

ECON300D

2021 Winter

Instructor

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Email

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Class Schedule

MW 430-620P

Course Description

Welcome to the intermediate microeconomics class! Different from introductory microeconomics, which explains economics phenomenon with mainly graphical presentations and high-level intuitions, this course aims to connect the big ideas with technical details. We analyze changes in the behavior of individuals and firms in response to changes in the constraints they face, usually the constraints of budgets, prices, and input costs. The course will stress applications of elementary economic theory to real-world problems and issues. Analytical reasoning and mathematical modeling based on fundamental principles are underlined throughout. It is not a class in which you can succeed by just memorizing a set of facts. Experience dictates that practice is critical.

Prerequisite:

Econ 200 and any one of Math 112, 124, or 134. We will make frequent use of calculus methods, most often optimizing an objective function by finding the zero of its first derivative, subject to certain constraints. We will make extensive use of 2-dimensional graphs, both to visualize the solutions found via calculus/algebra, and as a solution method in themselves. If you have not taken any calculus classes, I strongly recommend you return to this class another quarter.

Course Materials

Required Text

Intermediate Economics: A Modern Approach by Hal R Varian (9th edition) and its affiliated homework system Smartwork5. (see canvas for more information)

Grading Policy

Subject	Percentage	Schedule (tentative)
Homework	15%	1 per chapter
Exam1	20%	Jan. 20 th
Exam2	20%	Feb. 8 th
Exam3	20%	Mar. 1 st
Exam4	25%	Mar. 15 th

Note: exams are not cumulative, final grade will be **curved**. 2 lowest hw scores will be dropped.

Please see other course information on canvas.