This course is designed as an introduction to the basic tools of microeconomic analysis. The majority of the material helps explain the behavior of two economic actors: the consumer and the producer. The course will develop a theoretical framework to analyze the interaction of these two actors, which will then be used to examine issues of popular interest such as income distribution, deregulation and pollution. Students should be aware of the fact that most of the class is theoretical in nature and requires the ability to think abstractly.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** There will be two exams--one midterm and one final. There will be no make-ups for exams missed. The midterm exam will be on Monday July 22, 2002. The final exam will be on Wednesday, August 14, 2002. The midterm and the final exams count for 45% and 55% of the final grade. If you miss the midterm with a valid excuse and have the permission of the professor, the final exam will count for 100% of the final grade.

Students are expected to have read the relevant material before the appropriate class.

**TEXTBOOK:** Students should purchase the textbook

*PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS* (2nd edition)
by Gregory Mankiw

which is available in the University Bookstore.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

I. *Introduction--Economics*
   A. Ten Principles of Economics--Chapter 1
   B. Interdependence and Gains from Trade--Chapter 3

II. *Demand and Supply*
   A. Determinants of Demand and Supply--Chapter 4
   B. Elasticity--Chapter 5
   C. Demand, Supply, and Government Policies—Chapter 6

**MIDTERM EXAM: Monday July 22, 2002**

   D. Efficiency of Markets—Chapter 7

III. *Market structure--The importance of competition*
   A. The Costs of Production-- Chapter 13
   B. Firms in Competitive markets--Chapter 14
   C. Monopoly—Chapter 15

IV. *The role of Government--Regulation and deregulation*
   A. Externalities--Chapter 10
   B. Public Goods and Common Resources--Chapter 11

V. *Income Distribution--Why we earn what we earn*
   A. Markets for Factors of Production--Chapter 18
   B. Earnings and Discrimination—Chapter 19