

Syllabus for ECON 200 D  
Introduction to Microeconomics  
Summer Quarter 2016

**Instructor:** Rory Mullen  
**Email:** rmmullen@uw.edu  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 8:00pm-9:00pm, SAV 319G

**Lectures:** Monday and Wednesday, 5:50pm-8:00pm, ART 317  
**Website:** tbd.  
**Textbook:** Mankiw, G. (2014, January). *Principles of Microeconomics, 6th Edition*. Cengage Learning

**Homework:** Due Sundays, 11:59pm, submit via Canvas  
**Midterm:** July 18, 2016, 5:50pm-8:00pm, ART 317  
**Final:** tbd.

**Introduction.** Please read this syllabus carefully, as it may answer many questions you have about the course. Over the next 9 weeks, we develop a core set of ideas to help us understand markets. The course can be roughly divided into three parts: the first part (chapters 1–5) motivates trade and discusses the functioning of markets. The second part (chapters 6 and 7) looks at the welfare implications of market outcomes and at government policies affecting these outcomes. In the third part (chapters 13–16), we focus on firm behavior under different forms of competition. The rest of this document is designed as helpful resource for you, with information about course guidelines, scheduled topics and important dates, learning goals, grading policy, and finally, a statement about academic integrity.

**Course Guidelines.** Below are general guidelines for the course, please read them carefully. Please also take note of announcements in class or on Canvas that may supersede these guidelines.

*Coverage.* The course covers standard topics in microeconomics. Our focus will be on understanding market outcomes and forms of competition. I hope to cover chapters 1–7 and 13–16 of the textbook.

*Attendance.* Your attendance is encouraged, but not required. If you miss class, you are responsible for the material you missed and should try to get notes from a fellow student.

*University Holidays.* July 4, Independence Day. If you have a religious observance that overlaps with scheduled classes or exams, please contact me and we can find a suitable solution.

*Office Hours.* I encourage you to come to office hours if you have questions about course material. My hope is that you will have already carefully studied the readings and class notes beforehand.

*Homework.* I assign weekly homeworks that are graded on participation. You must submit every homework on Sundays before 11:59pm. To submit homework, scan your work and upload it as a .pdf file to Canvas.

*Exams.* I set two exams for this course: a midterm and a final. The final is cumulative, and both exams are closed book and closed notes. You may use any non-programmable calculator. All other aids are prohibited. In general, no makeup exams will be given.

*Grading.* I curve percentage grades so that the median student's final grade is 3.0 on the 4.0 scale. This is a department policy that I can't influence. I use the following weights to calculate final grades: homework 10%, midterm 40%, final 50%.

**Tentative Schedule.** This table gives you an overview of the topics we plan to cover. I will update optional reading throughout the term. Please remember that this information is subject to changes announced in class or on Canvas.

Week	Date	Required Reading	Optional Reading
1	June 20	Ch. 1–2: Introduction	
	June 22	Ch. 3: Gains from Trade	
2	June 27	Ch. 3: Gains from Trade	
	June 29	Ch. 4: Supply and Demand	
3	July 4	Independence day, no class	
	July 6	Ch. 4: Supply and Demand	
4	July 11	Ch. 5: Elasticity	
	July 13	Ch. 5: Elasticity	
5	July 18	MIDTERM EXAM	
	July 20	Ch. 6: Government Policies	
6	July 25	Ch. 6: Government Policies	
	July 27	Ch. 7: Market Efficiency	
7	August 1	Ch. 7: Market Efficiency	
	August 3	Ch. 13: Cost of Production	
8	August 8	Ch. 13: Cost of Production	
	August 10	Ch. 14: Perfect Competition	
9	August 15	Ch. 15: Monopoly	
	August 17	Ch. 16: Monopolistic Competition	
10	tbd.	FINAL EXAM	

**Learning Goals.** I hope that this course helps you to

- gain fundamental knowledge of microeconomics:
  - understand and be able to use microeconomic terminology
  - understand the concept of opportunity cost
  - understand individual and firm behavior in a world of scarcity
  - understand how prices inform production and consumption decisions
  - understand how government policies affect resource allocation
  - understand how market structures affect resource allocation
- Apply this fundamental knowledge:
  - use microeconomic principles to understand current economic events
  - use game theory to understand and explain strategic choices
  - critique the economic content of articles or presentations
  - use economic reasoning in your personal decision making

**Grading scale.** Consistent with department policy, I curve percentage scores so that the median student receives a 77.5%, then convert curved scores to the 4.0 scale using the following table:

<u>% Score</u>	<u>4.0 Scale</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>% Score</u>	<u>4.0 Scale</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
100.0	4.0	A	57.5	2.3	C+
97.5	3.9	A	55.0	2.2	C+
95.0	3.8	A-	52.5	2.1	C
92.5	3.7	A-	50.0	2.0	C
90.0	3.6	A-	47.5	1.9	C
87.5	3.5	A-	45.0	1.8	C-
85.0	3.4	B+	42.5	1.7	C-
82.5	3.3	B+	40.0	1.6	C-
80.0	3.2	B+	37.5	1.5	C-
77.5	3.1	B	35.0	1.4	D+
75.0	3.0	B	32.5	1.3	D+
72.5	2.9	B	30.0	1.2	D+
70.0	2.8	B-	27.5	1.1	D
67.5	2.7	B-	25.0	1.0	D
65.0	2.6	B-	22.5	0.9	D
62.5	2.5	B-	20.0	0.8	D-
60.0	2.4	C+	17.5	0.7	D-

**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.

## References

Mankiw, G. (2014, January). *Principles of Microeconomics, 6th Edition*. Cengage Learning.