Principles of Microeconomics - ECON 2302.001
Course Syllabus for Fall 2015

Economics is good! Economics is life-changing! Economics is world-changing!
And this is the premise from which we will begin our study of Economics this semester!

Instructor: Mrs. Susan Doty
Director of the Center for Economic Education & Financial Literacy
& Senior Lecturer in Economics, Department of Social Sciences
The University of Texas at Tyler, 3900 University Boulevard, Tyler, TX 75799

Office: BUS #240

E-mail: sdoty@uttyler.edu
Please note that e-mail is my preferred method of contact. Even if you want to talk by phone, the best way to do so is by sending me an e-mail and asking me to call you back. Please always identify yourself and provide the course and section you are in.

Phone: 903-566-7459 (Office) – 903-570-9020 (Cell for text messages only). Again, please be sure to identify yourself by name, course and section. Text for simple questions only! For anything that requires a more thorough or complicated answer, please use email.

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:30-3:30 for open office hours and Friday afternoons for appointments only.

You do not need to set up an appointment to meet with me during MW office hours although you may have to wait if other students arrive before you. I am not available to meet with students on Tuesdays and Thursdays because of my commitment to the UT Tyler Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy on those two days. My faculty office is on the 2nd floor of the Business building. I make extensive use of Blackboard and will establish additional channels for both synchronous and asynchronous online virtual office hours as needed. I respond quickly to email and text.

Meeting Times: Section 001 meets MWF from 10:10 - 11:05 AM in RBN 3035. Check your MyUTTyler account for final classroom location because rooms may change through the first week depending on enrollment.

Course Package: Karlan, Dean and Jonathan Morduch, Economics, McGraw-Hill.
ISBN: 1259342245 Connect Plus Economics with LearnSmart Access Card
Please note that this online course package is required. I will provide you with registration information in a separate document on Blackboard. The course package contains the e-text, tutorials, homework and quizzing that not only represents over 13% of the course grade but provides the foundation for much of what we will do in class.
You cannot be successful without the course materials. Students who have taken economics in Spring 2015 and have an active McGraw-Hill account should be able to activate the new course at no additional cost.
You also need a smart device with communication app and .pdf annotation capabilities. There are a limited number of university-owned iPads available to borrow for the semester. See me EARLY if you would like to reserve one.

Course Summary: Through the Core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Core objectives include critical thinking skills, communications skills (both written and oral), empirical and quantitative skills, teamwork, social responsibility and personal responsibility. Economics is an approved course in the Core curriculum.

Economics, at its foundation, is a social science course about choice. Everything we value as humans is scarce relative to how much we want. Because of scarcity, we can’t have it all. Because we can’t have it all, we must make choices. Every choice we make means giving up something else. This “economic way of thinking” can be summarized in the 6 points of the Guide to Economic Reasoning: People Choose; People’s Choices Involve Costs; People Respond Predictably to Incentives; People Create Economic Systems That Influence Choice and Incentives; People Gain When They Trade Voluntarily; People’s Choices Have Consequences That Lie in the Future. Students in Economics apply these points to decision-making at the individual, household, business firm, and government levels both in closed domestic economies and open global ones.

Economics is a course of study that will provide you with methodological tools to view the world differently. The “economic way of thinking” is truly a unique way of approaching problems, understanding issues and proposing solutions. It will help you in decision-making when you vote, spend, save and make life choices. Throughout the course, you will develop and have multiple opportunities to demonstrate an understanding of basic economic concepts, the techniques and methods of economics, and the economic challenges facing society today and in the future. In addition, you will be developing and demonstrating critical thinking skills, oral and written communication skills, empirical and quantitative evaluation skills, teamwork, social responsibility and personal responsibility.

Economics will benefit each of you regardless of your major. It will have relevance to all aspects of your life and it will provide you with tools to help you view the world differently. Economics provides great preparation for careers in business, government, law, education, mathematics and science.

A favorite quote of mine is this one by the late economist, Murray N. Rothbard: It is no crime to be ignorant of economics, which is, after all, a specialized discipline and one that most people consider to be a 'dismal science.' But it is totally irresponsible to have a loud and vociferous opinion on economic subjects while remaining in this state of ignorance. A goal of this class is to provide you with the conceptual framework and tools to develop and articulate informed opinions on economic issues.

