

Econ 200 B: Introduction to Microeconomics

Summer 2025

Instructor: Yebeen Lee

Class Meetings

- Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30-10:40am (ART Building 317)
- Course pages: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1810502>

Contact Information

- Email: yebeen@uw.edu
- Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11am-12pm (Savery Hall 319B) or by appointment

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental principles of microeconomics. Students will explore how individuals, households, and firms make decisions about allocating limited resources in various market conditions. Key topics include supply and demand, elasticity, consumer behavior, production and costs, market structures, and the role of government in the economy.

- 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.

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

- You do NOT need to buy a textbook. Most of the materials should be explained enough in lecture slides. Use this book for just the reference.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Problem sets (20%): There will be 6 problem sets. Each problem set is due by 11:59 PM PST every Wednesday night before the Midterm and every Friday night after the Midterm. You are encouraged to work on the problems in groups, but you must submit your own handwritten or typed answers on Canvas. One lowest score will be dropped at the end of the term. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Writing Assignment (10%): There are two writing assignments (5% each). You must submit a PDF (recommended) or Word document on Canvas by 11:59 PM PST on the due date. You may choose any topic related to the material covered in class. A sample essay and the grading rubric are available on Canvas. Late submissions will not be accepted. Your submission should include:
 1. Article Summary
 2. Economic Analysis
 3. Graph
- Exams (70%): There are two exams (35% each). You are expected to take the exams live and in person during the regular class time in the regular classroom. Both exams are closed-book, but a calculator is allowed (no phones). These are non-cumulative exams. There is no make-up exam policy.

Final grades will be curved as necessary to reach a median grade for the class between 3.1 and 3.3. However, in my experience, I do not need to curve grades and often apply a standard conversion where 80-90% is a B+/- and 90-100% is an A+/-.

Use of AI Tools: You are not allowed to use AI tools (such as ChatGPT or similar) to complete problem sets or writing assignments. These assignments are designed to assess your understanding and independent thinking. All submitted work must be your own original thinking.

Important Dates

Date	Assignments
7/2	PS 1
7/9	PS 2
7/13	Writing Assignment 1
7/16	PS 3
7/22	Midterm
8/1	PS 4
8/8	PS 5
8/10	Writing Assignment 2
8/15	PS 6
8/21	Final

University and Departmental Policies

- **Attendance Policy:** It is your responsibility to keep up with the class throughout the quarter. It is highly recommended that you do this through regular attendance in class. There's no attendance or participation grades in this class.
- **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 disability.uw.edu 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. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request Form.

- **Academic Misconduct:** All students are expected to know and to abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies and the department policies. In particular, while you are encouraged to study with each other, all assignments for this course must be completed on one's own. 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.

Tentative Outline

Date	Topic	Reading
6/24	Introduction	Chapter 1
6/26	Comparative advantage and trade	Chapter 2
7/1	Demand	Chapter 3
7/3	Supply	Chapter 3
7/8	Elasticity	Chapter 4
7/10	Efficiency	Chapter 5
7/15	Taxes, subsidies, and other interventions	Chapter 6
7/17	Taxes, subsidies, and other interventions	Chapter 6
7/22	Midterm	Chapters 1-6
7/24	International Trade	Chapter 17
7/29	Externalities	Chapter 18
7/31	Firms	Chapter 12
8/5	Firms	Chapter 12
8/7	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13
8/12	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13
8/14	Monopoly	Chapter 14
8/19	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapter 15
8/21	Final Exam	Chapters 12–15, 17, 18