

Course Syllabus

Econ 200A Introduction to Microeconomics

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Knox

You Can Call Me: Melissa, Dr. Knox, or Professor Knox

Office Hours: W (11-12:30) on Zoom, Th 11:30-12:30 in 339 Savery Hall (my office)

Class Meetings: Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:00-11:20 am in Kane 130 (also recorded via Panopto)

Class Questions: First, check the syllabus! If it's not in the syllabus, then 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 200A, lectures will be offered in-person. They will be recorded and made available for viewing after class. Quiz Sections will be offered in-person. They will not be recorded but materials will be shared on Canvas. Professor Knox's office hours will be offered over Zoom. 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.
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Required Materials

The required textbook is The Economy 2.0 Microeconomics, the CORE Economics Team. I may also assign some brief readings from the popular press and PDFs of those will be provided. You do not need to buy any books for this class.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Exams (60%)
- Homework (14% - One lowest dropped)
- Writing Assignments (20% - 10% each)
- Participation (Poll Everywhere) (6% - 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+/-.

Extra Credit

We will have some extra credit this quarter due to a survey on student attitudes toward Econ 200 that I am helping to facilitate. Please look out for announcements about this in class and your UW email. No other extra credit is available.

Important Dates

- Daily assigned readings should be completed before class. You do not need to submit anything to prove you did the reading, but some portion of your class participation points may be based on the readings for that day.

- Homework is due in Canvas at 11:59 pm PST every Wednesday night before the midterm and every Monday after the midterm. (except the last HW, which is due Friday, the last day of classes).
 - Writing Assignments are due October 20 and November 24 at 11:59 pm in Canvas. You may submit these up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty.
 - Exams are (tentatively) October 29 and December 5. You will be expected to take your exam live and in-person during the scheduled time. These are non-cumulative exams.
 - Make-up exams are only given under extreme circumstances and you should notify me the day of the exam if you need a make-up. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans, or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances, but infection with COVID-19 or other illnesses is an extreme circumstance.
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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. Your TAs and I will hold two hours of Zoom office hours per week, and you should make frequent use of them. You can also receive free tutoring from the Department of Economics (via the Economics Undergraduate Board).

There will be a CLUE session for this class, details TBA when available.

Your success is important to us - please feel free to reach out to any one of your class leaders for help.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is important to me. You are expected to complete your own work for every assignment and exam. You may work with other students on homework and class participation, but you should always submit your own work. Writing assignments should be your own work. You 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.

Use of Generative AI

Please see the [Writing Assignment](#) page for my policy on using Chat GPT or other generative AI in this class.

Class Rules and Additional Details

Class Format and Weekly Schedule

Class meets twice per week. Please plan to attend most classes in person. We will do in-class exercises in Poll Everywhere to help you learn the material and incentivize class attendance. I will assign daily readings and you should plan to do these readings before class on the day they are assigned. If you must miss class, please watch the recorded lecture in Panopto. You will not be able to make up participation points for that day, but I will drop the 5 lowest Poll Everywhere scores to give everyone some flexibility. Teaching Assistant (TA)-lead quiz sections will be held each Friday except the first week of classes. You will go over practice problems in these sections and attendance is strongly recommended. Each week, there will be a problem set associated with the readings and lectures will be assigned as homework and due either the following Wednesday or following Monday at 11:59 pm.

Makeup Policies and Flexibility

Your **one** lowest homework scores and **five** lowest class participation scores will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. (Note: Poll Everywhere are graded on completion, not accuracy, but you do have to answer the questions.) This is my main make-up policy for these assignments, so you do not need to request a make-up or extension for these assignments (and in fact, none will be granted). 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 Canvas, please contact help@uw.edu 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 make up 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 health and 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.

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 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/>) [Links to an external site.](#) 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/>) [Links to an external site.](#)