

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Erik Andersen

Office Hours: Mondays from 10:00-11:00 am and Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am in Savery 319c

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:20 pm in THO 134

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 200E, lectures and office hours 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). 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 until October 13 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>

[Links to an external site.](#) or email dayoneaccess@ubookstore.com for help.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Exams (two midterms) (60%)
- Homework (20%)
- Writing Assignments (20% - 10% each)

Due to economics department policy, 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+/-.

Exams

There will be two midterms held on October 30 and December 3 during the normal class time. These are non-cumulative, and there will not be a final. 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 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 before missing it. The earlier you are aware of and contact me about a conflict, the more likely we can find an accommodation.

Homeworks

Homeworks will be turned in on MH Connect. The lowest score will be dropped before calculating final grades.

Writing Assignments

Please see the [Writing Assignment](#) page for details.

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 Friday night except after the midterm.

- Writing Assignments are due October 20 and November 17 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 30 and December 4. You will be expected to take your exam live and in-person during the scheduled time. These are in-class, non-cumulative exams. There is no final exam in this class.
- 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. I will hold two hours of office hours a 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).

Your success is important to me - please feel free to reach out to me for help.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is important to me. You are expected to complete your own work for every assignment and exam. 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. I will assign daily readings and you should plan to do these readings before class on the day they are assigned. 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 Mondays and Wednesdays to help with homeworks.

Makeup Policies and Flexibility

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 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.](#)

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

UW Face Covering Policy: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/face-covering-requirements>[Links to an external site.](#)

UW Quarantine and Isolation Guidance: <https://ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance>[Links to an external site.](#)

Class Schedule

See Canvas