

**Syllabus**  
**ECON300: Intermediate Microeconomics**  
**Spring 2015**

**Instructor:** Aurora Stephany

**Class time:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 pm to 2:20 pm

**Location:** AND 010

**Office Hours:** Thursday 2:00 pm or by appointment

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

**Class website:** <https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/asteb/49783>

**Course description:**

This is designed as an intermediate course in Microeconomics. Knowledge of basic concepts is assumed, and new tools are developed to analyze individual decision making under constraints. We will look into consumer and firm maximization problems, and the General and Partial equilibrium models, imperfect competition models and some game theory fundamentals at the end of the quarter. Most of the topics will include theoretical derivations as well as real life applications.

**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

**Prerequisite:** Introductory Microeconomics and at least a quarter of Calculus. Although we will review the mathematical tools that we are going to be using, some prior fundamental understanding of functions and derivatives is absolutely necessary to be successful in this class.

ECON 200; either MATH 112, MATH 124, MATH 127, MATH 134, or MATH 145

**Textbook:** We will use Microeconomics, by Jeffrey Perloff. The book (published by Pearson) is currently in its 7th edition, but if you find a used copy of the 6th edition, that will be perfectly fine. You do NOT need to purchase the online package.

You are encouraged to complement your learning with additional textbooks, such as Hal Varian's Intermediate Microeconomics. Some Intermediate Microeconomic use calculus more heavily. If you are truly interested in economics or business as a major, I recommend that you take a look at those. Both Perloff and Varian have more calculus oriented versions of their respective books.

Keep in mind that other textbooks organize the material differently.

**Grade:** your grade will depend of quizzes (30%), a midterm (35%) and a final (35%). Class participation will be rewarded with extra credit

- **Quizzes:** We will have 4 quizzes, (roughly one every other week) They will take no more than 30 minutes. At the end of the quarter, we will drop your lowest grade and take the remaining 3 into account.
- **Problem Sets:** I will post problem sets on the website. They are optional, but I strongly advise that you go through them before class. Group study is encouraged.
- **Midterm:** The midterm will be on Wednesday, May 6th, in our regular class time. It will cover chapters 2 through 7 on the textbook, focusing on the material covered in class, and the mathematical review covered in the first day of class.
- **Final:** The date, place and time of the final exam will be announced later in the quarter.
- **Class participation:** You are encouraged to contribute to the class by either making questions, or answering the questions that I ask. Ideally, I should know most of your names by the third week of class.

Grades will be allocated according to the table below.

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Equivalent<br>Numeric Grade-<br>Point |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 94-100     | A            | 3.9-4.0                               |
| 90-93      | A-           | 3.5-3.8                               |
| 87-89      | B+           | 3.2-3.4                               |
| 84-86      | B            | 2.9-3.1                               |
| 80-83      | B-           | 2.5-2.8                               |
| 77-79      | C+           | 2.2-2.4                               |
| 74-76      | C            | 1.9-2.1                               |
| 70-73      | C-           | 1.5-1.8                               |
| 67-69      | D+           | 1.2-1.4                               |
| 64-66      | D            | 0.9-1.1                               |
| 60-63      | D-           | 0.7-0.8                               |
| Below 60   | F            | 0.0-0.6                               |

**Other issues:**

- **Calculator:** You may bring a scientific or basic calculator to quizzes and exams. Graphic calculators or cellphones are not allowed. You can buy a basic calculator for less than \$5 in the U-bookstore. You will only need it to perform sum, multiplication, subtraction and division.
- **Make up policy:** If you miss one quiz, you do not need to present a valid excuse because we drop one grade anyway. If you miss two or more quizzes, you will need to bring proof of your excuse (for your second miss) and you will be allowed to take a make-up quiz during my office hours, at most one week after the quiz took place. It is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible after you miss a quiz.  
If you miss the midterm exam, you will need to provide valid justification and you will take a makeup exam. You need to tell me in advance, if it is a foreseeable situation.  
There will be no make up for the final.  
Doctor notes need to include the doctor's name and contact number, but not the specifics of your medical situation.
- **Student Athletes:** Come talk to me.

- **Honesty policy:** Any student caught cheating will automatically have a zero for the test. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, reading other student's exam, allowing another student to read your exam, reading class notes or the textbook during and exam, using a cellphone during the exam, or communicating with another student during the exam, regardless of the topic of said communication. Please take a look at the Department's honesty policy in our Catalyst website.

The following is a tentative schedule for the quarter. It is subject to change. Any modification will be announced in class and on the website.

| WEEK                                     | MATERIAL  |
|--|---|
| Week 1: 3/30 and 4/1<br>Introduction     | Mathematical Review: derivatives and optimization.<br>Chapter 2: Supply and Demand<br>Chapter 3: Applying Supply and Demand |
| Week 2: 4/6 and 4/8<br>Quiz 1: 4/8       | Chapter 4: Consumer Choice  |
| Week 3: 4/13 and 4/15                    | Chapter 5: Applying Consumer Theory   |
| Week 4: 4/20 and 4/22<br>Quiz 2: 4/22    | Chapter 6: Firms and Production   |
| Week 5: 4/27 and 4/29                    | Chapter 7: Costs  |
| Week 6: 5/4 and 5/6<br>Midterm Exam: 5/6 | Review for Midterm Exam   |
| Week 7: 5/11 and 5/13                    | Chapter 8: Competitive Firms and Markets<br>Chapter 9: Applying the Competitive Model                                       |
| Week 8: 5/18 and 5/20<br>Quiz 3: 5/20    | Chapter 10: General Equilibrium and Economic Welfare  |
| Week 9: 5/25 and 5/27                    | Chapter 11: Monopoly<br>Chapter 12: Pricing and Advertising   |
| Week 10: 6/1 and 6/3<br>Quiz 4: 6/1      | Chapter 13: Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition<br>Chapter 14: Game Theory<br>Final Review                               |

