PUBLIC POLICY 201
Microeconomics I

Fall 2015
School of Public Affairs
Department of Public Policy
UCLA

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Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesday
10:30 am – 11:50 am
Location: Public Affairs 2270
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
in Public Affairs 6367 and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Zhenxiang Chen
TA Email: zchen716@ucla.edu
Section Meetings: Monday and Friday 3:00
pm - 4:50 pm
Location: Public Affairs 4357

Course Description: This course is intended as the introductory Microeconomics course for
first-year Masters of Public Policy students in the Department of Public Policy. The course will
cover the basic concepts of supply and demand as well as the basic functioning of markets.
Topics will include: the assessment of consumer and producer surplus, determining who bears
the burden of changes in tax incidence, consumer utility calculations, the effect of income and
price changes on consumption and production choices, determinants of producer costs and the
determination of a competitive market equilibrium. These topics will be explored with
applications to policy analysis and evaluation. A second course in the winter quarter will cover
more advanced topics building on these initial topics. Letter Grading.

Course Textbook: Goolsbee, Austan and Steven Levitt, Chad Syverson. Microeconomics.
Worth Publishers, New York, NY, 2013. Additionally, you will need to purchase online access
to the web resources at LaunchPad (this comes packaged with the textbook) which contains
additional information and online tools for the textbook and course. Students are expected to
have completed the readings prior to the class for which they are assigned. Note that this
textbook and the course website will be used for the second sequence of this course in the Winter
quarter 2015. You only have to purchase the web access and the textbook once. You must use
Firefox or Internet Explorer for LaunchPad, other web browsers are not supported and not all of
the features will be available if you use other browsers. Further instructions about the various
textbook options and LaunchPad access options are provided in a separate handout.

Office Hours and TA Sections: Office hours will be held on Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 pm in
Public Affairs 6367. Please sign up outside of 6367 Public Affairs or send an email to make an
appointment if you cannot meet during those office hours.

The teaching assistant will conduct two review sessions each week. They will be held on
Monday 3:00-4:50 pm in Public Affairs 4357 and Friday 3:00-4:50 pm in Public Affairs 4357.
Students should attend one of these sessions per week. The material will be the same for each
discussion section, therefore you may attend either one.

Course Grading and Requirements: Letter grades will be given for the overall course, but
scores for different assignments and exams will be provided in percentages. This course will be
graded in the following manner:
10% for LaunchPad Online Chapter Quizzes and Class Participation. These short quizzes are to be completed online prior to class. You are not allowed to work with anyone else on these online quizzes; that constitutes cheating. There will be 6 Chapter Quizzes. You may use your own notes or the textbook for these quizzes. You will be awarded full points for completion of the quiz prior to the deadline. These quizzes will prepare you for the topics and issues that we discuss in class. **They will need to be completed prior to class;** the quizzes will not be available after the online deadline. Additionally, you should be prepared to discuss these topics and concepts in class when called upon. You will be assessed a grade based on your overall class participation during the entire quarter.

25% for Problem Sets. There will be 6 problem sets during the course, approximately one every week and a half. They will cover material in each of the chapters and topics and examples relevant for the midterm and final exams. **You will be expected to turn them in by the assigned deadline which will be at the start of class on the due date.** Everyone should turn in their own assignments – there should be no jointly submitted assignments. It is fine to work on them with other classmates and to discuss the problems and topics, however, everyone will be required to turn in their own completed assignments.

The Problem Sets are designed primarily to provide experience in using economic concepts and in applying economic reasoning to policy problems. It lets students assess how well they have mastered the concepts and provides signals about areas for improvement. It is appropriate to seek help from the TA on problem-solving techniques generally, but the TA will not solve the homework problems for you in advance of the due date. **No late homework will be accepted,** since solutions will be posted on the class website after the homework is due. These will be graded on a percentage basis (you will get a score from 0-100%). If you have grading questions, you should speak directly to your TA regarding the grade for the Problem Sets. Otherwise, you can speak with me about it if it can’t be resolved on your own.

Additionally, the problem sets will contain questions from the additional readings (journal articles). These questions will provide additional policy and research applications for the concepts discussed in class. We will discuss the research **after** the homework has been submitted and we will highlight how the research relates to concepts from the previous chapter.

30% for the Midterm. The midterm will cover all of the topics and concepts from approximately the first half of the course. You will be expected to complete problems and questions similar to (but not exactly the same) as what we will discuss and go over in class and in the problem sets. These will be graded on a percentage basis (you will get a score from 0-100%)

35% for the Final Exam. The final exam will be cumulative. The exam will focus more on the advanced topics from the second half of the course, however, there will be an expectation that you understand and can demonstrate knowledge from the first half of the course on the final exam. These will be graded on a percentage basis (you will get a score from 0-100%)
Course Outline:

**Week 1**
September 28 – Intro. Overview of course and topic. Ch. 1 and Supply and Demand, Ch. 2
September 30 – Supply and Demand, Ch. 2 [Online Quiz Ch 2 Due]

**Week 2**
October 5 – Supply and Demand, Ch. 2
October 7 – Supply and Demand, Ch. 2 [Ch 2 PS Due]

**Week 3**
October 12 – Market Analysis, Ch. 3 [Online Quiz Ch 3 Due]
October 14 – Market Analysis, Ch. 3

**Week 4**
October 19 – Market Analysis, Ch. 3
October 21 – Consumer Behavior, Ch. 4 [Online Quiz Ch 4 Due] [Ch 3 PS Due]

**Week 5**
October 26 – Consumer Behavior, Ch. 4
October 28 – Consumer Behavior, Ch. 4 and review [Ch 4 PS Due]

**Week 6**
November 2 – **Midterm**
November 4 – Individual and Market Demand, Ch. 5 [Online Quiz Ch 5 Due]

**Week 7**
November 9 – Individual and Market Demand, Ch. 5
November 11 – **Holiday [No Class]** – Veteran’s Day

**Week 8**
November 16 – Producer Behavior, Ch. 6 [Online Quiz Ch 6 Due] [Ch 5 PS Due]
November 18 - Producer Behavior, Ch. 6

**Week 9**
November 23 – Costs, Ch. 7 [Online Quiz Ch 7 Due] [Ch 6 PS Due]
November 25 – Costs, Ch. 7

**Week 10**
November 30 – Course Review [Ch 7 PS Due]
December 2 – **Final Exam in Class**
Additional Required Reading:

Chapter 2 Reading:

Chapter 3 Reading:

Chapter 4 Reading:

Chapter 5 Reading:

Chapter 6 Reading: