

ECON 200 B

Winter 2022

Instructor: Ananya Diwakant	Time: TTH 14:30 – 16:20
Email: ananyadi@uw.edu	Place: MGH 241/Zoom

Course Pages:

1. Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1519957>
2. Zoom link for lectures: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98380347059>

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2pm or by appointment. My office hours will be on Zoom unless you specifically want to meet me in person. You are encouraged to use the office hours sign up sheet on our Canvas page. Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98022886794>

Main References: We will be using selections from the following textbook.

- Karlan, Dean and Jonathan Morduch, Microeconomics: Improve Your World. 3e, McGraw Hill.

You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework website (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled e-book 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. Reading the book is not a substitute for attending class.

Objectives: This course serves as an introduction to the principles of microeconomics, used to understand the behavior of individuals and firms operating in markets. Topics covered include opportunity cost, scarcity, gains from trade, efficiency, firms, market power, competition, supply and demand, market failure, and more.

Grading Policy: Homework Assignments (25%), Writing Assignments (15%), Exam 1 (30%), Exam 2 (30%).

Grades in this class will be curved so that the median student gets a grade point 2.9 - 3.0 . As such, it is impossible to guarantee a particular grading scale for this class, as the median may be above or below what it was in the past. I will give detailed information about the distribution of grades throughout the quarter, to try to help you understand how you are doing in the class.

- **Homework Assignments:** Short problem sets on MhConnect will be available, due at 11:59 PM Pacific Time on Tuesdays. These will be graded for correctness. You will get 2 attempts on each assignment and the best score will be considered for final grade.
- **Writing Assignments:** You will turn in two short writing assignments this quarter on **23rd January, 2022** and **27th February, 2022**. For each writing assignment, you will refer to a news article published since **1st January, 2022** and summarise the economic issues presented in the article using the tools and models taught in class. I will post some articles you may choose from on Canvas, or you may choose your own according to the following criteria: Websites for national, international, and local news sources are generally all acceptable. This includes print, television, and radio news (e.g. cnn.com or npr.org). The article should, however, be in English. No blog posts, encyclopedia entries, or opinion pieces will be accepted. You should use the topics covered before Exam 1 for writing assignment 1 and the topics covered after Exam 1 for writing assignment 2. The article should include at least one graph of the models we cover in class. These assignments will be graded both on completeness and correctness. Detailed rubric and a sample writing assignment will be available on Canvas.

- **Exams:** We will have 2 exams in this course. The first exam will be on 3rd February, 2022 and the second one on 10th March, 2022. The second exam is not cumulative. Both the exams will be in person during regular class time and will be 80 minutes long. If you cannot attend an exam, please contact me as soon as you are aware of the potential conflict. Failure to do so will likely impact your opportunity to makeup for the exam.

Course Policy:

- **2 lowest homework scores** (and this only applies to homework) will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. There is no other makeup policy for these assignments. In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework. If you have technical issues with MH Connect, please contact their tech support ASAP (and do not wait for me to respond). Sometimes it takes time to resolve these issues, so please do not start the homework the night it is due.
- You will be allowed makeup exams with an approved excuse. Makeup exams are only given under extreme circumstances. Please contact me as soon as you can to have your makeup exam scheduled. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances and I reserve the right to drop your exam score if we are not able to schedule a makeup exam that works for both of us.
- Late submissions (up to 7 days) on writing assignments will come with a 5% per day penalty unless approved by me.

Attendance Policy: In Econ 200 B, lectures will be offered live at the regularly scheduled class time. In general, the lectures will be offered in person and will not be recorded. In case of disruption, for example due to COVID and/or winter weather we will move to Zoom and the classes will be recorded. In any case, lecture slides will be available for viewing on Canvas. Writing assignments and homework assignments must be submitted remotely on Canvas, whereas in person attendance is mandatory for the exams. Since in-person lectures will not be recorded, students will not be able to complete the class remotely.

Accommodations: Should you require disability accommodations, please contact Disability Resources for Students at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924. 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 <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 at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Academic Misconduct: All students are expected to know and to abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies as defined at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/SPCH209.html#7> summarized at <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>. In particular, while you are encouraged to study with each other, all assignments for this course must be completed on one's own. Exams are closed-book must be completed without accessing outside information, whether from cheat sheets, cellphones, your computer, or other sources. Failure to abide by these policies is likely to result in failing this course, and may result in further sanctions as described by the policy. Should I believe that you cheated or plagiarized on an assignment, you will receive a "zero" grade on that assignment.

Table 1: Tentative Course Outline

Date	Topic	Reading
1/4	Introduction to Econ 200 B	Chapter 1
1/6	Comparative Advantage and Trade	Chapter 2
1/11	Demand	Chapter 3
1/13	Supply	Chapter 3
1/18	Elasticity	Chapter 4
1/20	Efficiency (Part 1)	Chapter 5
1/25	Efficiency (Part 2)	Chapter 5
1/27	Taxes, subsidies and other interventions	Chapter 6
2/1	Review	
2/3	Midterm: Chapters 1 – 6	
2/8	Trade	Chapter 17
2/10	Externalities	Chapter 18
2/15	Firms (Part 1)	Chapter 12
2/17	Firms (Part 2)	Chapter 12
2/22	Perfect Competition (Part 1)	Chapter 13
2/24	Perfect Competition (Part 2)	Chapter 13
3/1	Monopoly	Chapter 14
3/3	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 15
3/8	Review	
3/10	Final Exam: Chapters 12 – 15, 17, 18	
