

Econ 200C
Introduction to Microeconomics
Winter 2025

Instructor: Eric Wang esw34@uw.edu

Class Meetings: MW 4:30-6:20 pm, THO 325

Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30 or email me!

Department Contact: econadv@uw.edu

Objectives

This course serves as an introduction to the principles of microeconomics, used to understand the behavior of individuals and firms. Topics covered include opportunity cost, gains from trade, supply and demand, institutions, efficiency, market power, competition, market failure.

Required Materials

Microeconomics, 3rd edition, by Karlan and Morduch

- **Required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework site (MH Connect).**
 - The UW Bookstore is trying out a new way to access the e-text and website with "Day One Access." That means that you automatically get access to these resources from the first day of class, but that the charge for them gets added as a separate charge on your university bill (not included in tuition). **You have until January 26 to opt out** of this service, but keep in mind that: a) this is the cheapest way to get access and b) MH Connect is required in this course.
 - More info: <https://www.ubookstore.com/day-one-access-faq>, or email dayoneaccess@ubookstore.com for help.
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Grading

- Exams (60%) (30% each)
- Homework (20%)
- Writing Assignments (20%) (10% each)

Due to economics department policy, final grades will be curved as necessary to reach a median grade for the class between 2.9 and 3.1. This is typically unnecessary, where 80-90% is B-/B+ and 90-100% is A-/A. Still, I understand this uncertainty can be stressful, and I will periodically update the class on the grade distribution.

Requirements

Exams: There will be two midterms held on February 5 and March 12 during the normal class time. These are non-cumulative, and there will not be a final. Exams will be in person. If you cannot attend an exam, please contact me as soon as you are aware of the potential conflict. Failure to do so will impact your opportunity to make up the exam. Under no circumstances will you be allowed to make up an exam unless you have been excused before missing it. The earlier you are aware of and contact me about a conflict, the more likely we can find an accommodation.

Homework: Turned in on MH Connect, due at 11:59 PM on Sundays. **Late homework will not be accepted**, but the lowest score will be dropped before calculating final grades.

Writing Assignments: There will be two short essays this quarter, due on January 26 and March 2. You are to find a news article from a major news source (newspaper or magazine, either online or print) that was published after Jan. 1, 2025 and related to a topic taught in class. The second essay should be on a topic covered since the first midterm. You should (1) describe the economic issue presented within the article and (2) show how the material taught in class explains the information, events, or phenomenon in the article. This economic explanation must relate to a theoretical graph (one with some sort of equilibrium, like Supply and Demand, the PPF, etc). The graph must be drawn on your own and included in your response. Your graph does not need numbers but should be carefully labeled. The paper should be no more than two pages long, including the graph, and you must submit a copy of the article (pdf or images). Grades will be based on how well you relate the article to course material, how clearly and correctly you summarize the issue at hand, how clearly and correctly you explain the economics behind the topic, and the clarity and correctness of your graph. You may submit the essay up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty (i.e., a 7-day late assignment will receive 65% of the score it would have received if it had been turned in before the due date).

Important Dates

- Daily assigned readings should be completed before class. You do not need to submit anything to prove you did the reading.
- **Homework** is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Sunday night except after the midterm.
- **Writing Assignments** are due January 26 and March 2 at 11:59 pm in Canvas.
- **Exams** are February 5 and March 12.

Need Help? Come to office hours! You can also receive free tutoring from the Department of Economics (via the Economics Undergraduate Board).

Academic Misconduct: All students are expected to know and abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies (<https://www.washington.edu/cssc/for-students/academic-misconduct/>). You are expected to complete your own work for every assignment and exam. Suspected violations of this policy will be taken seriously and reported to the student conduct office. You will also receive a zero for the exam.

Use of Generative AI: ChatGPT can be useful for supplementing your effort on repetitive writing tasks. However, using generative AI to draft or complete your writing tasks in this class is unlikely to meaningfully advance your understanding of economics. For this reason, I allow the use of generative AI to revise or improve your grammar or writing skills, but not to replace your thinking about economics. You are permitted to use AI tools to assist you in gathering information, writing drafts, and revising your writing. However, you are strongly cautioned not to let AI do your thinking for you. Also, you are expected to include a disclosure statement at the end of your assignment describing which AI tool you used and how you used it. For example: "ChatGPT was used to provide revision assistance. AI-produced content was edited for accuracy and style." Please note that ChatGPT and other AI tools do not actually know economics, and cannot distinguish from correct and incorrect information in its training data.

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 (<https://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>) 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 Religious Accommodations Policy (<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 (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).