

Econ 300 B: Intermediate Microeconomics

Winter 2016

Instructor: Justin Downs

Lecture: MW 8:30-10:20, Sieg 227

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Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Prerequisites

Econ 200; one of Math 112, 124, 127, 134, 145

Required Materials

Text: "Microeconomics" 7th Edition, Jeffrey M. Perloff

Topics

1. Consumer Choice
2. Decisions under Uncertainty
3. Theory of the Firm
4. General Equilibrium and the Price System
5. Game Theory
6. Oligopoly
7. Asymmetric Information

Learning Goals

1. Develop a basic knowledge of the mathematical tools used in economics, primarily constrained optimization.
2. Use these tools to foster a deeper understanding of the principles of microeconomics, including the foundation of consumer demand, production choices, market equilibrium, market structure, and strategic interactions.
3. Learn how these tools and models can be applied to make predictions about real world behavior and assess the usefulness and/or relevance of policy

Reading

Reading is assigned in a way that it will **prepare** you for the lectures. As such, you will often be reading about a topic **before** we cover it in class. The date given is the date by which the assigned reading should be completed.

1. Consumer Choice: Chapters 4, 5.1-3, Appendix 4 **(1/9)**
2. General Equilibrium: Chapter 10 **(1/18)**
3. Uncertainty: Chapter 17 **(1/30)**
4. Theory of the Firm: Chapters 6, 7.1-3, 8.2, Appendix 6, 7, 8B **(2/8)**
5. Game Theory: Chapter 14 **(2/27)**
6. Oligopoly: Chapter 13, Appendix 13 **(3/6)**

Grading

Homework - 30% - There will be **6** homework assignments, given roughly every 2-3 lectures. Of the **6** assignments, the one with the lowest score will be dropped so that **5** assignments contribute to the final grade.

Exams - 35% each - There will be **2** exams, one in class on Monday, 2/6 and the other on Tuesday, 3/14, which is the time scheduled by the University for the final exam. While it's *possible* (though improbable) that the first exam may be moved, the second exam **will not** be rescheduled under any circumstances.

The Department of Economics at UW requires that the median GPA for all undergraduate economics courses fall within the range of **2.8-3.1**. A student who receives a median grade on every assignment can expect a final GPA somewhere in that range.

Student Athletes

Student athletes who have conflicts with attending any lecture or submitting any assignment should submit a list of such conflicts along with a letter from the athletics department by **Monday, January 9**. I will reasonably accommodate any student athlete who follows this guideline.

Academic Accommodations

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. For information or to request disability accommodation contact: Disability Resources for Students (Seattle campus, matriculated students) at (206) 543-8924/V, (206) 543-8925/TTY, (206) 616-8379 (FAX), or e-mail at uwdss@uw.edu

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department's rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal for the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

Behavior that constitutes academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating on exams or quizzes (copying answers from others, using unauthorized materials, a student not taking their own quiz/exam, etc.), copying homework answers, and plagiarism.

Miscellaneous

No laptops or tablets will be allowed for note-taking in class. This rule is to prevent students from distracting themselves and others with "non-class-related" uses of these devices, as well as to encourage detailed note-taking.

No calculators will be needed for exams. Questions will be written in such a way that all calculations can reasonably be completed by hand in the allotted time.

Students are **strongly** encouraged to ask questions and foster discussion in class. These questions and discussions are useful in helping us all understand economics better.

The text and lectures are considered complementary. That is, a student will be most successful in this class when using both, rather than one or the other. Some material in the text will not be covered in lecture, and some material from lecture is not available in the text.