

ECON 200F Syllabus

Introduction to Microeconomics

Hyunji Kim

Email: hjkim26@uw.edu
Office: SAV 403
Office Hours: Mon & Wed, 3:00-4:00 pm or by appointment
Lectures: Mon & Wed, 6:30-8:20 pm, THO 119
Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1747090>
Textbook: *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).*

Introduction.

The goal of this "Introduction to Microeconomics" course is to provide a foundational understanding of how individuals, households, and firms make decisions in conditions of scarcity and how these decisions affect the allocation of resources in an economy. Throughout the course, students will develop critical thinking and analytical skills by:

- **Understanding Economic Principles:** Learning the basic concepts and models that explain market operations, including how prices and quantities are determined.
- **Analyzing Decision-Making:** Exploring how economic agents make choices based on incentives, costs, and benefits.
- **Evaluating Market Outcomes:** Examining how different market structures function and their implications for efficiency, equity, and social welfare.
- **Applying Economic Thinking:** Using microeconomic principles to analyze real-world problems, policy issues, and everyday decision-making.

By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundation in microeconomic theory and reasoning, preparing them for further economic studies and enabling them to better understand the economic forces that shape the world.

Office Hours.

I encourage you to come to office hours with questions related to homework or course material. Participating in office hours is particularly important if you find yourself struggling with the material. If your schedule conflicts with the office hours specified above or you want to meet me during other times when you are available, please send me an e-mail in advance so that I could be able to accommodate your needs.

Evaluation.

Midterm 30%, Final 30%, Homework 30%, and Article responses 10%

- **Homework (30%):** There will be a set of questions titled “Homework” (HWs) assigned in Canvas. These will be assigned approximately weekly, and any missed homework will receive a grade of zero. The questions in these assignments are designed to check your understanding of the concepts and occasionally ask you to analyze a problem using the concepts you have learned. Your homework will collectively be worth 25% of your course grade. The answer key for each homework will be posted on Canvas after the due date, and **extension requests will strictly not be accepted once the key is posted.**
- **Article Responses (10%):** You are required to submit **two article responses**. The first one is due by **October 28** and must relate to a topic learned before the midterm. The second is due by **December 2** and must relate to topics learned after the midterm. You must find a news article from a major publication (not an aggregator, blog, or opinion piece) published after **September 1, 2024**, and relate it to a course topic. You will describe the issues in your own words and explain how the course material connects to the article, incorporating a hand-drawn theoretical graph. Both your response and a physical copy of the article must be submitted before class on the due date. **No late responses will be accepted.** Article responses will be worth **10%** of your grade.
- **Participation:** Active class participation is encouraged for yourself as well as for our class. So, the instructor can provide incentive to those who actively participate in class. This incentive will be applied discretionally by the instructor.
- **Exams (60%):** There will be two exams. All tests will be conducted in the lecture hall. You will need a calculator for some of the questions on your tests. Please bring a simple 4-function or a scientific calculator to all your exams. Graphing calculators are *not* allowed in any of the exams in this course. **Your exams are collectively worth 60% of your grade; the midterm exam and the final exam are worth 30%, 30% each.** **Please note that cheat sheets or any other notes are not allowed during the exams.**

Tentative Schedule.

Below is a tentative schedule to help you plan ahead and think about course readings. More than likely the dates when we cover material will shift as we get behind or ahead, so I'll update you as these things change.

Week		Contents	Chapter
Week 1	9/25, 9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Syllabus & Introduction• Comparative advantage and trade	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
Week 2	10/2, 10/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply and Demand• Practice of Comparative advantage and trade	Ch. 3 Ch. 2
Week 3	10/9, 10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply and Demand• Elasticity	Ch. 3, Ch. 4
Week 4	10/16, 10/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficiency• Taxes, subsidies, and other interventions	Ch. 5 Ch. 6
Week 5	10/23, 10/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taxes, subsidies, and other interventions• Consumer Behavior	Ch. 6 Ch. 7
Week 6	10/30, 11/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Midterm (Ch. 1 - 6)• Externalities	Midterm exam (10/30) Ch. 1-7 Ch. 18
Week 7	11/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firms	Ch. 12
Week 8	11/13, 11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perfect Competition	Ch. 13
Week 9	11/20, 11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monopoly	Ch. 14
Week 10	11/27, 12/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monopolistic Competition• Review	Ch. 15
Week 11	12/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final exam <u>(6:30 – 8:20 PM on Dec 4)</u> <p>*The final exam will only cover material learned after the midterm</p>	Final exam (Dec 4) Ch. 12-15, 18

Grading.

The final grade will be curved. There is a (preliminary) grade scale on the basis of which we determine course grades. **The grading policy of the Department of Economics sets the upper boundary for the Median grade in principles of economics courses at 3.0.**

Academic Honesty.

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department's rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal for the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Students must not glance at their neighbors' exams. Students must not change their answers after they have turned their exam in.

Check the student handbook for further information about cheating, plagiarism etc. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the university. The Department of Economics will follow university policy in case of academic dishonesty. These rules complement/supplement the university rules, which can be found online.

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.](#)