It is not my job or purpose in this economics class to influence your politics or opinions. It is, however, my highest objective to give you the economic tools and the foundational principles so that you can develop and articulate your own positions more effectively.
**Course Objectives:** Beyond the foundational economic concepts and tools that are common to both macroeconomics and microeconomics, this Microeconomics course is going to cover six major topic areas including:

- **Markets and the Price Mechanism**
  - Basic supply and demand analysis, price elasticity, diminishing marginal utility, indifference curves
- **Costs, Revenue, Profit Maximization, and Market Structure**
  - Marginal analysis, revenues, costs, and profit, perfect and imperfect competition, isocost curves and isoquants
- **Industry Organization**
  - Perfect Competition, Monopolistic Competition, Oligopoly, Monopoly
- **Market Failures, Externalities, Government Intervention and Regulation**
  - Public goods, spillover costs and benefits, and inefficiencies of over-regulation and under-regulation
- **Income Distribution and Government Redistribution Policies**
  - Factor/resource markets and effects of taxes, transfers and subsidies
- **International Economics**
  - Comparative advantage, trade, exchange rates & economic development

**Study Time:** A general guideline is that you should spend three hours of independent study time outside of class for each hour in class. We meet for three hours each week so that is nine hours of independent work each week. An example of how to spend that time might be three hours of reading and taking notes from the text, three hours of homework (practice problems), an hour reviewing notes from class and two hours preparing for other graded assignments. I know many of you are working part-time and full-time jobs, have families and are active in student sports and activities. I do understand that many of you are taking 15 and 18 hours. Based on the 3-to-1 formula, that is 60 to 72 hours of academic work alone! **YOU need to be realistic about your own capabilities and commitments!**

**Classroom Conduct:** This is simply a matter of respect – mine for you – yours for each other and for me. Arrive on time and stay for the duration of class. Be quiet and attentive during lectures. Participate during activities. Be prepared. With the exception of your required devices, keep your other electronic devices turned off. Stay on task and don’t get distracted! In economics, we learn about the importance of private property ownership – be good stewards to university property. **Do not photograph, audio or video tape lectures, discussions or activities.** Do not copy or distribute any presentation, activity, or assessment materials from class or on-line supplement. Do your own work and properly cite the work of others. The University of Texas at Tyler has an academic integrity policy. I take it very seriously and expect you to also. Be honest, do your best work and learn.

**Participation:** Woody Allen said, 80% of life is showing up! You can’t learn if you’re not in class! You are expected to attend every class. There will be hands-on active lessons designed to reinforce the unit material and emphasize the importance of attendance. Be prepared to move around, work in pairs or groups, and think “out of the box” on class days. There will be 34 class participation grades and I will count your best 30.

**Your charged smart devices are required in class every day!**
Course Module Assignments:

Through your McGraw-Hill Connect Plus account, there will be on-line e-text, interactive LearnSmart tutorial program, videos, reading assignments and quizzing. You will do this work in advance of our time in class so that our class time will be more rewarding. There are ten graded assignments that are due on the first class day of the week at 8:00 AM. With the exception of Labor Day week, all assignments are due on Monday mornings. Each assignment will consist of four parts, covering two chapters. The assignments will be open for a full week before they are due and you will have the opportunity to work them repeatedly until you receive 100% mastery within that week. However, these assignments will not be accepted late and will not be re-opened for technical problems, so plan ahead and use the computer labs on campus if necessary.

Exams:

There will be a two 2-day UNIT EXAMS that will cover both the reading/course assignments and the lecture/discussion/activity material from class. The first day of the exam will be short answer/graphing and problem solving. The second day will be multiple choice. Each section will be worth 100 points. The FINAL EXAM will be comprehensive and worth 300 points. You need to bring #2 pencils and green scantron (882-E) forms on the multiple choice days. Any ONE missed portion of ONE EXAM can be made up by increasing the point value of the final comprehensive exam.

