

NUTB 238 – Economics for Food and Nutrition Policy

Optional free, self-paced online economics primer

NUTB 238 is designed for students who have not taken any previous economics courses. It provides a self-contained introduction to economic principles to explain and predict or evaluate change in agriculture, food and nutrition. The class moves quickly from topic to topic, however, so you might prefer to have some previous exposure to general economic principles and thereby be able to devote more attention during the semester to the application of these principles for food & nutrition policy.

For students who want a free, self-paced introduction to economics, one very high-quality option is the course provided by MIT here: <http://bit.ly/1E0yCZR>. From that site, you can follow their lectures and reading materials, or just scroll down to the link for the PDF version of a helpful textbook by Libby Rittenberg and Timothy Tregarthen entitled *Principles of Economics* (2009).

To prepare for NUTR 238, it is useful to be familiar with the concepts in Chapters 1-9 of the Rittenberg and Tregarthen text. You can check your understanding within the MNSP Canvas site by taking our economics quiz, which provides 15 multiple choice or true/false questions for each chapter that you can complete by scoring an 80% or higher. Your scores will not be recorded anywhere. The quizzes are offered only to help you check your own understanding of economic principles, if you want to gain familiarity with them before you see them applied to food-related policies in NUTR 238.

After downloading the Rittenberg and Tregarthen text at the link above, to access the optional economics primer quizzes within Canvas you would:

- Login to <http://canvas.tufts.edu>, and choose > Dashboard (from the left-side menu) > MNSP Economics Primer
- Click on the “Home” link in the left-hand menu.
- When you are ready, click on one of the chapter quizzes and then "Begin Now."
- Answer each question and choose "Submit for Grading" when you are finished. The quizzes are graded instantly, so review your results
 - If you scored 80% or higher, then move on to the next chapter
 - If you scored less than 80%, then please re-read the chapter and take the quiz again.

If you have any questions about this requirement, then please contact Patrick Connell or Tim Calvin: patrick.connell@tufts.edu, timothy.calvin@tufts.edu.