

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Economics**

**Principles of Economics**  
**W1105y-Spring 2005**  
**M/W 2:40PM-3:55PM**  
**PROF. PADMA DESAI**

- Readings:** The required textbook for the course is: N. Gregory Mankiw: Principles of Economics (Thomson), 3<sup>rd</sup> revised edition, 2003. The book is available at the Columbia bookstore. Please do not use earlier editions.
- Recitations:** Recitations are an integral part of the course and will be used for reviewing distributed problem sets as well as introducing topics not covered in the class or extending discussion of topics that are covered only tangentially in the lectures. They will be conducted by teaching assistants (TAs) who will also hold weekly office hours. TA emails follow on the last page.
- Office hours:** My office hours are on Mondays from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM in room 1015 in International Affairs Building. Other times can be arranged by appointment. My e-mail is pd5@columbia.edu
- Evaluation:** Course grade will be based on: (i) Problem sets (10 %), (ii) a **compulsory** mid-term examination on Wednesday, March 9 (45 %), and (iii) a final examination (45 %). Examinations will cover all assigned readings, lectures, and recitation sessions. The date of the final examination will be set by the university.
- Website:** For downloading problem sets and recitation schedules, logon to <<http://courseworks.columbia.edu>> and choose this course.

## ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Are recitations required?

*Yes. We will not take your attendance for the lectures or for the recitations, nor is there a class participation grade, but recitation attendance is essential to ensure that you are familiar with the techniques required to work through the course. **Remember that you need to register with the registrar's office for this section of Principles AND the recitations.***

### 2. What if I really need to take this course now but cannot fit any of the recitation sessions into my schedule?

*I cannot help you with that. It is like saying that you really need to take the course now but you cannot go to any of the lectures.*

### 3. How will you grade the course?

*We will grade the course on the basis of absolute rather than relative merit. However, if the class does badly as a whole, grades will be shifted up.*

### 4. How much math is required?

*No calculus is required for the course. However, we do assume students to have a good command of high-school math, such as solving systems of two linear equations, line drawing, and areas.*

### 5. What is the policy on late homework?

*There will be **eight compulsory** problem sets. These must be downloaded from the website mentioned on page 1. **The answers** to the problem sets will be picked up at the lecture on the due date. Homework will be considered late if it comes in after that lecture. Late homework will not be accepted without a valid reason such as a **documented** medical emergency. The TAs are not allowed to accept late assignments. If you expect to be late with a problem set because of extraordinary circumstances, contact the professor before the due date. **Do not drop late assignments in the professor's mailbox.***

**6. What if I can't make it to either the TA's or your office hours, but I have a question?**

*In that case, you can email either me (on pd5) or the TA to set up an appointment. However, please regard this as a last resort. The ideal time to ask a question is in the recitation or **at the end of the class**. The second-best time is during office hours. You should try and set up an appointment only if these two options are exhausted.*

**7. Can I take a make-up examination for the midterm or the final?**

***NO. NO. NO. There will be only one mid-term and final examination. This is a large class and we cannot set make-up examinations. If your mid-term or final examination date and time conflict with another examination, you should change the examination schedule for the other course. Please do not make your out-of-town flight reservation for the mid-term break or at the end of the semester AHEAD of the scheduled examinations.***

### Preliminary Schedule

<b>Jan 19</b>	<b>Ten Principles of Economics</b>	<b>Ch. 1</b>
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>Thinking Like an Economist</b>	<b>Ch. 2</b>
<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Ch. 2</b>
<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>Interdependence &amp; the Gains from Trade</b>	<b>Ch. 3</b>
	<b>Recitation: Production Possibilities Frontier and Comparative Advantage</b>	<b>Ch. 3</b>
	<i>(Problem set #1 distributed; due 2/7)</i>	
<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>The Market Forces of Supply and Demand</b>	<b>Ch. 4</b>
<b>Feb 7</b>	<b>Measuring a Nation's Income</b>	<b>Ch. 23</b>
	<b>Recitation: Supply and Demand Applications</b>	<b>Ch. 4</b>
	<i>(Problem set #2 distributed; due 2/14)</i>	
<b>Feb 9</b>	<b>Production and Growth</b>	<b>Ch. 25</b>
<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Saving, Investment, and the Financial System</b>	<b>Ch. 26</b>
	<b>Recitation: Measuring the Cost of Living</b>	<b>Ch. 24</b>
	<i>(Problem set #3 distributed; due 2/21)</i>	
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>The Monetary System</b>	<b>Ch. 29</b>
<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>Money Growth and Inflation</b>	<b>Ch. 30</b>
	<b>Recitation: Unemployment and Its Natural Rate</b>	<b>Ch. 28</b>
	<i>(Problem set #4 distributed; due 2/28)</i>	
<b>Feb 23</b>	<b>Aggregate Supply and Aggregate Demand</b>	<b>Ch. 33</b>

<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand</b>	<b>Ch. 34</b>
	<b>Recitation: The Quantity Theory of Money</b>	<b>Ch. 30</b>
	<i>(Problem set #5 distributed; due on 3/7)</i>	
<b>March 2</b>	<b>The Short-Run Tradeoff between Inflation and Unemployment</b>	<b>Ch. 35</b>
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Examination Review</b>	
	<b>Recitation: Examination Review</b>	
<b>March 9</b>	<b>Mid-Term Examination: One Hour and Thirty Minutes</b>	
<b>March 21</b>	<b>The Theory of Consumer Choice</b>	<b>Ch. 21</b>
	<b>Recitation: Indifference Curves</b>	<b>Ch. 21</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>The Markets for Factors of Production</b>	<b>Ch. 18</b>
<b>March 28</b>	<b>The Costs of Production</b>	<b>Ch. 13</b>
	<i>(Problem set #6 distributed; due on 4/4)</i>	
	<b>Recitation: Marginal Products and the Production Function</b>	<b>Ch. 18</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Firms in Competitive Markets</b>	<b>Ch. 14</b>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>Firms in Competitive Markets</b>	<b>Ch. 14</b>
	<b>Recitation: Firms in Competitive Markets</b>	<b>Ch. 14</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Monopoly</b>	<b>Ch. 15</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Monopoly</b>	<b>Ch. 15</b>
	<i>(Problem set #7 distributed; due on 4/18)</i>	
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency Of Markets</b>	<b>Ch. 7</b>
	<b>Recitation: The Deadweight loss</b>	<b>Ch. 8</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Elasticity and Its Application</b>	<b>Ch. 5</b>
	<i>(Problem set #8 distributed; due on 4/25)</i>	

<b>April 20</b>	<b>Income Inequality and Poverty</b>	<b>Ch. 20</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Externalities</b>	<b>Ch. 10</b>
	<b>Recitation: Public Policies toward Externalities</b>	<b>Ch. 10</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Public Goods and Common Resources</b>	<b>Ch. 11</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Examination Review</b>	
	<b>Recitation: Examination Review</b>	
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Final Examination: One Hour and Thirty Minutes</b>	

## Teaching Assistants

Naoki Sudo	ns309
Hyungseok Erik Kim	hk2052
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**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS  
W1105-FALL 1998  
M/W 10:35-11:50**

**PROF. PADMA DESAI**

**COURSEPACK**