Writing Assignments:

I will provide you with a stimulus, which may be a video clip, news article, case or book excerpt, as a writing prompt for each of these two short papers. I will also provide you with my grading rubric that will identify expectations and point values for each of the four areas as follows: summary of the prompt, economic concepts raised in the prompt, explanation of the economic concepts raised, and your analysis of the prompt in light of your identified economic concepts. These one-page papers are very formulaic; follow the directions in the rubric! All papers must be submitted as a Word document though SafeAssign on Blackboard. Writing assignments may be submitted one week late for 50% credit.

Macroeconomics Challenge:

This will be a fun way to REVIEW for your Final Exam. Maybe you can even earn points!

Class Notes:

I will provide you with copies of my slides in both PowerPoint and .pdf form on Blackboard. This will allow you to open and annotate them on your smart device. These slides provide the skeleton for your class notes and form the foundation for my lectures and for our class discussions and activities. You must have them each day. Please familiarize yourself with both Blackboard Mobile and a .pdf annotating program and be ready to annotate these notes at the beginning of each class. I do not prepare my slides or lectures from the book. My lecture notes and your McGraw-Hill course materials will complement, not duplicate, each other.

Discussion Board:

There will be both graded and ungraded forums that I will open for you on the Blackboard discussion board forum for you each unit so that you may help each other, form virtual study groups and ask content questions of me. The help forums will be ungraded but may be considered in calculating your participation grade.
**Academic Integrity:** For each assessment, you will sign a statement confirming that you have taken the assessment in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy currently in place at The University of Texas at Tyler.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QuickStart Buffer Points</td>
<td>10 @ 10 points = 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Module Assignments</td>
<td>10 @ 20 points = 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30 @ 10 points = 300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>2 @ 100 points = 200 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Technology Project</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points = 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Exams</td>
<td>2 @ 100 points = 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Choice Exams</td>
<td>2 @ 100 points = 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>1 @ 300 points = 300 points</td>
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*There is no such thing as a free lunch! You must earn your QuickStart buffer points! See directions posted on Blackboard.*

**Course Grade:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1350+ Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1200-1349 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1050-1199 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>900-1049 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>899 points or less</td>
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**Make-Up Policy:**

This policy is designed for all students who miss an exam or assignment for any reason, including but not limited to, university-sponsored activities including athletics, personal illness, friend or family emergency, work conflict, or any other cause. **You are protected in five important ways, as follows:**

1. Please note that I offer 100 buffer points over the semester that you may apply to any graded category in any way you choose. For example, you can miss a portion of one of the Unit Exams OR five course module assignments OR a writing assignment OR ten class participation grades OR the group technology projects OR any other combination that adds up to 100 points, without penalty. If points are not used for missed assignments, however, then they may be used to boost grades on any assignment for which you earn a grade lower than you wanted – again up to a maximum of 100 points. That said, early on in the course we learn that everything we value is scarce (points are scarce!) and choices must be made (if you choose to use these points for a missed assignment, then they are not available to boost your grades!) Consider opportunity costs (the value of the best alternative you give up) when you choose how to spend your bonus points. This is your first introduction to the “economic way of thinking!”

2. There will be 33 class participation grades over the course of the semester. Each one of these will have two parts and be worth a total of 10 points. Attendance will count as 5 points and correct answers to each of five questions will count as the other five points. Both of these will be captured with the use of your devices. Of these 33 grades, I will only count your best 30 and will drop your 3 lowest class participation grades.
3. The final comprehensive exam is worth 300 points; you may choose to make it worth 400 points in order to make up a missed exam or a low score exam on one part of one of the unit exams. As an example, if you miss either the short answer or the multiple choice portion of one exam, then you have 0 points on that portion of the exam. If you get 80% on the final (240/300) then you can replace the 0 on the missed exam by making your final exam 80% of 400 points (320/400). In essence, that is replacing the 0 with an 80! If you do not miss an exam but do poorly on one, let’s say you score a 50 but, using the example I just provided, get an 80% on the final then you would replace that 50 with an 80, thus gaining 30 points. **DO NOT ASK ME TO TAKE EXAMS EARLY OR LATE!!!** The make-up policy is to increase the value of the final exam! The Final Exam is scheduled by the university during Finals week. I do not schedule it and cannot change it. Please check your MyUTTyler account during the semester for final exam date.

