

# Economics 400B: Advanced Microeconomics

Autumn 2015, More Hall 234,  
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am - 10:20pm

**Instructor:** Quan Wen

Office: Savery Hall 330

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:30 pm or by appointment

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**Course Description:** Explores the rigorous development of mathematical models used by economists to explain the behavior of consumers, firms, and markets. Topics include comparative statics for consumption theory, duality in production, and decision-making under uncertainty. Prerequisite: minimum grade of 2.0 in ECON 300; MATH 126; recommended: minimum grade of 3.0 in ECON 300.

**Textbook:** Walter Nicholson and Christopher Snyder, *Microeconomic Theory, Basic Principle and Extension* (11-th Edition), South-Western, 2012.

**Assignments, Midterm, and Final:**

Weekly Assignments, 30% to final grade

Midterm Exam: November 5, 30% to final grade

Final Exam: December 15, 10:30-12:20pm, 40% to final grade

**Grade Scale:**

Let  $x$  be the total points (out of 100) you receives from assignments, midterm, and final. Your final grade will be calculated according to the following function:

$$f(x) = \max\{4\min\{(x-50)/45, 1\}, 0\}$$

**Properties of function  $f(x)$ :**

1. If  $x$  is greater than or equal to 95,  $f(x) = 4$ ;
2. If  $x$  is less than or equal to 50,  $f(x) = 0$ ;
3. Otherwise,  $f(x)$  is a line function of  $x$  with slope  $4/45=0.08889$ ;
4.  $f(x)$  is monotonic increasing and continuous.
5.  $f(x)$  is not differentiable at  $x = 50$  and  $x = 95$

**Tentative Outline:**

Chapter 3 --- 11, Chapters 14 and 15, Chapters 12 and 13

**Policy on Academic Conduct:**

*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.*