

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

ECO2132.E1 Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Dr. Matthew Fowler
Amberton Extension: 972-279-6511 ext. 208
Amberton Email: **MFowler@amberton**

COURSE INFORMATION:

ECO2132.E1 Principles of Microeconomics
Level: Undergraduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Principles of Economics
Author: N. Gregory Mankiw
Publisher: Cengage
Year Published: 2024
Edition: 10th
ISBN: 13: 9780357722749
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Students should verify enrollment in course before purchasing textbooks. Textbook information and ordering options are available through the Amberton Virtual Bookstore. Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping.

APA REQUIREMENT:

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The course presents an introduction to microeconomics analysis and the study of economic behavior in particular markets. Topics of study include an introduction to economics, introduction to the market system, market structure and pricing, including monopolies and oligopolies, and market failure and public policy. Additional study is performed regarding international microeconomics within the firm or business entity.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Understanding the basic concepts of the art and science of economic analysis, including definition of economics, economic scarcity, factors of production, product and resource markets, circular flow model, positive and normative economics, and economic graphs.
2. Understanding the basic economic tools used in economic analysis, including opportunity costs, law of comparative advantage, production possibility analysis, and three economic systems.
3. Understanding the economic decision makers of households, businesses, and the government.
4. Understanding the economic concepts of demand, supply, and market equilibrium.
5. Understanding elasticity of demand, elasticity of supply, income elasticity, and cross-price elasticity of demand.
6. Understanding consumer choice and demand, including utility analysis, marginal analysis, and law of diminishing utility.
7. Understanding the basic concepts of production and cost in the firm, including explicit costs, implicit costs, variable costs, fixed costs, law of diminishing returns, relationship between the total cost curve, variable cost curve, and marginal cost curve, in the short run, and economies and diseconomies of scale.
8. Understanding the characteristics of the four market structures of perfect competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, and monopoly.
9. Understanding the resource market, including resource demand and resource supply, derived demand, the resource market demand and supply curve, temporary resource price differential, permanent resource price differential, economic rent and opportunity cost, the firm's decision-making process regarding marginal resource cost and marginal revenue product.
10. Understanding labor markets and labor unions.
11. Understanding capital, interest, entrepreneurship, and corporate finance as related to the economy.
12. Understanding transaction cost, imperfect information, and behavioral economics.
13. Understanding economic regulation and antitrust policy as related to the economy.
14. Understanding public goods and public choice as related to the economy.
15. Understanding externalities and the environment as related to the economy.
16. Understanding income distribution and poverty as related to the economy.
17. Understanding international trade and its impact on the economy.
18. Understanding international finance as related to the economy.
19. Understanding economic development and its impact on the economy.
20. Analyzing and evaluating the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in economic decision-making processes, including its applications in predicting market equilibrium, optimizing resource allocation, and modeling consumer behavior.
21. Assessing the ethical implications and limitations of AI in economic analysis and policy development.

ACQUIRED SKILLS

1. Critical Economic Analysis
2. Decision-Making with Economic Tools
3. Market Structure Evaluation

COURSE POLICIES:

Weekly Assignments

Each instructional week begins on Saturday and ends on Friday. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be completed by Friday at 11:59 p.m.

We will be using **Cengage MindTap** for all homework and quizzes. All MindTap assignments and quizzes are due every Friday by 11:59 p.m., **except for Week 10**, when all work is due **Thursday by 11:59 p.m.**, as this is the last day of class.

Please note that all grades are **manually entered** into the Moodle LMS. Because of this, do not send screenshots of your MindTap grades or upload separate documents for grading. The transfer of grades from MindTap to Moodle is a manual process managed by the instructor.

Threaded Discussions

Discussion forums run from Saturday through Friday. Students are expected to be engaged online a **minimum of three days per week** and to contribute in a meaningful, professional way.

- Your **initial response** to the instructor's discussion question(s) is due by **Monday at 11:59 p.m.** Initial posts should be thoroughly written and approximately **200–300 words**.
- You are required to post **two peer responses** each week:
 - One response is due by **Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.**
 - One response is due by **Friday at 11:59 p.m.**

Not adhering to this peer-response schedule will result in a **5-point late penalty** on the discussion grade, as the goal is to foster real, ongoing conversation. If everyone posts only on Friday, authentic dialogue cannot occur.

A “peer response” may be a reply to a classmate or a reply to your professor within the discussion thread.

Overall discussion performance is evaluated based on:

- Accuracy and depth of your posts
- Professionalism and tone
- Consistency of participation
- Quality of engagement with others

Please note: **Discussion questions cannot be made up for any reason.**

Discussion Question Requirements

Discussion questions make up **40% of your final grade** and must be approached with the same seriousness as any major assignment. These are not passive tasks—your learning comes from researching, writing, and engaging meaningfully with your peers.

Requirements for Your Initial Post:

- Must be **200–300 words**.
- Must include **in-text citations** and a **reference list** at the end.
- Must directly address the instructor's prompt in a clear, thoughtful manner.

Requirements for Peer Responses:

- Each peer response must be **at least 150 words**.
- You must clearly address the person you are responding to by **using their name**.
- Responses must add value to the conversation—agreement alone is not sufficient.