4. Writing Assignments (submitted on-line via Blackboard SafeAssign) and technology projects (submitted on line via a link on the Blackboard Discussion board) will be accepted up to a week late for half credit.

5. Although homework course module assignments will not be re-opened or accepted late for any reason, you may work them as many times as necessary to get a perfect score during the week that they are open for you. There is no reason not to earn the full 200 points possible in this category.

**Opt-Out Policy:**

I strongly believe that frequent homework, writing assignments, technology projects, discussion board participation and class activities make the course more interesting and enjoyable. Even more importantly, these assessments reinforce the material, help you learn and retain the economic concepts and boost your grades. There are two types of students, however, who might choose to opt out of my grading policy. The first of these is the exceptionally motivated independent learner who can come to class, read the text and “get it.” The second is the over-committed student who has too many outside activities to meet the deadlines outlined for the course. For these students, I will provide an option to base the final grade solely on the two 2-part Unit Exams (**taken on time as scheduled in class, each at 100 points**) and the Final Exam (**taken on time as scheduled in class, worth 300 points**) with no substitutions or additional points **available**. Final grades will be calculated based on the proportion of earned points from these four exams and the final exam. 90% of 700 = 630 points for an A, 80% of 700 = 560 points for a B, 70% of 700 = 490 points for a C and 60% of 700 = 420 points for a D. If you decide that this is the route you want to take, you must meet with me during office hours and petition in writing that this is your desire. Although I make this available to you, **I strongly advise against this option.** A decision to “opt out” will be irrevocable. This option is not available to anyone who has to miss a scheduled exam for any reason.

**Addendums to Syllabus:**

http://www.putyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf

http://www2.putyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

http://www.upyter.edu/registrar
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Disability Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities.

Class Schedule

You are responsible for being prepared for class and completing all assignments. Please check this before asking me what we will be doing in class, what we did in class or when an assignment is scheduled!

Week One: Introduction and Course Tools

- Monday, August 24: The Economic Way of Thinking
- Wednesday, August 26: BYOD and McGraw Hill
- Friday, August 28: Math and Graphing Review (CP#1)

Be working on your QuickStart Buffer Points – See Blackboard.

Week Two: Guide to Economic Reasoning – Part One

- Monday, August 31: Production Possibilities Frontier (CP#2)
- Wednesday, September 2: Specialization, Trade & Interdependence (CP#3)
- Friday, September 4: Measurable Benefits of Trade (CP#4)

ALL Quickstart Buffer Point Activities are Due by Friday (9/4) at 5:00 PM

Week Three: Guide to Economic Reasoning – Part Two

Course Module Assignment #1: Chapters 2 & 17 due Wednesday (9/9) by 8:00 AM*

*Note that all other Course Module Homework assignments are due on Monday; this one is due on Wednesday because of the holiday.

- Monday, September 7: Labor Day
- Wednesday, September 9: Economic Systems and the Role of Government (CP#5)
- Friday, September 11: Brief History of Economic Thought (CP#6)

Group One (last name A-F) Writing Assignment due by Friday (9/11) at 5:00 PM

Week Four: Circular Flow and Markets

Course Module Assignment #2: Chapters 3 & 4 due Monday (9/14) by 8:00 AM

- Monday, September 14: Resource, Product and Financial Markets (CP #7)
- Wednesday, September 16: Supply and Demand (CP #8)
- Friday, September 18: Shifting Curves and Changing Equilibrium (CP #9)

Group Two (last name G-L) Writing Assignment due by Friday (9/18) at 5:00 PM
**Week Five: Efficiency and Intervention**

*Course Module Assignment #3: Chapters 5 & 6 due Monday (9/21) by 8:00 AM*

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 21</td>
<td>Economic Surplus and Deadweight Loss (CP #10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 23</td>
<td>Public Goods and Private Goods (CP #11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 25</td>
<td>Price Controls, Taxation &amp; Transfer Payments (CP #12)</td>
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*Group Three (last name M-R) Writing Assignment due by Friday (9/25) at 5:00 PM*

