

Course Syllabus

Econ 200A Introduction to Microeconomics

Instructor: Khashayar Pourtaheri

Office Hours: Tuesday 12 -1 pm Zoom or in my office at Savery 403/ with 24 hours previous notice

Class Meetings: Monday/Wednesday 6:30-8:20 am in SMI 404

Class Questions: 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.

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 ebook 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 (60%)
- Homework (15% - Two lowest dropped)
- Participation Quiz (25% - 8 Quizzes, three lowest dropped, no makeup option)
- Participation bonus (5% - For max three students who answer most of the questions in class)

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

- Daily assigned readings should be completed before class. You do not need to submit anything to prove you did the reading.
 - Homework is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Wednesday night except the Wednesday after Exam 1.
 - Exams are Jan 31 and March 13, 2023. You will be expected to take your exam live and in person during the scheduled class time. 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. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans, or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances, but infection with COVID-19 is an extreme circumstance.
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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 one hour of in-person or Zoom office hours per week, and you should make frequent use of them. Please just send me an email to set it based on the number of students who want to participate each week. You can also receive free tutoring from the Department of Economics (via the Economics Undergraduate Board).

There will be a CLUE session for this class, details TBA when available.

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

Class meets twice per week. Each week, there will be 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 and **Three** lowest class quiz participation scores will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. This is my main makeup policy for these assignments, so you do not need to request a make-up or extension for these assignments (and in fact, none will be granted). In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework or class participation. 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.

COVID-19 Safety

This is a large class with a lot of people. I strongly encourage you to wear a high-quality mask in my class, especially during exams. In the interest of public health and safety, you are encouraged to take advantage of the class recordings and forgo live class attendance whenever you are ill or suspect you may have COVID.

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 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 \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/)Links to an external site.. 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/)Links to an external site..