 10 points each. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be 2 in-class exams worth 100 points each. The final exam also is worth 100 points. Late homework can be handed in before the next class period with a penalty of 3 points. Homework will not be accepted after that time. Total number of points is 420.

**Moodle:**

The slides from each class will be handed out during class. They will also be put on the Moodle site. Some of the pages may be blank as examples may be written on the board or discussed in class. More information on the class will be available on Moodle, including several additional readings.

**Disability accommodations:** The University of Minnesota is committed to ensuring equal learning opportunities for disabled students. Students registered with the university's Office of Disability Services typically are provided with a letter requesting accommodations. Students with a need for reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructors of this course early in the semester.

**Statement on academic integrity:** All students in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Students are expected to do their own work, although discussions with other students may be useful. Students are expected to write using their own words and to provide appropriate citations to the literature when ideas and quotes of other writers are used. Students can work together on homework assignments but each student will turn in their own individual write-up of the assignment.

Schedule for Fall 2015

Dates	Reading	To do
Week 1 (September 9)	Chapter 1 - Introduction	
Week 2 (September 14, 16)	Chapter 2 – Supply and demand - and report by Dube on minimum wage for Wednesday	
Week 3 (September 21, 23)	Chapter 3 - Consumption	Homework 1 due on Monday September 21.
Week 4 (September 28, 30)	Chapter 4 - Demand	First quiz on chapters 1, 2 and 3 on Monday September 28.
Week 5 (October 5, 7)	Chapter 5 - Uncertainty	Homework 2 due on Monday October 5.
Week 6 (October 12, 14)	Chapter 6 - Production	Monday Oct 12 first in-class exam on chapters 1-5.
Week 7 (October 19, 21)	Read article by Kessel and Jensen on robots for Monday and Chapter 7 – Costs - for Monday and Wednesday	
Week 8 (October 26, 28)	Chapter 8 - Supply	Second quiz on chapters 7 and 8 on Wednesday October 28.
Week 9 (November 2, 4)	Chapter 9 – Competitive markets for Monday and article on window tax by Oates and Wallace for Wednesday.	
Week 10 (November 9, 11)	Minimum wage reading by Card and Krueger for Monday and start Chapter 10 - Monopoly	Homework 3 due on Monday November 9.
Week 11 (November 16, 18)	Finish Chapter 10 - Monopoly	Homework 4 due on Monday November 16.
Week 12 (November 23, 25)	Chapter 11 – Pricing with monopoly power (pages 399-417 only) on November 25.	Monday November 23 – second in-class exam on chapters 6-10.
Week 13 (November 30, December 2)	Chapter 13 – Game theory	Homework 5 due on Monday November 30.
Week 14 (December 7, 9)	Chapter 18 – Externalities and public goods	Third quiz on Wednesday December 9 on part of chapter 11 and chapters 13-18.
Week 15 (December 14, 16)	Chapter 17 – Asymmetric information – and article by Leman and Nelson	Homework 6 due on Monday December 14.
Finals week		Cumulative exam – Saturday December 19 at 4-6 pm.