

Economics 200A: Introduction to Microeconomics

University of Washington, Summer 2019

Instructor: Victoria (Ziqi) Hang

Class Time and Location: MTWThF 8:30-9:30 AM, ART 317

Course Office Hours: TBA

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Website: Canvas.uw.edu

Course Description

Economists in general agree with the following proposition: Economics is not a field of study of something particular. Rather, it is a set of tools and concepts that can be applied to understand a great number of phenomena in the economic and social sphere. We use the tools of the science of economics to study why and how things change when a relevant factor or force—that shapes the phenomenon under study—changes. Introduction to Microeconomics introduces the students to the basic theory of the consumer and of the firm. We first analyze the role that constraints and scarcity play on the optimal decision-making process and how the interaction between the two affects the market outcome. We then extend the framework by introducing the role of government/taxation to solve problems of market failure or markets that fail to achieve some desired outcome. Additionally, we will focus our attention on different firm types and their associated behaviors.

Course Objectives

1. Fundamental Knowledge
 - Understand and be able to use microeconomic terminology
 - Understand that the highest-valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of what is chosen
 - Understand how individuals and firms make themselves as well off as possible in a world of scarcity
 - Understand how prices inform the decisions about which goods and services to produce, how to produce them, and who gets them
 - Understand how government policies affect the allocation of resources in a market economy
 - Understand how market structure influences the allocation of resources
2. Application
 - Use microeconomic principles to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena – under a competitive market structure
 - Use elements of game theory to explain the strategic choices of individuals or organizations
 - Critique the economic content of articles or presentations
 - Appreciate the usefulness of economic reasoning in personal decision making

Course Textbook(s)

Principles of Microeconomics (8th ed.), by N. Gregory Mankiw (main text)

Essentials of Economics (6th ed.), by R. Glenn Hubbard & Tony O'Brien (recommended reference)

Weekly reading assignments are posted on the class website. Students are expected to do the assigned reading before class.

Grading

The Department has adopted a set of grading guidelines for ECON 200. The upper median grade for ECON 200 should be no higher than 3.1.

Participation:	5%
Homework:	10%
Midterm 1:	20%
Midterm 2:	30%
Final Exam:	35%

Homework

Homework will be posted on Canvas. **Print out my PDF. Complete and submit the printed PDF.** Homework submitted otherwise or late submission will **not** be accepted. Due dates are on the assignments. Working out problems is an essential part of learning economics. To give you practice in working problems, I will assign weekly (or bi-weekly) homework. They will be graded for completion and correctness. I will pick a subset of questions to grade each time.

Participation

Participation is how you learn in the class. It helps me gauge the level of understanding of the material in the classroom setting. Your participation in the class will be graded and worth 5% of your overall grade. Participation includes answering questions in class, participating in classroom discussions and asking questions in class.

Exams

There will be **two** 1-hour midterm exams and **one** final exam. All the exams will be cumulative due to the nature of the course material. **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 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 during exams. Please only use a simple scientific calculator. Each of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Your exam grade depends on the *quality* of your answer. That is, your grade will be determined based on your use of appropriate conceptual framework, the precision of your logical explanation and conclusion. **Please box your final answer and clearly show the steps.** If you make any assumptions, state them up front.

Study Groups

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

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.

Week 1	6/24 - 6/28	Intro to Economics Supply/Demand +Market	
Week 2	7/1 - 7/5	Elasticity Price Controls & Related Markets	HW1 Due on 7/2 7/4: University Holiday
Week 3	7/8 - 7/12	Theory of the Consumer Theory of the Supplier	HW2 Due on 7/12
Week 4	7/15 - 7/19	Market Efficiency Taxation	7/15: Midterm 1
Week 5	7/22 - 7/26	Transaction costs Externalities	HW3 Due on 7/23
Week 6	7/29 - 8/2	Cost of Production Competitive Markets	HW4 Due on 8/2
Week 7	8/5 - 8/9	Monopoly Monopolistic Competition	8/5: Midterm 2
Week 8	8/12 - 8/16	Oligopoly Game Theory	HW5 Due on 8/16
Week 9	8/19 - 8/23	Game Theory Final Review	Final Exam (in Class): 8/23

**The class schedule (including HW due dates) is tentative and is subject to change.*

**Find the finalized HW due dates on the assignments posted on Canvas (Files).*

University of Washington

Department of Economics

Examination Rules

1. Material allowed during a closed book exam:

- 1) 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.)
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Baseball caps with visors and any kinds of headgear hiding your eyes are not permitted.

2. Attendance and special accommodation:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

3. Academic honesty: 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.

1) Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, bringing notes to a closed-note exam, consulting a classmate or any other source of information during an exam, or looking at a neighbor's paper. See here for a more exhaustive list: <http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/help/academichonesty.php>

2) My policy is to give a zero for an exam that I believe you have cheated on. This usually results in a failing grade for the course.