

# ECON 200 A

Summer 2022

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<b>Instructor:</b> Theradapuzha Varghese Ninan	<b>Time:</b> TTh 8:30 – 10:40
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:tvninan@uw.edu">tvninan@uw.edu</a>	<b>Place:</b> DEM 012

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## Course Pages:

1. Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1556376>
2. Office Hours Zoom Link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/95854325528>

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 11:15 am-1:15pm or by appointment. My office hours will be on Zoom unless you want to meet me in person. You are encouraged to use the sign up sheet that is available on the Canvas website.

**Main References:** We will be using selections from the following textbook.

- Karlan, Dean and Jonathan Morduch, Microeconomics: Improve Your World. 3e, McGraw Hill.

We will be utilizing MH Connect which is the publisher's online homework website for this course. I recommend you **purchase** the bundled ebook and Connect access via Canvas for the best price. A free trial of the MH Connect software and the digital text is available for the first two weeks of the class if you are unsure about continuing the class. Reading the book is not a substitute for attending class.

**Objectives:** This course serves as an introduction to the principles of microeconomics, used to understand the behavior of individuals and firms operating in markets and in other strategic interactions. Topics covered include opportunity cost and production possibility frontiers, scarcity, gains from trades, efficiency, firms and their costs, market power, competition, supply and demand, government intervention, market failure, and more.

**Grading Policy:** Homework Assignments (25%), Essays (15%), Exam 1 (30%), Exam 2 (30%).

Grades in this class will be curved so that the median student gets a grade of 2.9-3.0. As such, it is impossible to guarantee a particular grading scale for this class, as the median may be above or below what it was in the past. I will give detailed information about the distribution of grades throughout the quarter, to try to help you understand how you are doing in the class.

- **Homework Assignments:** Short problem sets on connect will be available, due (generally) at 5:59 PM Pacific Time on Fridays . These will be graded for correctness. You will get 2 attempts on each assignment and the best score will be considered for final grade.
- **Essays:** You will turn in two short essays this quarter due on **16th July 2022** and **19th August 2022**. For each essay you will refer to an article published since **15th June 2022** and summarise the economic issues presented in the article using the tools and models taught in class. The only accepted sources for these assignments are **Financial Times (FT)**, **Wall Street Journal (WSJ)** and **New York Times (NYT)**. WSJ is free for UW students. You can also access articles from Factive, which is available for free through <https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/news/enews>. You should use the topics covered before the Exam 1 for Essay 1 and the topics covered after the Exam 1 for Essay 2. The article should **include at least one graph of the models** we cover in class. The essays will be graded both on completeness and correctness. Detailed rubric will be available on the course website.

- **Exams:** Exam 1 will be on **19th July 2022** and Exam 2 will be on **16th August 2022**. Both the exams will be in person, will start at the regular lecture time and will be 80 minutes long. If you cannot attend an exam, please contact me as soon as you are aware of the potential conflict. Failure to do so will likely impact your opportunity to makeup the exam

### Course Policy:

- **2 lowest homework scores** (and this only applies to homework) will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. There is no other makeup policy for these assignments, in other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework. If you have technical issues with Connect, please contact their tech support asap (and do not wait for me to respond). Sometimes it takes time to resolve these issues, so please do not start the homework the day it is due.
- Make up exams are given only under extreme circumstances. I do not consider work schedules, travel plans or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstance. Please contact me as soon as you can to have your makeup exam scheduled. I reserve the right to drop your exam score if we are not able to schedule a makeup exam time that works for both of us.
- Late submissions on essays will come with a 10% per day penalty unless approved by the instructor.

**Teaching Mode:** In Econ 200 A, lectures will be offered live at the regularly scheduled class time. In general the lectures will be offered in person and will not be recorded. In case of disruption, for example due to Covid and/or inclement weather we will move to Zoom and the classes will be recorded. In any case lecture slides will be available for viewing on Canvas. Essays and homework assignments must be submitted remotely, whereas in person attendance is mandatory for the exams. Since in-person lectures will not be recorded, students will not be able to complete the class remotely.

**Accommodations:** Should you require disability accommodations, please contact Disability Resources for Students at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924. Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request Form at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

**Academic Misconduct:** All students are expected to know and to abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies as defined at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/SPCH209.html#7> summarized at <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>. In particular, while you are encouraged to study with each other, all assignments for this course must be completed on one's own. Exams are closed-book must be completed without accessing outside information, whether from "cheatsheets", cellphones, your computer, or other sources. Failure to abide by these policies is likely to result in failing this course, and may result in further sanctions as described by the policy. Should I believe that you cheated or plagiarized on an assignment, you will receive a "zero" grade on that assignment.

Table 1: Tentative Course Outline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
06/21	Introduction to Econ 200	Chapter 1
06/23	Comparative advantage and Trade	Chapter 2
06/28	Demand	Chapter 3
06/30	Supply	Chapter 3
07/05	Elasticity	Chapter 4
07/07	Efficiency	Chapter 5
07/12	Taxes, subsidies and other interventions	Chapter 6
07/14	Trade	Chapter 17
07/19	Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 6	
07/21	Externalities	Chapter 18
07/26	Firms	Chapter 12
07/28	Firms	Chapter 12
08/02	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13
08/04	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13
08/09	Monopoly	Chapter 14
08/11	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 15
08/16	Exam 2: Chapters 12 – 15, 17, 18	