

ECON 200 E

Winter 2023

Instructor: Shabab Ahmed	Time: MTWThF 12:30-1:20
Email: sahmed95@uw.edu	Place: MUS 223

Course Pages:

1. Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1612416>

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am - 12pm or by appointment. My office hours will be on Zoom. If the scheduled time does not work for you, feel free to send me an e-mail to set up an appointment. Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/92370728146>

Class Questions: Questions about class material or course policies or procedures? If it's not in the syllabus, the class discussion boards, office hours, and class meetings are the best place to ask questions.

Personal Questions: Send me a message in Canvas for personal inquiries.

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

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

You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework website (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled e-book and website access via Canvas for the best price. A two week free trial is available for those who are unsure about continuing in the class. Reading the book is not a substitute for attending class.

Learning Objectives:

- To be able to understand and use microeconomic terminology to solve problems on homework assignments and exams and as they apply to current events.
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that the highest valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of any decision
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that individuals and firms make themselves as well-off as possible in a world of scarcity
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that prices inform decisions about which goods and services are produced in a market economy and how those goods and services are allocated.
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that government policies and the organization of industries and market affect both production and allocation decisions.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Homework Assignments (13%)
- Writing Assignments (20%)
- Exam 1 (30%)
- Exam 2 (30%)
- Smartbook (7%)

Note: Canvas will not round grades and I will not round grades for individual students.

Grades in this class will be curved so that the median student gets a grade point between 2.9 and 3.1 . 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. However, typically, we do not need to curve grades and often apply a standard conversion where 80-90% is a B+/- and 90-100% is an A+/- . I will try to give detailed information about the distribution of grades throughout the quarter, to try to help you understand how you are doing in the class.

Assignments:

- **Smartbook:** Smartbook reading reviews are due at 11:59 pm on most Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are found in MH connect and typically available from the beginning of the quarter. Smartbook is graded on completion, not accuracy, but you may skip a few.
- **Homework Assignments:** Short problem sets are due in MH Connect at 11:59 PM Pacific Time every Monday night except the Monday after Exam 1. These will be graded for correctness. You will get 2 attempts on each assignment and the best score will be considered for final grade.
- **Writing Assignments:** You will turn in two short writing assignments this quarter on **22nd January, 2023** and **19th February, 2023**. For each writing assignment, you will refer to a news article published since **1st January, 2023**. Further guidance on the writing assignment can be found on the course website.
- **Exams:** We will have 2 exams in this course. The first exam will be on **2nd February, 2023** and the second one on **9th March, 2023**. The second exam is not cumulative. Both the exams will be in person during regular class time and will be 50 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 for the exam.

Course Policy:

- Your **2** lowest homework scores and **five** lowest Smartbook scores 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 or Smartbook. Instead you will be expected to use your dropped score. If you have technical issues with MH 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 night it is due.
- You will be allowed makeup exams with an approved excuse. Makeup exams are only given under extreme circumstances. Please contact me as soon as you can to have your makeup exam scheduled. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances and I reserve the right to drop your exam score if we are not able to schedule a makeup exam that works for both of us.

- Late submissions (up to 7 days) on writing assignments will come with a 5% per day penalty unless approved by me.

Attendance Policy: Lectures will be in person at the scheduled time and place unless otherwise stated. You are expected to attend the lecture in person and no requests for recordings will be entertained. Writing assignments and homework assignments must be submitted remotely on Canvas, whereas in person attendance is mandatory for the exams.

Accommodations: Students who have established services with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) should contact me about their accommodations as soon as possible. Students with disabilities who have not yet established services with DRS should contact them at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924 to set up an access plan.

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 cheat sheets, 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

Date	Topic	Reading
01/03	Introduction	Chapter 1
01/04	PPFs and Comparative Advantage	Chapter 2.1-2.3
01/05	Trade	Chapter 2.4 and 3.1-3.3
01/06	Quiz Section 1	
01/09	Demand	Chapter 3.4-3.7
01/10	Supply	Chapter 3.4-3.7
01/11	Equilibrium	Chapter 3.4-3.7
01/12	Elasticity of Demand	Chapter 4
01/13	Quiz Section 2	
01/16	No Lecture	
01/17	Elasticity (Part II)	Chapter 4
01/18	Efficiency (CS)	Chapter 5.1-5.4
01/19	Efficiency (PS)	Chapter 5.1-5.4
01/20	Quiz Section 3	
01/23	Efficiency (DWL)	Chapter 5.5-5.8 and Appendix D
01/24	Government Intervention (Price Control)	Chapter 6
01/25	Government Intervention (Taxes)	Chapter 6
01/26	Government Intervention (Subsidy)	Chapter 6
01/27	Quiz Section	
01/31	Trade (Part I)	Chapter 17
02/01	Exam Review	
02/02	Exam 1: Chapters 1-6	

Table 2: Tentative Course Outline Continued

Date	Topic	Reading
02/06	Trade (Part II)	Chapter 17
02/07	Externality (Part I)	Chapter 18
02/08	Externality (Part II)	Chapter 18
02/09	Externality (Part III)	Chapter 18
02/10	Quiz Section 6	
02/13	Firms (Part I)	Chapter 12.1-12.5
02/14	Firms (Part II)	Chapter 12.1-12.5
02/15	Firms (Part III)	Chapter 12.6-12.8
02/16	Firms (Part IV)	Chapter 12.6-12.8
02/17	Quiz Section 7	
02/20	No Lecture	
02/21	Perfect Competition (Part I)	Chapter 13
02/22	Perfect Competition (Part II)	Chapter 13
02/23	Perfect Competition (Part III)	Chapter 13
02/24	Quiz Section 8	
02/27	Perfect Competition (Part IV)	Chapter 13
02/28	Perfect Competition (Part V)	Chapter 13
03/01	Monopoly (Part I)	Chapter 14.1-14.4
03/02	Monopoly (Part II)	Chapter 14.1-14.4
03/03	Quiz Section 9	
03/06	Monopolistic Competition (Part I)	Chapter 15.1-15.4
03/07	Monopolistic Competition (Part II)	Chapter 15.1-15.4
03/08	Review for Exam 2	
03/09	Exam 2: Chapters 12-15, 17,18	