

ECON 300 C: Intermediate Microeconomics

Spring 2021

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Instructor

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Course Information

Room: Zoom (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1397132/external_tools/95443)
Times:

- Lectures videos are posted weekly on Friday
- Problem solving sessions, W 5:30 PM – 6:20 PM PST

Website: Canvas

Required Materials

- Textbook: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus* (4th edition) by Jeffrey M. Perloff, ISBN 9780134472751
- MyLab Economics: required for online homework, click [here](#) to learn how to connect.
- A scanner or scanner app on your phone.

Prerequisites

ECON 200 and any one of the following: MATH 112, 123, or 134.

We will make frequent use of differential calculus and algebra.

Course Overview

In ECON 200 and other introductory courses in microeconomics, students learned the basics of microeconomics— the study of how households, firms, and the government make decisions and how they interact with each other. This course was focused on developing fundamental intuition to evaluate economic situations and provide answers to some economic and policy questions. The primary tool was the simple supply and demand model where students analyzed the outcome or equilibrium of markets: comparative statics and efficiency, and the effects competition and the government have on the equilibrium.

For this course, students will be exposed to the methods that economists use to build mathematical models that, for example, lead to the simple supply and demand model used in ECON 200. Because of

the detail down to the simplest components of the models we will see, we will be afforded with more insight on the decision making and interaction of economic agents. Another important skill developed in this class is the ability to impart economic meaning and conclusions to all of the equations and graphs that are part of the model. That is, despite the increased mathematical rigor of the model, it is still important to think of the economics.

This is an intermediate course in microeconomic theory and incorporates calculus throughout. We will analyze changes in the behavior of individuals and firms in response to changes in the constraints they face: their budget, prices, and input costs. Analytic reasoning and mathematical modeling based on fundamental principles are underlined throughout. Success in the class not only depends on knowledge of facts, but also the process of discovering new facts through the models we encounter.

A. Topics

- Introduction, math review, ECON 200 review (Chapter 2)
- Consumer choice and demand theory (Chapters 3–4)
- Theory of the firm (Chapters 6–7)
- Perfect competition (Chapter 8)
- Monopolies (Chapter 11)
- Game theory, monopolistic competition, oligopolies (Chapters 13–14)

B. Lectures

Lectures will be delivered via recordings posted weekly on [Canvas](#). I will typically post lectures each week on Friday that covers material for the following week.

Students are encouraged to email me questions, attend office hours, or contact me to set up an appointment if they have any questions.

C. Problem solving sessions

Every Wednesday (not counting weeks where there are exams and quizzes) from 5:30 PM – 6:20 PM PST, I will host a live 50 minute problem-solving session. I will select problems from the online homework and ungraded problem sets and go over step-by-step how to solve them. Attendance is not required, a recording will be made available and posted on Canvas.

Grading

Due to extraordinary circumstances, I reserve the right to change the following: the number of exams, quizzes, and homework and their weighting.

Access to a scanner or device that takes high quality pictures is necessary to submit all exams and quizzes.

Grades will be based on 2 quizzes, 8 (almost weekly) online homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The breakdown is as follows:

- 2 quizzes: 20%
- MyLab Online Homeworks: 15%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 35%

A. Exams

Exams will be based on the lectures, online homework, and any additional ungraded practice problems I share. The final is **cummulative**.

Exam Schedule:

- Midterm Exam: May 5th at 4:30 PM PST
- Final Exam: June 7th at 4:30 PM PST

Rules and facts: (*subject to change*).

- Exams will be held in class. You will be required to leave your camera on and you must be in view during the exam.
- You will be allowed a simple scientific calculator.
- The exam will be distributed in the zoom chat and also on the canvas home page.
- To ask a question on the exam, please message me privately to avoid distracting other students. I will share my screen to a word document with announcements/clarifications that may come up.
- All tests are due within 10 minutes after time is called and will be submitted on Canvas. If Canvas is not working, email me your exam submission. If you do email your exam, please also upload on canvas so I can give proper written feedback.
- After you submit your exam, please double check to make sure it submitted correctly
- After the exam concludes and after making your submission, you are free to leave.
- Without a valid excuse, missing exams will result in a score of zero. Valid excuses include documented illnesses by a medical professional, bereavement, etc.
- Being in a different timezone is **not** an excuse to miss exams. Make sure you can commit to attend. Times are listed above under course information as well as exam and quiz dates in this section and in section B.