Important: Missing any required element—word count, citations, reference list, naming the peer you are responding to, or providing meaningful engagement—will result in a loss of credit.

Consistent, well-researched participation is essential. The more effort you put into your posts, the more you will learn and the better you will perform in the course.

Professional Communication Expectations for Discussions

To maintain a high level of academic and professional engagement, please follow these communication standards when posting in discussion threads:

- **Do not begin your posts with filler phrases** such as “I love your post,” “Great job,” or similar non-substantive openers. While positive affirmation is appreciated, it does not contribute to academic dialogue and would not be used in professional communication with colleagues or direct reports. Start your response with meaningful, course-related content.
- If you choose to **ask a peer a question**, you must also explain **why you are asking it**. Questions without context lack purpose, interrupt the flow of discussion, and do not demonstrate critical thinking or engagement with the material.

These expectations support the goal of fostering thoughtful, purposeful discussion rather than casual conversation. Meaningful dialogue is part of the learning process and directly impacts your performance, especially since discussions account for **40% of your grade**.

Late Assignments

Late work will be accepted; however, the following conditions apply:

- You must send a written **course message or email** explaining the reason for the late submission.
- All late work will incur a **10% penalty** on the assignment grade.

While I understand that life can be busy and unexpected situations arise, simply choosing not to engage with the course or repeatedly putting off work is not considered a valid reason for lateness.

Again, **discussion questions cannot be made up under any circumstances**, so please plan your week accordingly.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. A Student in a lecture course missing more than 20% (two class periods for weekday classes or one class period for Saturday classes) of the class meetings may be assigned a grade of an “F” or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. “Active participation” can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an “F” or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin "Draft Coach" is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student's writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

The course is structured around weekly modules designed to build knowledge and skills in alignment with the course competencies. Each week begins on **Saturday** and ends on **Friday**, with specific readings, discussions, and assignments reinforcing the weekly learning objectives.

The **course outline** serves as the roadmap for the term. It integrates key topics, learning objectives, activities, and major due dates to ensure that students can effectively plan their studies. Although e-Course students will

not participate in live lectures, all necessary learning resources—including readings, interactive assignments, and assessments—are provided within the course modules to fully support independent learning.

Throughout the course, students will engage in the following types of activities:

- **Assigned Readings:** Chapters and sections from the required textbook and supplemental resources will introduce key concepts each week.
- **Interactive Assignments:** These include problem-solving exercises, case analyses, and scenario-based activities completed through Cengage MindTap.
- **Threaded Discussions:** Students will actively participate in weekly online discussions, applying course concepts through peer engagement and instructor interaction.
- **Quizzes and Exams:** Quizzes are assigned weekly in MindTap to reinforce comprehension. A comprehensive final exam or project will conclude the course.

Each week will specify the assigned readings, learning objectives, and major deadlines. While the **outline will list due dates and activity types**, the actual assignments and exercises are contained within the course modules and learning platform.

Students are encouraged to review the course outline early in the term and plan ahead to ensure timely completion of all activities and assessments

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	Chapter 1 – Ten Principles of Economics Chapter 2 – Thinking Like an Economist	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	1,2,3	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
2	Chapter 3 - Interdependence and the Gains from Trade; Chapter 4 – The Market Forces of Supply and Demand; Chapter 5 – Elasticity and Its Application	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	1,2,5,17	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
3	Chapter 6 – Supply, Demand and Government Policies; Chapter 7 – Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiencies of Markets	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	4,9	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer

				response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
4	Chapter 9 – International Trade; Chapter 10 - Externalities	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	15,17	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
5	Chapter 11 – Public Goods and Common Resources; Chapter 14 – The Costs of Production; Chapter 15 – Firms in Competitive Markets	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	7,14	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
6	Chapter 16 – Monopoly; Chapter 17 – Monopolistic Competition; Chapter 18 - Oligopoly	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	8	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
7	Chapter 19– The Markets for the Factors of Production; Chapter 20 – Earnings and Discrimination	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	10,11,14,16,18	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.

8	Chapter 21 – Income Equality and Poverty	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	6,12,13,19	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
9	Chapter 22 – The Theory of Consumer Choice; Chapter 23 – Frontiers of Economics	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	19	MindTap homework & quizzes: Due every Friday by 11:59 p.m. Discussion questions: Initial post due Monday by 11:59 p.m. First peer response due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Second peer response due Friday by 11:59 p.m.
10	Review for Final Exam	Review PowerPoint Presentation and other materials Complete discussion thread assignment and quiz	All objectives	Final Exam due by THURSDAY!!!

GRADING CRITERIA: Grading Breakdown

Category	Weight	Description
Assignments	20%	Weekly MindTap assignments exercises designed to reinforce key concepts.
Quizzes	20%	Weekly MindTap quizzes assessing comprehension of core topics and readings.
Discussions	40%	Weekly online discussions including initial posts and peer responses; graded on accuracy, engagement, and professionalism.
Final Exam	20%	Comprehensive assessment covering all course competencies and key learning outcomes. Written Assignment (not in MindTap)

Total: 100%

Undergraduate	
90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE:

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:**SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY:**

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION:

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.