

# Econ 200C Introduction to Microeconomics

Instructor: Wenqiu Ma

Office Hours: Mondays 10 am-12 pm will be held over Zoom

[https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtduGgqD8jHdRaklyaoeN\\_h8QKzLntZBH5](https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtduGgqD8jHdRaklyaoeN_h8QKzLntZBH5)

Class Meetings: Monday/Wednesday 1:30 – 3:20 PM in SIG 227 and

<https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkfumtrDwsEtWRTjcAu81372ShoPO3b3Xj> for the first week until further notice

Class Attendance: In person attendance not required except for exams

Class Questions: Questions about class material or course policies or procedures? 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.

## COVID-19 Information

- Please check frequently to find the most up to date guidance
- CDC Guidelines for Quarantine and Isolation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/yourhealth/quarantine-isolation.html> (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantineisolation.html>)
- UW Face Covering Policy: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-andresponse/face-covering-requirements> (<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-andresponse/face-covering-requirements>)
- UW Quarantine and Isolation Guidance: <https://ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-andresponse/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance> (<https://ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-preventionandresponse/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance>)

In ECON 200C, lectures will be offered in-person and via zoom. They will be recorded and made available for remote viewing. Office hours will be offered over Zoom. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas, but exams will be given in person. Students will only be able to complete the course fully remotely with an official DRS testing accommodation that requires remote testing. All other students can complete everything but the exams fully remotely.

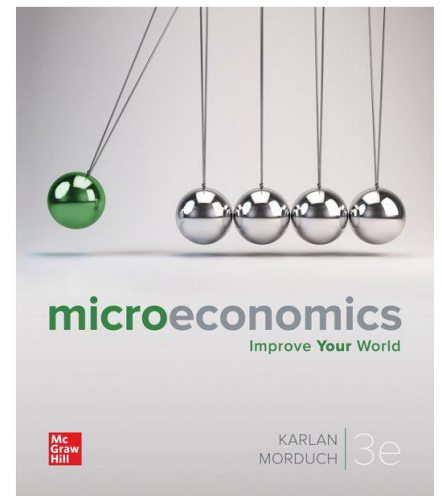
## Learning Objectives

- 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). 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.



## Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Exams (65%): midterm 25%, final 40%
- Homework (14%)
- Writing Assignments (21%)

Note: Canvas will not round grades and I will not round grades for individual students.

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+/-.

## Important Dates

- Homework is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Monday night except the Monday after Exam 1.
- Writing Assignments are due 01/23, 02/20, and 03/06 at 11:59 pm in Canvas. You may submit these up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty.
- Exams are 02/02 and 03/09. You will be expected to take your exams in-person during regular class time unless you have a documented disability accommodation for remote testing in place. These are non-cumulative exams.
- Makeup exams are only given under extreme circumstances and you should notify me the day of the exam if you need a makeup. There will be a makeup exam scheduled the week after the original exam that you will be expected to attend. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans, or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances, but suspected infection with COVID-19 is an extreme circumstance.

## Writing Assignments

You will submit three written assignments over the quarter. For each, you will find a news article from a major newspaper or periodical (either in its physical format or online incarnation) that 1) was written since the beginning of the quarter (Jan 3, 2022), and 2) relates to a course topic taught after the previous

response was due. We will not accept blogs or opinion pieces, even if they are hosted on news sites, or encyclopedia-style web postings.

You must describe, in your own words, the issues presented in the article, and then summarize how the material taught in class explains the information, events, or phenomenon in the article. This economic explanation must relate to a theoretical graph (one with some sort of equilibrium, like Supply and Demand, the PPF, etc). The graph must be drawn and included in your response. Your graph does not need numbers, but should be carefully labeled.

Your paper should be no more than two pages long, including your graph. You must submit a saved or scanned copy of the article along with your assignment. Hyperlinks are not an acceptable substitute. Writing assignments without source material will not be accepted. Points will be deducted if you don't do this - no exceptions.

Papers will be evaluated out of 5 points. Points are given for:

- Appropriateness of article and topic chosen
- Clear and correct summary
- Clear and correct economic explanation
- Clear, well-labeled, and correct graph

We expect the median grade to be 4 out of 5 points. You will not receive higher than 3.5 points if one of these elements is missing.

Notice: The University has a license agreement with Vericite, an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism from internet resources. By participating in this course, you are granting permission to Vericite and your instructor to evaluate your work using this software. The Vericite report received by your instructor will indicate the amount of original text in your work and whether all material that you quoted, paraphrased, summarized, or used from another source is appropriately referenced.

Places to look for news articles online for example:

- Nexis Uni
- Proquest
- Others

(All links can be found here: <http://guides.lib.washington.edu/news/enews> (Links to an external site.))

Note: No blog posts, Wikipedia or other “encyclopedia” entries. Also, remember the article must be published on or after January 3, 2022.

Useful guide from Turnitin about forms of plagiarism:

[http://turnitin.com/assets/en\\_us/media/plagiarism\\_spectrum.php](http://turnitin.com/assets/en_us/media/plagiarism_spectrum.php) (Links to an external site.)

There is a sample article in Canvas -> File to give you an idea of what I expect. It is not perfect, so please don't feel that you have to copy me in every detail to get a good grade. You will see that I drew the graph in word using Insert -> Shapes. It's pretty easy if you use lots of cut and paste. I saved the file as a pdf so that the picture would not be moved or changed when it was opened in a different version of word.

Another option would be to save your drawing as a picture from a different program or hand draw it and snap a pic with your phone. Then you can insert the picture into your word file.

## **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 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).

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 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.

## **Class Rules and Additional Details**

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

The class will mainly be conducted via synchronous instruction. However, attendance is not required and you may view the classes live or at a later. There will be Smartbook activities associated with the daily assigned readings (I assign 1-2 chapters per week) and you should plan to read the chapter before we discuss it in lecture. Each week, a problem set associated with the readings and lectures will be assigned as homework and due the following Monday at 11:59 pm.

### **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 please use this policy sparingly. In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework. 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 makeup 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**

Properly worn masks are required at all times in my class, even while speaking. Food and drink are not permitted, with the exception of brief sips of water. There are no exceptions to these rules and you will be asked to leave if you cannot follow them.

In the interest of public safety, you are encouraged to take advantage of the class recordings and forgo live class attendance whenever possible. I want to make it especially clear that there will be no penalties for missing class when you are sick, especially if you suspect that you may have COVID.

As much as I would enjoy spending time with you in-person, I don't feel that spending 2+ hours per week with over 500 people is a safe choice at this time, even with masks and vaccines (but please wear your mask and get vaccinated). Personally, I have unvaccinated children who are both vulnerable to COVID and who would need to miss over two weeks of in-person school if I were to contract COVID. However, I am also concerned about our entire university community, including your roommates and family members, as well as the community of people that lives and works near the UW. If you ever have a concern that you might be at risk of spreading COVID to others, please stay home and especially stay away from large gatherings such as this class.

### **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) (<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/religiousaccommodations-policy/>) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodationspolicy/>).

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/>).