B. Quizzes

There will be two quizzes each based on material between the quiz date and the last assessment (quiz or exam). I will formally announce the material you will be quizzed on beforehand. The quizzes are meant to be short and to provide feedback before the exams. Like exams, quizzes are based on lectures, online

homework, and additional ungraded practice problems.

Quiz Schedule:

- Quiz 1: April 21st at 4:30 PM PST
- Quiz 2: May 26th at 4:30 PM PST

C. Online Homework

The online homework will be submitted on MyLab, which is part of the digital or bundled purchase of the textbook—information to connect is on [Canvas on the discussion board](#).

Homework will generally be due every week on Wednesday before 11:59 PM PST. You will have two tries for every homework problem and, if there are multiple parts, you will have two tries for each part. The online homework is meant to take between 30 minutes and 2 hours a week and serves to check your basic understanding of the lecture.

The lowest homework score will be dropped. The final homework grade will be the average of all of the homework scores without including the lowest score.

D. Ungraded problem sets

I will assign (almost) weekly problem sets that are not graded along with their answer key. Completing these problem sets and making sure you understand solutions is critical to success on quizzes and exams. I may pull problems from these sets to present in the problem-solving sessions.

E. Department policy and assigning grades

This is subject to change.

The department of economics has adopted a set of grading guidelines for ECON 300. The median grade assigned must be no more than a 3.1 and a normal class will have a median grade between 2.8 and 3.0. You can expect if you have been consistently scoring the median raw score across your assignments to receive a grade between 2.8 and 3.0, and if the class does exceptionally well then you can expect a 3.1.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date format is Month/Day.

Canvas is the final authority over due dates.

Weeks	Goals
Week 1 March 29 – April 2	Syllabus MyLabs set-up Math Review, Chapter 2
Week 2 April 5 – April 9	Chapter 3 Practice Exam 04/07 HW 1 due 04/07
Week 3 April 12 – April 16	Chapters 3 HW 2 due 04/14
Week 4 April 19 – April 23	Chapter 4 Quiz 1 04/21 HW 3 due 04/21
Week 5 April 26 – April 30	Chapters 4 and 6 HW 4 due 04/28
Week 6 May 3 – May 7	Chapter 6 Midterm Exam 05/05
Week 7 May 10 – May 14	Chapter 7 HW 5 due 05/12
Week 8 May 17 – May 21	Chapter 8 HW 6 due 05/19
Week 9 May 24 – May 28	Chapters 11 and 13 Quiz 2 05/26 HW 7 due 05/26
Week 10 May 31 – June 4	Chapters 13 and 14 HW 8 due 06/02
Finals Week June 7 – June 11	Final Exam 06/07

Academic Honesty

1. Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Looking at another student's exam is considered cheating. If a student is seen committing this act, they will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct on campus for a hearing. A student who may be facilitating the act of cheating will be also referred to the same office.
2. Altering an exam before submitting it for a review of the grading, obtaining an advance copy of an examination, or arranging for a surrogate test-taker are all flagrant violations of university policy.

Again, a student suspected of this act may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

3. Altering an exam after being graded and then soliciting an adjustment of the exam grade is also a violation of university policy and students who attempt this will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. A formal warning: a copy of each exam will be saved before being distributed back to students.
4. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the university. The department will follow university policy in case of academic misconduct. I strongly recommend that you review the Dept. of Economics policy [here](#).

Students found having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions, which range from a disciplinary warning to permanent expulsion from the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct.

Accessibility and Accomodations

If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include, but not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uw-drss@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu.

DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s), and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Religious Accomodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hard-ship 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 Faculty Syllabus Guidelines and Resources. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Statement Against Discrimination and Harrassment

Please follow the UW Student Conduct Code in your interactions with your fellow students and myself in this course by respecting the many social and cultural differences among us, which may include, but are not limited to: age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender identity and presentation, citizenship and immigration status, national origin, race, religious and political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status.