

Syllabus  
ECN150  
Introduction to Economics  
Spring 2011  
Wake Forest University  
Instructor: McFall

Welcome to ECN150, Introduction to Economics. Over the course of this semester we will study some of the big ideas of both microeconomics and macroeconomics and look at how those ideas can be used to analyze many different facets of society. It might be best to think of this class as “The Greatest Hits of Economics.”

This syllabus gives you information about how the class will be organized, what materials you will need for the class, when tests will be (approximately), and so on and so forth. If you ever are wondering about something, please do not hesitate to ask!

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**Course Vitals:**

What: ECN 150

Where: Carswell 101.

When: 11am (Section C) or 12 noon (Section E) on MWF

Instructor: Todd McFall, [mcfallta@wfu.edu](mailto:mcfallta@wfu.edu), x3497, rm. 104, Carswell Hall

Twitter: tamcfall

Book: Principles of Economics, Ninth Edition, Case, Fair, and Oster.

ISBN: 0-13-605626-1, Publisher: Prentice Hall.

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**Topics to be Covered:**

This class will be organized into two parts- microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of how humans or organizations maximize their happiness (a.k.a. utility) in the face of scarcity. Macroeconomics is the study of an economic system like the US economy. Approximately the first 2/3 of the semester will be spent covering micro, while the last 1/3 of the semester will consist of macro discussions. The topics for the class and the class meetings in which the topics will be studied are listed below.

Topic	Chapter(s)	Approximate Class Dates
<u>Microeconomics:</u>		
a) Scarcity & Opportunity Cost	1, 2, 6	1/12-1/19
b) Trade	34	1/21-1/28 (Quiz 1 1/31)
c) Supply and Demand	3, 4, 5	1/31-2/18 (Quiz 2 2/18)
d) Firms in Competitive Markets	7-12	2/21-3/4
e) Monopoly	13	3/14-3/23
		(Cumulative mid-term 3/25)
<u>Macroeconomics:</u>		
a) Keeping Track of Economies	20-22	3/28-4/1
b) Growth, Stability, and Fluctuations	31, 36	4/4-4/8
c) Monetary Policy	25	4/11-4/18
d) Fiscal Policy	24	4/18-4/27

### Final Exam Schedule:

11am Class- Saturday, 4/30 @ 9am

Noon Class- Friday, 4/29 @ 2pm

### **How will your grade be determined?**

Grades will be based on two quizzes, two writing assignments, and two midterms. The two quizzes are worth 15% of your semester grade. The summary papers are worth 10% of your semester grade. The two midterms are worth 35% and 25% of your final grade. All examinations will take place in class. The final exam (actually a macro midterm) will take place at the time the university designates for your section.

### **One final word...**

Some of you might struggle in this class. (This is one of those warnings that often are not heeded. After all, many think that other people struggle, but not me!) Economics is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. **If you feel like you are getting lost, then please come talk to me!!** I am more than happy to help you and will think more of you for seeking help rather than not asking for it.