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# Introduction

What is economics all about? Why are you taking this course, other than the fact it is required? Why is scarcity such an important concept for economists? What is your opportunity cost of taking this course? These are some of the questions we will be answering this week. By the end of the week you will be able to:

1. Define economics, scarcity, the three basic questions of economics, and opportunity cost.
2. Differentiate between Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.
3. Understand the payoff of studying economics.
4. Explain three distinguishing characteristics of the economic way of thinking.
5. Analyze possible choices using the concept of opportunity cost.
6. Define and explain the process of the scientific method.
7. Explain the role of models in economics.
8. Explain the way knowledge is created in economics and how that either matches or differs from the general scientific method.

Follow the directions in the Assignments Folder to begin this week’s work. Be sure to ask if you have any questions about the assignments. You can post a question for the class in the Coffee Break forum or just send me an email.