

ECON 200D: Introduction to Microeconomics
Autumn 2016
Lecture: MW 1:30-3:20 pm CDH 105

Instructor:

Luigi Briglia
Email: lbriglia@uw.edu

Office: SAV 319A
OH: TTh 1:30-2:30 pm

Course Website

Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1064541>

I will use the website to disseminate information about the class. This course also requires access to MyEconLab, a link and instructions for signing up can be found on the course website under the “MyLab and Mastering” tab.

Course Description

Economics is the study of choices made under constraints, usually the constraints of budgets, prices, and input costs. In this class, you will learn not only a set of tools for analyzing economic markets at the “micro” or individual level, but a way of thinking about human decision making and choices in the face of scarcity. Topics covered include consumer demand, production, exchange, the price system, resource allocation, and government intervention, but “economic thinking” can be applied to most social and political issues. This is not a class in which you can succeed by memorizing a set of facts. You must use the tools we will develop to explain why households and firms act the way they do.

Course Objectives

Fundamental Knowledge:

- Understand and be able to use microeconomic terminology
- Evaluate that the highest-valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of what is chosen
- Analyze how individuals and firms make themselves as well off as possible in a world of scarcity
- Explain how prices inform the decisions about which goods and services to produce, how to produce them, and who gets them
- Measure how government policies and different institutional arrangements affect the allocation of resources in an economy

Application:

- Use microeconomic principles to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena
- Critique the economic content of articles or presentations

Textbook & Readings

The required text for this course is R. Glenn Hubbard and Anthony Patrick O'Brien's Microeconomics, 6th edition*. Daily reading assignments are posted on the class website. Students are expected to have done the assigned reading before class.

Study Groups

You should form a study group with 2-3 fellow students. Exchange contact information and plan to get together with these students throughout the quarter to work through the homework assignments and prepare for the exams. Your study group should also be your first resource for notes and information when you miss class.

Need Additional Help?

[CLUE](#) has Drop-In Tutoring for Economics on Sun, Tues & Thurs from 7pm to midnight at MGH 1st Floor Commons. The economics department also has tutoring ([EUB](#)). Please see the class website for schedules.

Grading

Homework 10% (due every Sunday by midnight)

Quizzes 20%

Midterm 35%

Final exam 35%

Grades are typically not curved in this class. You will receive percentage points for every assignment and your class average and a grading guideline for the class can be viewed in Canvas. From previous experience, I expect that the median grade for this course will be between 2.8 and 3.1.

Homework

Working problems is an essential part of learning economics. To give you practice in working problems, I will assign weekly problem sets. You may work on these assignments with your study groups, but make sure you know how to do each problem yourself from start to finish. **Weekly assignments can be found in your MyEconLab page (accessible through Canvas) and will be due every Sunday at midnight.** You will be given two chances to get the right answer, with your final score being your best of the two tries. The lowest HW score will be dropped. This policy is designed to accommodate the occasional illness or technical difficulty. No other make-ups or extra time will be given.

Exams and Quizzes

There will be two quizzes, one midterm and one final exam. For the exams and quizzes scheduling please refer to page 4. Exams and quizzes will be graded for clarity and accuracy. Please mark your final answer and clearly show the steps that you took to arrive at that answer. If you make any assumptions, state them up front. There will be no early exams and no make-up exams given without a doctor's note or an excused absence for participation in university athletics. If you miss the final exam due to unexpected circumstances (accident, injury...) and with verifiable documentation, you may receive an incomplete grade. Otherwise you will receive a grade of zero for the final exam. There will also be no "cheat sheets" and no graphing calculators or internet-capable devices allowed in exams. Please buy or borrow a simple calculator for this class if you do not already have one.

Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged. If you miss class or section, please speak to someone in your study group to get the notes and consult the class website for important announcements as well as lecture notes. See the policy above for missed exams and other assignments.

No Laptop Policy

Due to the distraction created for other students (and me!), I have a no laptop policy while I am lecturing.

Disability Accommodations

Please contact me as soon as possible if you have a documented disability and need accommodations. Information for documenting your disability can be found here: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>

Student Athletes

Please approach me as soon as possible if you will be missing any important dates for this course due to your athletic activities, especially exams. You should have official documentation of these dates.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Cheating is unfair to your fellow students and annoying to me. I can, and will, pursue the strictest of disciplinary actions against anyone caught cheating. Please see the Department of Economics full statement on cheating on the last page.

Course Outline

Please consult the course website for a complete reading list. Remember, you are expected to have read each assignment before class.

Part I: Markets (Weeks 1-5)

1. Introduction to Economic Thinking and the Market System (Chapters 1 & 2)
2. Market Equilibrium: Combining Supply and Demand (Chapter 3)
3. Elasticity and Market Responsiveness (Chapter 6)
4. Economic Efficiency and Market Interventions (Chapter 4)
5. Gains from Trade (Chapter 9)
6. Externalities (Chapter 5)

Quiz 1: Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 1:30-2:30 pm, CDH 105

Midterm: Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 1:30-3-20 pm, CDH 105

Part II: Foundations of Microeconomics (Weeks 6-11)

1. Consumer Choice (Chapter 10)
2. Firms and Production (Chapter 11)
3. Market Structure: Perfect Competition, Monopoly and Oligopoly (Chapters 12, 15, 14)

Quiz 2: Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 1:30-2:30 pm, CDH 105

Final: Monday, December 12, 2016, 2:30-4:20 pm, CDH 105

**University of Washington
Department of Economics**

Examination rules

1. Material allowed during a closed book exam:

i. All books, papers, notebooks etc. must be placed inside your bag (backpack etc.) and the bag must be securely and fully closed. If you do not have a bag, you must place all your material out of your reach (classroom window sill etc.)

ii. Only keep writing tools and **basic calculators** (i.e. simple 4-functions calculators). Graphing calculators or calculators with memories will not be allowed. **Sharing of calculators is not permitted.**

iii. **Cellular phones** must be turned off before entering the class and placed in your closed bag (not in your pocket). You are not allowed to use a cellular phone during an exam. Doing so will result in the termination of your exam time (your exam being taken from you at this point). Likewise **ipads** or **ipods** (or similar devices) are not allowed. The use of **personal computers** is not allowed during an exam.

iv. Baseball caps with visors and any kinds of **headgear** hiding your eyes are not permitted.

2. Attendance and special accommodation:

i. You are expected **not to leave the room** during the exam except in case of emergency. This includes restroom use; be sure to use the restroom before the beginning of the exam. If you must leave the room, you will be asked to leave your phone with the instructor while you are gone.

ii. If you arrive **late** to an exam, you cannot expect to get extra time after the official end of the exam to make up for the missing time at the beginning.

iii. If you have a **documented disability**, please show your instructor your documentation from the Office of Disability Resources for Students on the first day of class, so that your instructor can make all the necessary arrangements if you wish to take your exam in a separate place.

Academic Honesty

1. Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Looking at a neighbor's exam is considered cheating. If a student is seen committing this act, they will not be allowed to continue taking their exam. The neighbor sitting next to the student will also be duly punished if they are seen as facilitating this act of cheating.

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.

3. 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 University policy at

<http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/help/academichonesty.php>

Students found to have 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.