

Econ 300 - Intermediate Microeconomics

Fall 2020

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Course Outline

This is the intermediate theory course in economics. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the methods and tools of economics analysis, and the study of decision-making on individual level. Expressing an argument in mathematics is a basic requirement for its internal validity. Therefore, calculus and algebra will be the language we constantly make our economic arguments in throughout this course. A sophisticated and mature understanding is assumed (as per required in prerequisite). The reason for this is that the formalism and rigor that comes from careful modeling often reveals things about an economic situation that isn't apparent from common sense alone. One goal of this course will be to train your economic common sense, and your economic problem solving ability.

This course also develops methods you will use in further courses of persuasion, such as industrial organization, labor, and public finance, and a course on consumer, firms, and markets. By the end, you should be able to understand and construct economic arguments using the tools of economics, and in particular how those tools are applied to consumers, firms, and markets.

Textbook

Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus (Fourth Edition) by Jeffrey Perloff
Supplementary reading:
Intermediate Microeconomics - A Modern Approach (Ninth Edition) by Hal R. Varian

Topics Here is a rough guide to the topics we will be covering. We will follow the course of the book fairly closely:

1. Review - Supply and Demand: Ch. 2
2. Consumer Theory: Ch. 3 , 4, 5
3. Producer Theory: Ch. 6, 7
4. Perfect Competition (Price taking): Ch. 8, 9
5. Monopoly (Price setting): Ch. 11
6. Oligopoly: Ch. 14 - Maybe

Exams and Grades

The exams are *tentatively* scheduled as follows:

- Test 0 - Monday, Oct 7 (Week 2)
- Test 1 - Monday, Oct 19 (Week 4)
- Test 2 - Monday, Nov 2 (Week 6)
- Test 3 - Monday, Nov 16 (Week 8)
- Test 4 - Monday, Nov 30 (Week 10)
- Final Exam - Wednesday, Dec 16

Optional Homework on MyLab

There will be optional homework due on MyLab for each chapter. The purpose for homework is to help ensure you're on track. In particular, translating your understanding from class and other supplementary materials into answering actual questions is a big step, no matter whether you score 4.0 in Econ 200 or not. However, if you have better ways to familiarize yourselves with our course content, feel free to do it your way. The homework is not part of grading scheme, just an additional tool to help you learn.

Grade Scheme

- Tests: 15% each
- Final Exam: 25%

Scores on exams serve two purposes in this class; they are intended to reflect your progress in the course and mastery of the material, and they are to be translated into grades at the end of the semester. These two purposes are somewhat at odds; I adopt the convention that if you understand and do correctly 50 % of the material on an exam, you will get 50% of the points available on that exam. That does not mean you will get an F! How scores are translated into grades will be determined at the end of the semester, but there is no curve in the class. The class average tends to be around 3.1. A *tentative* grade scheme is as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade Equivalent	Numeric Grade-Point
94-100	A	3.9-4.0
90-93	A-	3.5-3.8
87-89	B+	3.2-3.4
84-86	B	2.9 -3.1
80-83	B-	2.5-2.8
77-79	C+	2.2-2.4
74-76	C	1.9-2.1
70-73	C-	1.5-1.8
67-69	D+	1.2-1.4
64-66	D	0.9-1.1
60-63	D-	0.7-0.8
Below 60	F	0.0-0.6

So, for example, if at the end of the semester you have 80%, you will not do worse than an 2.5, and you may do better.

Different Editions of the Textbook

The previous editions of the textbook is not very different in material, but do differ somewhat in the problems at the end of each chapter. It will be up to you to make sure you're doing the correct problems. The other Perloff's textbook without calculus differ more substantially; use at your own risk.

Administrative Information

For any administrative information (late enrollment, add/drop policy or financial issues), talk to the undergraduate economics office.

Student Athletes

If you are a student athlete, inform me a.s.a.p. of interferences with your commitments as an athlete (especially conflicts with exam dates). You will be expected to bring in a letter from the athletics department. The sooner you notify me, the better that I will be able to accommodate you.

Students with Disabilities

Inform me a.s.a.p. of special needs that you may have like larger printouts of quizzes and exams or extra time on an exam. You will be expected to bring in a letter from the center for students with disabilities. The sooner you notify me, the better that I will be able to accommodate you.

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity as given in the Code of Policies and Regulations will be taken extremely seriously, and students found cheating in the course (or helping others to cheat) will be penalized according to the Code guidelines.

Online Exam Proctoring

While classes are conducted remotely, this class will use an online exam proctoring service, Proctorio, to uphold academic integrity for exams and/or quizzes. In-class exams are typically observed (or proctored) by your professor and teaching assistants. In an online proctored exam, software monitors your computer's desktop and webcam video. The data recorded by Proctorio during the exam can later be reviewed by your instructor (and only your instructor). During the exam, the enabled features may collect the following personal student data: image and movements captured on video, image of students' Husky Cards, students' computer desktop image, web browsing, keyboard and mouse activity. Learn more about privacy and Proctorio. If an academic integrity issue is identified, it may be referred to Community Standards and Student Conduct in accordance with the student conduct processes. Proctorio works with quizzes in Canvas. To take a quiz with Proctorio, you need to use the Chrome browser, install the Proctorio browser extension, and have a stable internet connection. Depending on how Proctorio is used, a webcam may also be required. Learn how to get started with Proctorio. If you have concerns about using Proctorio, please contact your instructor to explore alternate exam options.

Religious Accommodations Policy

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/).

Guidance to Students Taking Courses Outside the U.S.

Faculty members at U.S. universities ? including the University of Washington ? have the right to academic freedom which includes presenting and exploring topics and content that other governments may consider to be illegal and, therefore, choose to censor. Examples may include topics and content involving religion, gender and sexuality, human rights, democracy and representative government, and historic events.

If, as a UW student, you are living outside of the United States while taking courses remotely, you are subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction. Local authorities may limit your access to course material and take punitive action towards you. Unfortunately, the University of Washington has no authority over the laws in your jurisdictions or how local authorities enforce those laws.

If you are taking UW courses outside of the United States, you have reason to exercise caution when enrolling in courses that cover topics and issues censored in your jurisdiction. If you have concerns regarding a course or courses that you have registered for, please contact your academic advisor who will assist you in exploring options.