



ECON300B

2022 Winter

Instructor

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Email

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Class Schedule

MW 830-950A in-person CMU230
One-hour weekly recording online

Course Description

Welcome to the intermediate microeconomics class! Different from introductory microeconomics, which explains economics phenomenon with mainly graphical presentations and high-level intuitions, this course aims to connect the big ideas with technical details. We analyze changes in the behavior of individuals and firms in response to changes in the constraints they face, usually the constraints of budgets, prices, and input costs. The course will stress applications of elementary economic theory to real-world problems and issues. Analytical reasoning and mathematical modeling based on fundamental principles are underlined throughout. It is not a class in which you can succeed by just memorizing a set of facts. Experience dictates that practice is critical.

In ECON 300B, lectures will be offered in a **hybrid** form. Our class will be divided into two parts: (1) In-person lectures, 80 minutes, on each Monday and Wednesday morning from 8:30-9:50am. (2) A weekly video that will be released on Canvas. In-person classes, unfortunately, will **not** be recorded as the classroom is not equipped with recording devices. Office hours will be offered online. Exam will be given in-person. Students will **not** be able to complete the entire class remotely.

Prerequisite:

Econ 200 and any one of Math 112, 124, or 134. We will make frequent use of calculus methods, most often optimizing an objective function by finding the zero of its first derivative, subject to certain constraints. We will make extensive use of 2-dimensional graphs, both to visualize the solutions found via calculus/algebra, and as a solution method in themselves. If you have not taken any calculus classes, I **strongly** recommend you return to this class another quarter.

Course Materials

Required Text

Intermediate Economics: A Modern Approach by Hal R Varian (9th edition)

Grading Policy

Your final grade will have four components – weekly homework, two midterms and one group presentation. Your grade will be **curved**.

1. Weekly homework:

You are required to finish one weekly homework starting from the second week of the quarter. Each homework will worth 10 points. Homework may ask you about lecture material as well as required readings. In most cases,



homework will be given on canvas. That said, there will be graphing and relatively complicated optimization questions that will require you to put your thoughts on paper and upload an e-version onto canvas. Some homework questions will be graded on completion. Lowest homework will be dropped.

Subject	Percentage	Schedule
Presentation(brownbag)	20%	Last 1-2 classes
Midterm1	30%	Jan.31 st
Midterm2	30%	Mar.9 th
Homework	20%	Weekly

2. Midterms:

Midterm 1 will cover the first half of the class, and midterm 2 the second. You will be given midterms in person during class time. I ask for a **7-day notice** if you need online accommodation and a letter to explain why you would need this accommodation. **No makeups will be given.**

3. Presentation:

You will need to form a group to give a presentation on either one of the topics provided or topic of your choice. Group size and presentation time will be decided in the second week of the quarter. Your presentation will be peer-reviewed. That means, everyone in the class (except your team members) will give you a score from 0 to 10. Note that **all team members will get identical scores.**

$$\text{Presentation Score} = 80\% \times \text{Average score from classmates} + 20\% \times \text{score from instructor}$$

Your presentation will be recorded and share with your group only. Watching your own recordings is a great way of improving your presentation skills, which is crucial in any field of social science. I may schedule group meetings to talk over your presentation few days before. More details will be provided on canvas.

Re-grading Policy

If you need me to re-grade your work, please let me know in 7 days after the grade release. **All grades after one week are considered final.**

Useful Resources

1. Academic Integrity: <https://econ.washington.edu/policy-academic-conduct>
2. Undergraduate tutoring resources and others: <https://econ.washington.edu/resources-students>