



ECON 300 F: Intermediate Microeconomics Winter 2022

Last updated: December 23, 2021

Course Summary

In ECON 300 F, we are adopting a hybrid learning model. Lectures will be made available as pre-recorded materials and will not be given in-person. Office hours will be offered in-person and remote. Exams and quizzes will be given in-person. An in-person problem solving session will be held almost weekly to reinforce material in preparation for assessments and homework. These will not be recorded, however the answers will be posted afterwards with recordings from previous quarters.

Instructor

Name: Jorge Rivero

Email: jrivero@uw.edu

Office: SAV 319C and [Zoom Office](#)

Office Hours:

- W 3:30 PM – 4:20 PM PST @ SAV 319C and
- W 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM PST @ SMI 405

Course Information

Room: SMI 405

Times:

- Lectures videos are posted weekly on Friday
- Problem solving sessions: W 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM PST

Website: Canvas

Required Materials

- Textbook: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus* (4th edition) by Jeffrey M. Perloff, ISBN 9780134472751
- MyLab Economics: required for online homework, click [here](#) to learn how to connect.
- (Optional) Scanner application on your phone to submit exams and quizzes

Prerequisites

ECON 200 *and* any one of the following: MATH 112, 123, or 134.

We will make frequent use of algebra and differential calculus.

Course Overview

In ECON 200 and other introductory courses in microeconomics, students learned the basics of microeconomics– the study of how households, firms, and the government make decisions and how they interact with each other. This course was focused on developing fundamental intuition to evaluate economic situations and provide answers to some economic and policy questions. The primary tool was the simple supply and demand model where students analyzed the outcome or equilibrium of markets: comparative statics and efficiency, and the effects competition and the government have on the equilibrium (economic outcomes).

For this course, students will be exposed to the methods that economists use to build mathematical models that, for example, lead to the simple supply and demand model used in ECON 200. Because of the detail down to the simplest components of the models we will see, we will be afforded with more insight on the decision making and interaction of economic agents. Another important skill developed in this class is the ability to impart economic meaning and conclusions to all of the equations and graphs that are part of the model. That is, despite the increased mathematical rigor of the model, it is still important to think of the economics.

This is an intermediate course in microeconomic theory and incorporates calculus throughout. We will analyze changes in the behavior of individuals and firms in response to changes in the constraints they face: their budget, prices, and input costs. Analytic reasoning and mathematical modeling based on fundamental principles are underlined throughout. Success in the class not only depends on knowledge of facts, but also the process of discovering new facts through the models we encounter.

A. Topics

- Introduction, math review, ECON 200 review (Chapter 2)
- Consumer choice and demand theory (Chapters 3–4)
- Theory of the firm (Chapters 6–7)
- Perfect competition (Chapter 8)
- Monopolies (Chapter 11)
- Game theory, monopolistic competition, oligopolies (Chapters 13–14)

B. Lectures

Lectures will be delivered via recordings posted weekly on [Canvas](#). I will typically post lectures each week on Friday that covers material for the following week.

Students are encouraged to email me questions, attend office hours, or contact me to set up an appointment if they have any questions.

C. Problem solving sessions

Every Wednesday (not counting weeks when there are exams or quizzes) from 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM PST, I will host a live 60 minute problem-solving session. I will select problems from the online homework and

ungraded problem sets and go over step-by-step how to solve them. Attendance is not required, but recordings of these sessions will *not* be available. Instead, transcripts of the session and recordings of previous quarter's sessions will be posted and will generally follow the problems I go over.

Grading

Due to extraordinary circumstances, I reserve the right to change the following: the number of exams, quizzes, and homework and their weighting.

Access to a scanner or device that takes high quality pictures is recommended to submit all exams and quizzes on Canvas to get feedback as soon as possible.

Grades will be based on 2 quizzes, 8 (almost weekly) online homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The breakdown is as follows:

- 2 quizzes: 20%
- MyLab Online Homeworks: 15%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 35%

A. Exams

Exams will be based on the lectures, online homework, and any additional ungraded practice problems I share. The final is **cummulative**.

Exam Schedule:

- Midterm Exam: February 9th at 4:30 PM PST @ SMI 405
- Final Exam: March 14th at 4:30 PM PST @ SMI 405

Rules and facts: (*subject to change*).

