

**Econ 2a – A Survey of Economics**  
Brandeis University  
Summer Session II: July 8 to August 9, 2019  
Syllabus

Instructor: Yaxuan Wen (yaxuanwen@brandeis.edu)  
Office Hours: T/Th 9:30 – 10:30 AM  
Class Time: M/T/Th 11:00 AM-1:40 PM  
Class Location: Mandel Center for Humanites G12

**I. Course Description:**

An introduction to micro- and macroeconomics. The course is intended for students who want to learn essential economic tools used in a variety of contexts, such as managerial decisions and public policy design. We will develop intuitions for economic models and will study their real-world applications. The history of economic thought will be introduced and discussed throughout the course. For students who eventually choose to take further economics courses, this course will prepare them with the theoretical tools and knowledge of economic terminology to be successful.

Brandeis Graduation Requirement Fulfilled: SS, QR. May not be taken for credit by students who took ECON 10a in prior years.

**II. Prerequisite:**

Familiarity with high school algebra will be sufficient for success in this course. Knowledge in calculus and statistics will enrich your understanding of the material but not necessary.

**III. Textbook:**

The main textbook for this course is *Principles of Economics, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition* by N. Gregory Mankiw. An older version may be used if currently owned. Several copies of the textbook have been made available on reserve at the library.

Supplementary materials will be posted in LATTE throughout the course. You are encouraged to keep up with current economic events by reading journals (e.g. the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, and The Economist) or following economics blogs and think tank websites (e.g. Urban Institute and Brookings). A reading list of various economics topics is available on LATTE. These materials will help you identify potential topics for the presentation assignment.

If you are having difficulty purchasing course materials, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options and/or textbook alternatives.

**IV. Assignments and Evaluation**

- (1) Presentation (15%). Each student will prepare a short (12-minute) presentation about one economic topic of their choice. Dates of presentation will be assigned during the first week of class.

- (2) Problem sets (30%). Four problem sets will be assigned and to be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Solutions will be made available soon after the due date. You are strongly encouraged to review the solutions promptly and ask questions. Please write legibly, box final answers, and staple your problem sets. Late problem sets will not be accepted.
- (3) Midterm (20%). There will be one in-class, closed-book, 80-minute midterm on July 25 (Thursday).
- (4) Final exam (30%). A cumulative closed-book final exam will take place on August 8 (Thursday), 1:00-4:00 PM. The final exam grade counts for 50% of the course grade if it is higher than the midterm. Absence from the final examination and the right to take a makeup examination are only permissible for documented medical reasons. More information about the summer school final exam policy can be found [here](#).
- (5) Participation (5%). Attendance sheet will be circulated in class. Active participation in class is highly valued. If you miss a class, please be sure to ask a friend for their lecture notes to make up the missed material.

**V. Tentative Course Outline (subject to updates as the course progresses):**

Class	Topics	Assignments
1 Mon. 7/8	Introduction to the course Chapter 1-3	PS 1 assigned (Ch. 1-7)
2 Tue. 7/9	Chapter 4-5	
3 Thu. 7/11	Chapter 6-7	
4 Mon. 7/15	Chapter 8, 10	PS 1 due PS 2 assigned (Ch. 8-14)
5 Tue. 7/16	Chapter 11-12	
6 Thu. 7/18	Chapter 13-14	
7 Mon. 7/22	Presentations Chapter 15-17	PS 2 due PS 3 assigned (Ch. 15-23)
8 Tue. 7/23	Presentations Chapter 18-19	
9 Thu. 7/25	Midterm 1 (materials through PS 2) Chapter 20, 23	
10 Mon. 7/29	Presentations Chapter 24-25	PS 3 due PS 4 assigned (Ch. 24-31)
11 Tue. 7/30	Chapter 26-28	
12 Thu. 8/1	Chapter 29-31	
13 Mon. 8/5	Chapter 32-33	PS 4 due
14 Tue. 8/6	Chapter 34-35 and review	
15 Thu. 8/8	Final Exam, 1-4 PM	

**VI. Other Information**

**Accommodations**

Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please talk with me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can. I want to support you.

In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or [access@brandeis.edu](mailto:access@brandeis.edu).

### **Academic Integrity**

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University's policies on academic integrity (see <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai> ). Faculty will refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to failure in the course, failure on the assignment in question, suspension from the University and/or educational programs.

### **Communications**

LATTE is the Brandeis on-line course website. Course related announcements and any and all syllabus changes will be communicated via LATTE.

<http://latte.brandeis.edu>. Login using your UNET ID and password.

I will hold regular office hours. If you can't attend office hours due to time conflict, please email me to make an appointment in advance. Note that I will not be able to address questions related to course materials via email; instead, please plan to meet me in person as this is usually a more effective way to discuss.

### **Workload Statement**

Success in this five-week, four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 36 hours of in-class and outside-of-class study time per week (e.g., doing the reading, reviewing lecture notes, working on problem sets).