

**Econ 300 E: Intermediate Microeconomics**  
**University of Washington**  
**Spring 2015**

**Instructor:** Muxin Zhai

**Office:** Savery Hall 319A

**Office Hour:** Tue 3:00-5:00 pm or by appointment

**Email:** [muxinz@uw.edu](mailto:muxinz@uw.edu)

**Class Website:** <https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/muxinz/49733/>

**Discussion Board:** <https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/muxinz/39585/>

### **Course Description**

This class is an intermediate level microeconomics class. It uses quantitative microeconomic tools to analyze and resolve issues in consumer decisions, firm productions, and government policies. Besides what you've learned in Econ 200 (basic consumption and production theories), we will cover topics such as monopoly, monopolistic competition and game theory. The course will provide you with knowledge and skills that could be further applied in labor economics, public finance, natural resource economics, environmental economics, and many others.

Course prerequisites: Econ 200, Math 112 or equivalent.

### **Students Learning Goals**

The goals for your learning in Economics 300 fall into a couple of categories:

- 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
- Applications
  - Use microeconomic principles and diagrams to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena
  - Use basic calculus to solve optimization problems
  - Use economic reasoning 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

### **Textbook**

*Microeconomics* by Jeffrey Perloff, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

You do not need to obtain an access code for the class.

An earlier edition of the textbook is acceptable.

## Grading

Weekly problem sets: 15%

- **Due date:** The problem sets will be due on each Monday at the beginning of class.
- **Group work:** You are welcome to form in groups of 2-3 to work on the problem sets. Each problem set should be carefully written, with every group member's name on the top of the front page. No more than three students per group, please.
- **Grading:** Each group will receive a joint grade for the problem set.
- The lowest grade on problem sets will be dropped.

Exams: 40% each

- **Midterm exam:** Wed, April 29, 2015. 3:30-5:20 pm, in-class
- **Final exam:** Wed, June 3, 2015. 3:30-5:20 pm, in-class
- Each exam consists of 5-6 short answer questions. You may use a non-graphic calculator, but no graphic calculator or cell phone will be allowed.
- The exams will be non-cumulative.
- There is **no** make-up exam. If you have to miss an exam due to medical reasons, please come and talk to me.

Class participation: 5%

- We will have a number of in-class discussions and group works. Activate participation into these activities will deepen your understanding of class materials.

*Notes: The Department of Economics determines the median grade of Econ 300 should be 2.9 to 3.1. A natural grade distribution will follow from the percentage score out of 100 to a 4.0 scale.*

## Course Tentative Schedule

WEEK	CHAPTERS	NOTES
WEEK 1 MAR 30-APR 3	Math Review Chapter 2: 2.1-2.5 Supply and demand	Math Review Practice questions
WEEK 2 APR 6-10	Chapter 3: 3.1-3.4 Applying the supply and demand model	Mon: PS 1 due
WEEK 3 APR 13-17	Chapter 4: 4.1-4.4 Consumer choice	Mon: PS 2 due
WEEK 4 APR 20-24	Chapter 5: 5.1-5.3 Applying consumer theory	Mon: PS 3 due
WEEK 5 APR 27-MAY 1	Chapter 5: 5.4-5.5 Applying consumer theory	<b>Wed: Midterm exam</b>
WEEK 6 MAY 4-8	Chapter 6: 6.1-6.5 Firms and production Chapter 7: 7.1-7.4 Costs	No PS
WEEK 7 MAY 11-15	Chapter 8: 8.1-8.4 Competitive firms and markets Chapter 9: 9.1-9.4, 9.6 Applying competitive model	Mon: PS 4 due

WEEK 8 MAY 18-22	Chapter 11: 11.1-11.5 Monopoly Chapter 14: 14.1-14.3 Game theory	Mon: PS 5 due
WEEK 9 MAY 25-29	Chapter 13: 13.1-13.3 Imperfect competition	No class on Monday Wed: PS 6 due
WEEK 10 JUN 1-5	Chapter 13: 13.4 Imperfect competition Review	<b>Wed: Final exam</b>

*Note: Actual pace of the class might be slightly different from the schedule. Please refer to our class website for announcement on changes in schedule.*