

**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS**  
**L11 Econ 1011 Section 2— Summer 2010**  
**Introduction to Microeconomics**

**Days, Time and Location:** MTWRF 1:00-2:45 p.m. in Seigle Hall 204  
6/14/2010 – 7/16/2010 (no class on July 5th)

<b>Instructor</b>	Aleks Yankelevich
<b>Office</b>	Seigle Hall 376
<b>Office Hours</b>	Mon 2-3pm, Thurs 2-3pm and by appointment
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**Required Text:**

- i. Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Principles of Microeconomics*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition.
- ii. Roberts, Russell, *The Choice, A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

**Course Content:**

This course is about the behavior of households, business firms, and government policy makers in a market economy like ours. It will examine how they make economic decisions, what these decisions imply for the economic well-being of Americans, what makes an economy perform well and what makes it perform poorly, and what role government action should play in economic affairs. Among our concerns will be the products chosen by consumers, the way they are produced, the prices that are charged, how markets are organized, how incomes are determined, non-market costs and benefits of market transactions, and the prospects that government policy can improve on undesirable outcomes.

Reading assignments from the *Principles of Microeconomics* text provide the background for topics to be covered in class. Corresponding homework assignments give you practice using the concepts developed in the text and in class. Problem sets will be assigned during the semester. Course examinations will consist of problems similar to the homework assignments.

**Grading:**

The grading will be based on two in class examinations, homework assignments, quizzes, and class participation.

First Exam	35%
Second Exam	35%
Homework	10%
Quizzes	5-20%
Class Participation	0-15%

Many students do much less well in this course than they expect and than they should. The surest ways to guarantee disappointing results are to memorize and to cram for tests. This course requires that you learn how to reason from assumptions to conclusions so that you can solve economic problems. For most people, the only way to acquire these reasoning skills is to do the readings when they are assigned, come to class, do the homework problems faithfully, and ask questions in class and in office hours when there is something that you don't understand well. Reasoning skills cannot be memorized or crammed for.

Make-up exams are approved **ONLY** for the following conditions:

- **DOCUMENTED** personal illness or emergency.
- Conflicts with religious obligations.

**Reading List** (Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) will be covered if time permits):

I. Economic Choices and Decisions  
Mankiw, chaps. 1, 2

II. How Markets Work  
Mankiw, chaps. 4, 5, 7

III. Government and Markets  
Mankiw, chaps. 6, 8

IV. International Markets  
Mankiw, chaps. 3, 9; Roberts

V. The Economics of the Public Sector  
Mankiw, chaps. 10, 11, 12

VI. Production Cost  
Mankiw, chap. 13

VII. Business Firms in Competitive Markets  
Mankiw, chap. 14

VIII. Monopoly and Imperfect Competition  
Mankiw, chaps. 15, 16, 17

IX. \*Labor Markets  
Mankiw, chap. 18

X. Utility and Consumer Choice  
Mankiw, chap. 21

XI. \*Inequality  
Mankiw, chap. 19, 20