**Week Six: Consumers and Choice**

*Course Module Assignment #4: Chapters 7 & 8 due Monday (9/28) by 8:00 AM*

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 28</td>
<td>Elasticity (CP #13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 30</td>
<td>Utility (CP #14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 2</td>
<td>Indifference Curves (CP #15)</td>
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*Group Four (last name S-Z) Writing Assignment due by Friday (10/2) at 5:00 PM*

**Week Seven: Unit One Exam**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 5</td>
<td>Unit One Exam Prep (CP #16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 7</td>
<td>Short Answer Exam Part A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 9</td>
<td>Multiple Choice Exam Part B</td>
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**Unit Two: Understanding the Microeconomy: Theory of the Business Firm**

**Week Eight: Production: Factors and Costs**

*Course Module Assignment #5: Chapters 12 & 16 due Monday (10/12) by 8:00 AM*

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 12</td>
<td>Profit Motive (CP #17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 14</td>
<td>Production Functions (CP #18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 16</td>
<td>Factor Markets (CP #19)</td>
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*I will hold an optional Exam Return and Review session on Friday afternoon from 2:30-4:00, with the location TBA.*

**Week Nine: Competition at the Extreme**

*Course Module Assignment #6: Chapters 13 & 14 due Monday (10/19) by 8:00 AM*

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 19</td>
<td>Industry Organization (CP #20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 21</td>
<td>Perfect Competition (CP #21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 23</td>
<td>Monopoly (CP #22)</td>
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*Group Four (last name S-Z) Writing Assignment due by Friday (10/23) at 5:00 PM *

*Please note that the second writing assignments are in reverse group order.*

**Week Ten: Competition in the Middle**

*Course Module Assignment #7: Chapters 15 & 9 due Monday (10/26) by 8:00 AM*

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 26</td>
<td>Monopolistic Competition (CP #23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 28</td>
<td>Oligopoly (CP #24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 30</td>
<td>Game Theory (CP #25)</td>
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*Group Three (last name M-R) Writing Assignment due by Friday (10/30) at 5:00 PM*
**Week Eleven: Public Economics I**

*Course Module Assignment #8: Chapters 18 & 19 due Monday (11/2) by 8:00 AM*

- Monday, November 2  
  Externalities (CP #26)
- Wednesday, November 4  
  Private Goods and Public Goods (CP #27)
- Friday, November 6  
  Public Policy Implications (CP #28)

*Group Two (last name G-L) Writing Assignment due by Friday (11/6) at 5:00 PM*

**Week Twelve: Public Economics II**

*Course Module Assignment #9: Chapters 20 & 21 due Monday (11/9) by 8:00 AM*

- Monday, November 9  
  Taxes (CP #29)
- Wednesday, November 11  
  Income Distribution (CP #30)
- Friday, November 13  
  Technology Project Group Assignments

*Group One (last name A-F) Writing Assignment due by Friday (11/13) at 5:00 PM*

**Week Thirteen: Unit Two Exams**

- Monday, November 16  
  Review for Unit Two Exam (CP #31)
- Wednesday, November 18  
  Short Answer Test – Part A
- Friday, November 20  
  Multiple Choice Test – Part B

**Week Fourteen: Thanksgiving Week Break**

- Monday, November 23  
  No Class
- Wednesday, November 25  
  No Class
- Friday, November 27  
  No Class

*Be safe, enjoy! Remember diminishing marginal utility!*

**Week Fourteen: Public Economics III**

*Course Module Assignment #10: Chapters 22 & 23 due Monday (11/30) by 8:00 AM*

- Monday, November 30  
  Economics of Elections and Policy-Making (CP #32)
- Wednesday, December 2  
  Public Choice Economics (CP #33)
- Friday, December 4  
  Final Review - Microeconomics Challenge

*I will hold an optional Exam Return and Review session on Friday afternoon from 2:30-4:00, with the location TBA.*

*Group Technology Projects due by Friday (12/4) at 5:00 PM*

**Week Sixteen: Final Exam Week**

- Monday, December 7  
  Study Day no class – Optional Review
- December 8-11  
  **FINAL EXAM** - Check MyUTTyler for specific date
- Tuesday, December 15  
  Grades Due at noon – *Please don’t ask before then!*

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**Now, wouldn’t you agree?**

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