Microeconomic Theory
Econ 400
Winter 2015
TR 10:30-12:20

Melissa Knox
knoxm@uw.edu
https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/946416
Office: 339 Savery Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 or by appointment

Course Description:
This course presents the conceptual foundations and analytical methods of microeconomics. It covers the basic theories of consumer and firm behavior, perfect competition, imperfect competition (monopoly, oligopoly, and monopolistic competition), decisions under uncertainty and, if time, general equilibrium.

Prerequisites:
You need to have successfully completed Econ 300 Math 126. You should be comfortable using multivariate calculus. Please reconsider this class if you are not.

Text:
Jeffrey M. Perloff, Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus, 3rd edition. Two options for purchase at the bookstore: Student Value Edition (looseleaf) with MyEconLab access and etext, ISBN: 9780133423846; or Hardbound text with MyEconLab access and etext, ISBN: 9780133423853.   Any other version of the text (as long as it is the calculus based version) is fine with me, provided you purchase MyEconLab access separately.

Evaluation:
Problem Sets - 30% (8 total, but I drop the lowest score)
Midterm Exams – 70% (2 non-cumulative exams)

Final grades will be curved, if necessary. I expect the median to be between 3.1 and 3.3.

Problem Sets:
Working problems is an essential part of learning economics. To give you practice in working problems, I will assign weekly problem sets. You may work on these assignments with your study groups, but make sure you know how to do each problem yourself from start to finish, as they are the best preparation for the exams. **Weekly assignments can be found in your**

MyEconLab page and will be due every Monday at midnight (with a 3 hour grace period). (Please note: Optional assignment HW 0 will be due Friday, January 9, and HW 8 will be due Wednesday, March 11.) Note: You will be given three chances to get the right answer, with your final score being an average of your answers. Late assignments will not be accepted, but the lowest score will be dropped. You are responsible for understanding how the myeconlab system works and I cannot change your score or give you extra time due to technical difficulties.

Absence Policy:

There will be no make-up exams given, except in the case of extreme emergency or illness. Extreme emergencies and illnesses will need to be documented, preferably with a doctor's note, police report or other similar documentation. Please look at the exam dates below and plan your schedules accordingly. I will drop your lowest homework score, and I expect you to save that dropped score for unexpected illnesses or other personal issues. No early final exams will be given – no exceptions!

Course Outline:

We will follow the general outline below. This is an ambitious plan, so we may not cover every topic listed. Time frames are flexible and will change as needed, but exam dates are set in stone. Please consult the class website at least once a week to obtain reading assignments and problem sets and check for any class announcements.

1. Mathematical Preliminaries (Perloff, Appendix A.1-A.8)
2. Preferences and Utility Maximization (Perloff, Chapter 3)
3. Demand Relationships and Revealed Preference (Perloff, Chapter 4 & 5)
4. Uncertainty and Asymmetric Information (Perloff, Chapter 16)
    First Midterm Exam: Tuesday, February 3, 2015 (in class)
5. Production Functions (Perloff, Chapter 6)
6. Cost Functions and Cost Minimization (Perloff, Chapter 7)
7. Profit Maximization and Partial Competitive Equilibrium (Perloff, Chapters 8 & 9)
8. Monopoly (Perloff, Chapter 11)
9. Strategy and Imperfect Competition (Perloff, Chapters 13 & 14)
10. General Equilibrium (if time) (Perloff, Chapter 10)
    Second Midterm Exam: Thursday, March 12, 2015 (in class)

University of Washington

Department of Economics

Examination rules

1. Material allowed during a closed book exam:

    i. 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.)

    ii. 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.***

    iii. **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 **i-pads** or **i-pods** (or similar devices) are not allowed. The use of **personal computers** is not allowed during an exam.

    iv. Baseball caps with visors and any kinds of **headgear** hiding your eyes are not permitted.

2. Attendance and special accommodation:

    i. 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.

    ii. 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.

    iii. 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.*

    i. 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

    ii. **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.**

01/02/14