**Price Theory and Applications - ECON 310**  
**Ticket Number 15615**  
**California State University - Northridge**  
**Spring 2007**

**Instructor:** Dr. Timothy Mathews  
**Office:** JH 4246  
**Phone:** (818) 677-6696  
**Electronic Mail:** tmathews@csun.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 9:50am-10:50am, Thursday 2:00pm-3:00pm, Thursday 5:50pm-6:50pm, and by appointment.  
**Course Webpage:** http://www.csun.edu/~tmathews/econ310.html

**Course Description:**  
The operation of the price system in market-oriented economies. Special emphasis is placed on consumer behavior, business behavior, market organization, the theory of production and cost, economic welfare, and applications to international trade. Substantial written work will be required of all students.

**Course Schedule:**  
This course will meet Tuesday/Thursday from 12:30pm-1:45pm in JH 1123. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

**Prerequisites:**  
The following courses are prerequisites for this course: either ECON 160 and 161 or ECON 300 and either MATH 102 or 103 or equivalent with a grade of “C” or better. You must not only have completed these courses satisfactorily during a previous semester, but must also retain a working knowledge of the materials covered in these courses.

**Textbook:**  

**Course Content:**  
The course will closely follow the textbook. We plan to cover topics from the following chapters of the text:

- Chapter 1 (Analyzing Economic Problems)  
- Chapter 2 (Demand and Supply Analysis)  
- Chapter 3 (Consumer Preferences and the Concept of Utility)  
- Chapter 4 (Consumer Choice)  
- Chapter 5 (The Theory of Demand)  
- Chapter 6 (Inputs and Production Functions)  
- Chapter 7 (Costs and Cost Minimization)  
- Chapter 8 (Cost Curves)  
- Chapter 9 (Perfectly Competitive Markets)  
- Chapter 10 (Competitive Markets: Applications)  
- Chapter 11 (Monopoly and Monopsony)  
- Chapter 12 (Capturing Surplus)  
- Chapter 13 (Market Structure and Competition)  
- Chapter 14 (Game Theory and Strategic Behavior)  
- Chapter 15 (Risk and Information).

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**  
A Midterm Exam will be given in class on Thursday, 3/22/07. A cumulative Final Exam will be given on Thursday, 5/24/07 from 12:45pm-2:45pm. In addition to these exams, a series of pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester (most likely somewhere between 4 and 8 quizzes). These quizzes will be based upon
materials covered in recent lectures. In order to do well on these quizzes, you should complete the problem sets posted on the course webpage. No makeup quizzes will be given. Your lowest quiz grade will be “dropped.”

You are not allowed to use any notes or books during any exams or quizzes. The exams and quizzes will not require calculation beyond what you can accomplish on a basic scientific calculator. Thus, you are not allowed to use a graphing calculator or a calculator with any “memory” or “storage” capabilities (e.g., you may not use a PDA, electronic organizer, or cellular phone as a calculator) during any exams or quizzes. You will need to bring a blank “Scantron Sheet” to each exam.

A course paper is required. A rough draft of your paper must be submitted by Thursday, 5/3/07. The final version of your paper is due in class on Thursday, 5/17/07.

Your semester average will be computed as follows:

- Rough Draft of Paper: 5%
- Final Version of Paper: 10%
- Pop Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Cumulative Final Exam: 40%

A grade of zero will be assigned for any requirement that you choose not to satisfy. For any student with a justifiable reason for missing the Midterm Exam, the corresponding weight will be added to the cumulative final exam. In order to receive this consideration, you must obtain verification from me by Thursday, 3/29/07.

All requests for re-grades must be submitted within seven days of when the graded assignment has been returned to you.

After calculating your semester average as above, your letter grade for the course will be determined by your absolute performance in the course as well as your standing relative to other students. When assigning semester grades, “plus/minus grading” will be used.

Classroom Behavior:

You are expected to attend class on a regular basis. While in attendance, you should not engage in any activities that will disrupt other students. You should arrive to class on time and should not leave class early. Please wait until lecture is over before packing up your belongings. During lecture you should not talk, you should not eat, and you should not use any electronic devices (please turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. before the start of lecture). These behaviors are disruptive to other students.

You are expected to come to class prepared. You should read the relevant portions of the textbook both before and after the corresponding discussion in class. You should look over your notes outside of class on a regular basis and come to office hours if there is anything you do not understand.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this class. University rules prohibit cheating, fabrication, facilitating the academic dishonesty of another student, and plagiarism. If you engage in any of these activities in this class, you will receive a failing grade. A letter will be sent to the appropriate campus officials requesting disciplinary action.

University rules on Academic Dishonesty will be strictly enforced: “Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title V, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended or given a less severe disciplinary sanction.” (2006-2008 CSUN Catalog, pages 536-538).

Drop Policy:

The University drop policy will be followed in this class. Add and drop policies are listed in the “CSUN Schedule of Classes Spring 2007” in the section “Change in Academic Schedule after Start of Classes” (page 12). To withdraw from a class you must do so online through SOLAR, no later than Friday, 2/16/07. If you fail to attend and do not formally drop a class, a “WU” (the equivalent of an “F”) will be recorded.

Other Notes:

Materials (problem sets, quizzes, and exams) from my ECON 310 classes from previous semesters are available online at http://www.csun.edu/~tmathews/PreviousEcon310.html.

Any changes to the procedures in this syllabus (while not anticipated) will be announced in class and on the course webpage (http://www.csun.edu/~tmathews/econ310.html).