- Exams will be held in class on Wednesdays.
- You will be allowed a simple scientific calculator.
- Without a valid excuse, missing exams will result in a score of zero. Valid excuses include documented illnesses by a medical professional, bereavement, etc.

B. Quizzes

There will be two quizzes each based on material between the quiz date and the last assessment (quiz or exam). I will formally announce the material you will be quizzed on beforehand. The quizzes are meant to be short and to provide feedback before the exams. Like exams, quizzes are based on lectures, online homework, and additional ungraded practice problems.

Quiz Schedule:

- Quiz 1: January 26th at 4:30 PM PST @ SMI 405
- Quiz 2: March 2nd at 4:30 PM PST @ SMI 405

C. Online Homework

The online homework will be submitted on MyLab, which is part of the digital or bundled purchase of the textbook– information to connect is on [Canvas on the discussion board](#).

Homework will generally be due every week on Wednesday before 11:59:59 PM PST. You will have two tries for every homework problem and, if there are multiple parts, you will have two tries for each part. The online homework is meant to take between 30 minutes and 2 hours a week and serves to check your basic understanding of the lecture.

The lowest homework score will be dropped. The final homework grade will be the average of all of the homework scores without including the lowest score.

D. Ungraded problem sets

I will assign (almost) weekly problem sets that are not graded along with their answer key. Completing these problem sets and making sure you understand solutions is critical to success on quizzes and exams. I may pull problems from these sets to present in the problem-solving sessions.

E. Department policy and assigning grades

This is subject to change.

The department of economics has adopted a set of grading guidelines for ECON 300. The median grade assigned must be no more than a 3.1 and a normal class will have a median grade between 2.8 and 3.0. You can expect if you have been consistently scoring the median raw score across your assignments to receive a grade between 2.8 and 3.0, and if the class does exceptionally well then you can expect a 3.1.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date format is Month/Day.

Canvas is the final authority over due dates.

Weeks	Goals
Week 1 January 3 – January 7	Syllabus MyLabs set-up Math Review, Chapters 2-3
Week 2 January 10 – January 14	Chapter 3 HW 1 due 01/12
Week 3 January 17 – January 21	Chapters 3-4 HW 2 due 01/19
Week 4 January 24 – January 28	Chapter 4-6 Quiz 1 01/26 HW 3 due 01/26
Week 5 January 31 – February 4	Chapters 6-7 HW 4 due 02/02
Week 6 February 7 – February 11	Midterm Exam 02/09 HW 5 due 02/09
Week 7 February 14 – February 18	Chapter 7-8
Week 8 February 21 – February 25	Chapter 11-13 HW 6 due 02/23
Week 9 February 28 – March 4	Chapter 13-14 Quiz 2 03/02 HW 7 due 03/02
Week 10 March 7 – 11	Chapter 14 HW 8 due 03/09
Finals Week March 14 – 18	Final Exam 03/14 HW 9 due 03/16

Academic Honesty

1. Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Looking at another student's exam is considered cheating. If a student is seen committing this act, they will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct on campus for a hearing. A student who may be facilitating the act of cheating will be also referred to the same office.
2. Altering an exam before submitting it for a review of the grading, obtaining an advance copy of an examination, or arranging for a surrogate test-taker are all flagrant violations of university policy. Again, a student suspected of this act may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

3. Altering an exam after being graded and then soliciting an adjustment of the exam grade is also a violation of university policy and students who attempt this will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. A formal warning: a copy of each exam will be saved before being distributed back to students.
4. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the university. The department will follow university policy in case of academic misconduct. I strongly recommend that you review the Dept. of Economics policy [here](#).

Students found having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions, which range from a disciplinary warning to permanent expulsion from the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct.

Accessibility and Accommodations

If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include, but not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uw-drs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu.

DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s), and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Religious Accommodations

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 Faculty Syllabus Guidelines and Resources. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Statement Against Discrimination and Harrassment

Please follow the UW Student Conduct Code in your interactions with your fellow students and myself in this course by respecting the many social and cultural differences among us, which may include, but are not limited to: age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender identity and presentation, citizenship and immigration status, national origin, race, religious and political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status.