

## Econ 200A Introduction to Microeconomics

**Instructor:** Lukas Hager (Preferred name: Lukas)

**TAs:** Tsering Sherpa (Preferred name: Tsering) and Mohammad Raied Arman (Preferred name: Raied)

### Office Hours:

Lukas: Wednesday 1-3 PM (PST) on Zoom

Links to an external site.

Tsering: Fridays 1-2 PM (PST) or by appointment on Zoom

Links to an external site.

Raied: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-4 PM (PST) on Zoom

Links to an external site.

**Class Meetings:** Asynchronous **except for the exams, which take place during class (3:30-5:20 PST)**

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

**Personal Questions:** Send any of us a message in Canvas for personal inquiries.

### Course Meetings

In ECON 200A, lectures are recorded and posted weekly. Our office hours will be offered over Zoom. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas, but exams will be given synchronously over Zoom.

### 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). The UW Bookstore is trying out a new way to access the e-text and website with "Day One Access." That means that you automatically get access to these resources from the first day of class, but that the charge for them gets added as a separate charge on your university bill (not included in tuition). **You have two weeks to opt out** of this service, but keep in mind that: a) this is the cheapest way to get access to MH Connect, and b) MH Connect is required to succeed in the course.

More information is here: <https://www.ubookstore.com/day-one-access-faq>

or email [dayoneaccess@ubookstore.com](mailto:dayoneaccess@ubookstore.com) for help.

## Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Exams (60%)
- Homework (20% - Two lowest dropped)
- Writing Assignments (20% - 10% each)

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

Frequent participation on Ed Discussion **may** result in extra credit at the end of the course. This is inclusive of asking and answering questions. 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.
- Homework is due in MH Connect 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 July 12 and August 2 at 11:59 pm in Canvas. You may submit these up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty.
- Exams are July 18 and August 15. You will be expected to take your exam live and on Zoom during the scheduled time. These are in-class, 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.

## **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.

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 bring one sheet of notes to the exam, but 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**

Chat GPT can be useful for supplementing your effort on repetitive writing tasks. However, using generative AI to draft or complete your writing tasks in this class is unlikely to meaningfully advance your understanding of economics. For this reason, I

allow the use of generative AI to revise or improve your grammar or writing skills, but not to replace your thinking about economics.

You are permitted to use AI tools to assist you in gathering information, writing drafts, and revising your writing. However, you are strongly cautioned not to let AI do your thinking for you. Also, you are expected to include a disclosure statement at the end of your assignment describing which AI tool you used and how you used it. For example: "Chat GPT was used to draft about 50 percent of this paper and to provide revision assistance. AI-produced content was edited for accuracy and style."

## **Class Rules and Additional Details**

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

I will post two lectures every week, and 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. I will have office hours on Wednesday afternoons to help you complete your homework.

### **Makeup Policies and Flexibility**

Your **two** lowest homework scores will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. This is my main makeup 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 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 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.

### **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/)