

August 2010

**Economics 520 - Microeconomics for Business Decisions**  
**Fall 2010 Semester**  
**Tuesday 6:00-8:30 PM**

**Professor Barry R. Chiswick**

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m. 724 UH

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Economics 520 is a basic introduction to micro-economic theory that emphasizes applications to business and public policy issues. The grade for the course will be based on a one hour mid-term exam (to be scheduled) and a two-hour final exam. Student participation in classroom discussions is encouraged.

The course will follow the textbook Edgar K. Browning, and Mark A Zupan Microeconomics: Theory and Applications, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Wiley 2009. This book and the accompanying study guide are "bundled together" at a special reduced price in the UIC bookstore. (An earlier edition is also ok.) During the course you should also read: Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner, Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, (Revised and expanded edition.)

Each textbook chapter ends with Review Questions and Problems that are excellent for learning the material. Students are encouraged to form small study groups (about 4 persons is optimal) to discuss the problems, readings and class notes. Study groups may meet via e-mail, but meeting in person is more productive.

By its very nature, this is an intense course. It is important to keep up with the course on a weekly basis. Do not let yourself fall behind.

The number of sessions for each topic is approximate and topics and timing are subject to change as the course progresses.

The usual standards regarding academic integrity will be enforced.

**OUTLINE OF COURSE**

<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>CHAPTER ASSIGNMENT</u></b>
I. Introduction and Supply and Demand (1 session)	1-2
II. Consumer Choice (1 session)	3
III. Market Demand and Applications of Consumer Theory (2 sessions)	4-5
IV. Firms' Behavior: Production (2 sessions)	7-8
V. Firms' Supply in Competitive Markets (2 sessions)	9-10
VI. Firms' Supply in Non-Competitive Markets (2 sessions)	11, 12, 13
VII. Factors of Production (2 sessions)	16, 17, 18
VIII. Government and Business (2 sessions)	19, 20
IX. Wrap-up and course review (1 session)	

**FINAL EXAM-TWO HOURS**

**Date TBA**

Note: You are not responsible for the mathematical sections at the end of chapters unless I go over them in class.