

# Econ 200D Introduction to Microeconomics

Instructor: Will Zhang

Class Meetings: Monday & Wednesday 2:30-4:20 pm SMI 404

Office Hours: 1 hour after each class

Class Questions: If it's not in the syllabus, the class discussion boards, office hours, and class meetings are the best place to ask questions.

Personal Questions: Send me a message in Canvas for personal inquiries.

## Course Meetings

**In ECON 200D, lectures will be offered in-person. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas, but exams will be given in-person.**

## Learning Objectives

- To be able to understand and use microeconomic terminology to solve problems on homework assignments and exams and as they apply to current events.
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that the highest valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of any decision
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that individuals and firms make themselves as well-off as possible in a world of scarcity
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that prices inform decisions about which goods and services are produced in a market economy and how those goods and services are allocated.
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that government policies and the organization of industries and market affect both production and allocation decisions.

## Required Materials

The required textbook is Microeconomics, 3rd edition, by Karlan and Morduch. You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework site (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled ebook 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.

## Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Exams (60%)
- Homework (15% - Two lowest dropped)
- Writing Assignments (20%)
- Participation (Smartbook) (5% - Five lowest dropped)

Final grades will be curved as necessary to reach a median grade for the class between 2.9 and 3.1. However, in my experience, I do not need to curve grades and often apply a standard conversion where 80-90% is a B+/- and 90-100% is an A+/-.

## Important Dates

- Homework is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Monday night except the Monday after Exam 1.
- Smartbook reading reviews are due by 8:30 am every day class meets except exam weeks. They are found in MH Connect and are typically available several weeks in advance of their due date.
- Writing Assignments are due October 18 and November 29 at 11:59 pm in Canvas. You may submit these up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty.
- Exams are October 23, 2024 and December 10th, 2024. You will be expected to take your exam live and in-person during regular class time. These are non-cumulative exams.
- Makeup exams are only given under extreme circumstances and you should notify me the day of the exam if you need a makeup. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans, or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances, but infection with COVID-19 is an extreme circumstance.

## Need Help?

Office hours are a time for students to come and ask any questions they have about the class, the assignments, or the homework. You can also receive free tutoring from the Department of Economics (via the Economics Undergraduate Board).

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is important to me. You are expected to complete your own work for every assignment and exam. You may bring one sheet of notes to the exam, but are not permitted to consult any other outside resources, including discussing the exam with anyone else while you are taking it. Suspected violations of this policy will be taken seriously and reported to the

student conduct office. You will also receive a zero for the exam. Additionally, writing assignments will be submitted through a plagiarism checker in Canvas.

## **Class Rules and Additional Details**

### **Class Format and Weekly Schedule**

The class will mainly be conducted via synchronous instruction. There will be Smartbook activities associated with the daily assigned readings (I assign 1-2 chapters per week) and these will be due by 8:30 am the day the material is assigned and covered in class. That means you should plan to read the chapter before we discuss it in lecture. Each week, there will be a problem set associated with the readings and lectures will be assigned as homework and due the following Monday at 11:59 pm.

### **Makeup Policies and Flexibility**

Your **two** lowest homework scores and **five** lowest participation scores will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. (Note: Smartbook is graded on completion, not accuracy, but you do have to answer the questions.) This is my main makeup policy for these assignments, so please use this policy sparingly. In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework or class participation. Instead you will be expected to use your dropped score. If you have technical issues with Connect, please contact their tech support asap. I have always found them to be incredibly helpful and responsive, but sometimes it takes time to resolve these issues, so please do not start the homework the night it is due.

Writing assignments can be submitted up to one week late, with a 5% per day grade penalty (i.e. a 7 day late assignment will receive 65% of the score it would have received if it had been turned in before the due date). You will be allowed to makeup exams if you are ill, but I reserve the right to drop your exam score if we are not able to schedule a makeup in a timely manner.

### **COVID-19 Safety**

This is a large class with a lot of people. I strongly encourage you to wear a high-quality mask in my class, especially during exams. In the interest of public safety, you are encouraged to take advantage of the class recordings and forgo live class attendance whenever you are ill or suspect you may have COVID.

### **COVID Links**

CDC Guidelines for Quarantine and Isolation:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

UW Face Covering Policy:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/face-covering-requirements>

## UW Quarantine and Isolation

Guidance: <https://ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance>

## Accommodations

Students who have established services with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) should contact me about their accommodations as soon as possible. Students with disabilities who have not yet established services with DRS should contact them at [disability.uw.edu](http://disability.uw.edu) to set up an Access Plan.

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/)

(<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/)

(<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).