

ECON 200 B: INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMICS

Spring 2024

Instructor: Ruiyuan Shi
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Time: M/W 6:30 – 8:20 P.M.
Place: Denny Hall 259

Course Page:

- <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1718673>

Office Hours: Monday 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M., SAV 319C. I am also available by email or through Canvas. If you want to schedule office hours at a different time or schedule a Zoom meeting, please let me know.

Main References: We will be using selections from the following textbook.

- Karlan, Dean and Jonathan Morduch, *Microeconomics: Improve Your World*. 3e, McGraw Hill.

You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework site (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled e-book and website access via Canvas for the best price. A two-week free trial is available for those who are unsure about continuing in the class.

Objectives: This course serves as an introduction to the principles of microeconomics, used to understand the behavior of individuals and firms operating in markets and in other strategic interactions. Topics covered include opportunity cost, scarcity, preferences, and decision making, gains from trade, game theory, social preferences, institutions, efficiency, firms, market power, competition, supply and demand, labor markets, market failure, and more.

Grading Policy: Problem Sets (25%), Writing Assignments (15%), Midterm (30%), Final (30%). Grades in this class will be curved so that the median student gets a grade point between 2.9 and 3.1. As such, it is impossible to guarantee a particular grading scale for this class, as the median may be above or below what it was in the past. I will give detailed information about the distribution of grades throughout the quarter, to try to help you understand how you are doing in the class.

Cheat sheet: For each midterm and final, you are allowed to prepare ONE page (A4 size) single-sided hand-written notes. You are required to submit your cheat sheet along with your exam. If your cheat sheet exceeds the above requirement, reasonable number of points will be deducted from your score.

Essays: You will turn in **two** short essays this quarter. For each, you are to find a news article from news sources (such as Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times) that was published after **March 1, 2024**, and related to some topic taught in class. The second article must

cover a topic taught **after** the first essay was due. You should describe the economic issue presented within the article and explain it using what you have learned in that half of the class. You should include at least one graph as part of your explanation. You should ensure that your article is a news article, rather than an opinion or editorial piece. The paper should be no more than two pages long, including the graph, and you must submit a copy of the article that can be read without payment (so that it can be graded). Grades will be based on how well you relate the article to course material, how clearly and correctly you summarize the issue at hand, how clearly and correctly you explain the economics behind the topic, and the clarity and correctness of your graph.

Attendance Policy: It is your responsibility to keep up with the class throughout the quarter. It is highly recommended that you do this through regular attendance in class.

Exams will be in person. If you cannot attend an exam, please contact me as soon as you are aware of the potential conflict. Failure to do so will likely impact your opportunity to make up the exam. Under no circumstances will you be allowed to make up an exam unless you have been excused from the exam before missing it.

Exceptions will be made for health, religious, and academic reasons, and accommodations may be possible for those with other challenges.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Accommodations: Should you require disability accommodations, please contact Disability Resources for Students at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Academic Misconduct: All students are expected to know and to abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies as defined at [http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/SPCH209.html# 7](http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/SPCH209.html#7) summarized at <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>. In particular, while you are encouraged to study with each other, all assignments for this course must be completed on one's own. Exams are closed-book must be completed without accessing outside information, whether from "cheat-sheets," cellphones, your computer, or other sources. Failure to abide by these policies is likely to result in failing this course and may result in further sanctions as described by the policy. Should I believe that you cheated or plagiarized on an assignment, you will receive a "zero" grade on that assignment.

Table 1: Tentative Outline

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
03/25	Introduction to ECON 200E	Chapter 1	
03/27	Comparative Advantage and Trade	Chapter 2	
04/01	Demand	Chapter 3	
04/03	Supply	Chapter 3	
04/08	Elasticity	Chapter 4	
04/10	Efficiency	Chapter 5	
04/15	Taxes, Subsidies, and Other Interventions	Chapter 6	
04/17	Taxes, Subsidies, and Other Interventions	Chapter 6	
04/22	Review		
04/24*	Midterm	Chapters 1 - 6	Midterm
04/29	International Trade	Chapter 17	Essay 1
05/01	Externalities	Chapter 18	
05/06	Firms	Chapter 12	
05/08	Firms	Chapter 12	
05/13	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13	
05/15	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13	
05/20	Monopoly	Chapter 14	
05/22	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 15	
05/27	Labor Day - No Class		
05/29	Review		Essay 2
06/05*	Final Exam	Chapters 12 – 15, 17, 18	Final Exam

Note: our final exam is scheduled for 6:30 – 8:20 P.M. on June 5th in our usual classroom.