

ECON 200 E: Introduction to Microeconomics

Winter 2022

Instructor: Cheng Chen

Time: MWF 11:30 – 12:20, on Zoom
T & TR, Watch Recordings on Canvas

Email: cchen09@uw.edu

Place: Smith Hall (SMI) 404*

We are going to adopt a hybrid teaching model for ECON 200 E: The lectures will be offered in “**open classroom mode**”. They will be livestreamed via Zoom and recorded synchronously. **Recordings will be made available for remote viewing.** Students are highly encouraged to watch the livestreamed lectures and ask questions via Zoom chat. If some students strongly prefer to meet in person, they can gather with laptops/tabulates in the assigned classroom to take the class together on Zoom, while others meet remotely.

We are going to have two non-cumulative exams, and you are expected to attend the exam **in person** at SMI 404.

- Livestreamed lectures on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- Pre-recorded lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Course Pages:

- <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1519972>

Office Hours: Wednesday 10 – 11 am & Friday 1 pm – 2 pm

I am also available by email, and if you want to schedule office hours at a different time or schedule a Zoom meeting, please just let me know. Please wear a mask if you come to my in-person office hour.

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

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

We will be utilizing the *MH Connect* tools associated with this text for several assignments. This software comes with a digital copy of the text. A **free trial** of the MH Connect software and the digital text is available **for the first two weeks of 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 and in other strategic interactions. Topics covered include opportunity cost, scarcity, preferences and decision making,

gains from trade, social preferences, institutions, efficiency, firms, market power, competition, supply and demand, labor markets, market failure, and more.

Grading Policy: Problem Sets (30%), Essay (10%), Exam 1 (30%), Exam 2 (30%). Grades in this class will be curved so that the **median student gets a grade point between 2.8 and 3.1**. 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.

Problem Sets: Short problem sets will be available on Canvas/MH Connect **each week**, due at 11:59 PM Pacific Time on Sundays. These will be graded for correctness, but the **two** lowest scores will be dropped from your grade. Late homework will **NOT** be accepted.

Essay: You will turn in one short essay this quarter. You need to find a news article from a major news source (newspaper or magazine, either online or print) that was published since **Jan. 1st, 2021** and related to some topic **taught in class**. You should describe the economic issue presented within the article, and explain it using what you have learned in class. You should include at least one graph as part of your explanation. The paper should be no more than two pages long, including the graph, and you must submit a copy of the article along with your essay. Grades will be based on how well you relate the article to course material, how clearly and correctly you summarize the issue at hand, how clearly and correctly you explain the economics behind the topic, and the clarity and correctness of your graph.

Important Dates:

- Homework (weekly) is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Sunday night except the Sunday after exam 1.
- Essay is due Jan 30th at 11:59 pm in Canvas.
- Exam 1 is on Feb. 2nd, 11:30 am – 12:20 pm
- Exam 2 is on Mar. 9th, 11:30 am – 12:50 pm.
- You are expected to attend **both exams in-person**. They are non-cumulative exams.

Need Help?

- You can receive free tutoring from the Department of Economics (via the Economics Undergraduate Board) and we will have a CLUE session for this class.

Attendance Policy: Due to safety concerns, the lectures will be livestreamed on Zoom, and you are highly encouraged to watch the lectures live, asking questions via the chat. You may also attend in person if you must, but should email me before you do so. The lectures will also be recorded, and you may prefer to watch the finished recordings, but it is your responsibility to keep up with the class throughout the quarter.

Exams will be **in person**. More information will be provided later. Makeup exams are only given under extreme circumstances, **please contact me as soon as you are aware of the potential conflict** (Emails must be sent at least before the exam starts). Exceptions will be made

for health, religious, and academic reasons, and accommodations may be possible for those with other challenges. Work schedules or travel plans are **NOT** considered extreme circumstances.

Late MH Connect assignments will **NOT** be accepted. Essay can be turned in **up to one week late**, with **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).

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 [Religious Accommodations Policy](#). Accommodations must be requested **within the first two weeks** of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](#).

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 Outline

Weeks	Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	01/03 – 01/07	- Introduction - Comparative advantage and Trade	Chapter 1 & 2	HW1: Chapter 1 & 2
Week 2	01/10 – 01/14	- Markets: Demand - Markets: Supply	Chapter 2 & 3	HW2: Chapter 2 & 3
Week 3	01/18 – 01/21 *No class on Monday	- Elasticity - Efficiency	Chapter 4 & 5	HW3: Chapter 4 & 5
Week 4	01/24 – 01/28	- Efficiency - Government interventions (Taxes, Subsidies)	Chapter 5 & 6	HW4: Chapter 5 & 6 Essay
Week 5	01/31 – 02/04	- Exam Review - Exam 1	Chapters 1 - 6	No Homework
Week 6	02/07 – 02/11	- Trade in Open Market - Externalities	Chapter 17 & 18	HW5: Chapter 17 & 18
Week 7	02/14 – 02/18	- Production	Chapter 12	HW6: Chapter 12
Week 8	02/22 – 02/25 *No class on Monday	- Perfect competition	Chapter 13	HW7: Chapter 13
Week 9	02/28 – 03/04	- Monopoly - Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 14 & 15	HW8: Chapter 14 & 15
Week 10	03/07 – 03/09	- Exam 2 Review - Exam 2	Chapters 12 – 15, 17, 18	