

Syllabus

Econ 200 Introduction to Microeconomics

Instructor: Professor Melissa Knox

Office Hours: Monday 1-3 pm via Zoom (see calendar for link)

Class Meetings: Thursdays 11:30 am -12:50 pm (synchronous) via Zoom (see calendar for link)

Class Questions: If it's not in the syllabus, the class discussion boards, office hours, and synchronous meetings are the best place to ask questions.

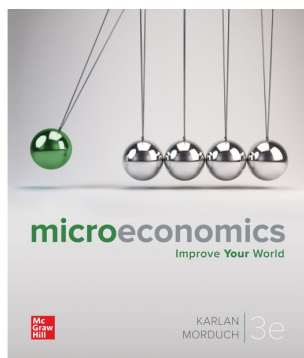
Personal Questions: Send me a message in Canvas for personal inquiries.

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.1
 - 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.
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Required Materials

The required textbook is Microeconomics, 3rd edition, by Karlan and Morduch. You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework site (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled ebook 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.



Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Exams (60%)
- Homework (12%)
- Writing Assignments (21%)
- Participation (7%)

Final grades will be curved as necessary to reach a median grade for the class between 2.9 and 3.1. 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+/-.

Important Dates

- Homework is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Monday night except the Monday after Exam 1.
 - Smartbook reading reviews for the entire week are due Thursday by 10 am in MH Connect. This means that although we will cover a whole week of material via asynchronous instruction, you will be responsible for reading the text and answering the Learnsmart questions by Thursday of that week. You may view the lecture videos any time that week before the homework is due on Monday.
 - Writing Assignments are due 04/18, 05/16, and 05/30 at 11:59 pm in Canvas. You may submit these up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty.
 - Exams are 04/29 and 06/03. You will be expected to take your exam live during regular class time. If this is not possible due to your time zone, please consider taking another class. Makeup exams are only given under extreme circumstances and you must notify me the day of the exam if you need a makeup. I do not consider work schedules, travel plans, or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances. These are non-cumulative exams.
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Need Help?

Office hours are a time for students to come and ask any questions they have about the class, the assignments, or the homework. Your TA's and I will hold two hours of Zoom office hours per week, and you should make frequent use of them. You can also receive free tutoring from the Department of Economics (via the Economics Undergraduate Board) and we will have a CLUE session for this class.

Your success is important to us - please feel free to reach out to any one of your class leaders for help.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is important to me. You are expected to complete your own work for every assignment and exam. Exams will be monitored in the best way that we know how, but it is still your responsibility to be aware of the rules and not consult any outside resources during exams, including discussing the exam with anyone else while you are taking it. 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. Additionally, writing assignments will be submitted through a plagiarism checker in Canvas.

Class Rules and Additional Details

Class Format and Weekly Schedule


The class will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Each week, beginning on Sunday, you will gain access to the lectures associated with that week's readings. This will be 1-2 chapters of material and I would typically cover this material in two 80 minute lectures (for a total of 160 minutes per week). Instead, I will cover the same material in ~100 minutes of lecture that you may view over the course of the week, with the expectation that you will have viewed them by your quiz section on Friday. There will be Smartbook activities associated with the weekly assigned readings and these will be due by 10 am every Thursday. You will meet with your TAs synchronously over Zoom on Friday and solve problems related to that week's readings. A problem set associated with the readings and lectures will be assigned as homework and due the following Monday. We will also meet on **Thursdays** at 11:30 am for about 80 minutes of synchronous instruction based on the previous week's readings. This will be a mix of discussion and problem solving and I will have in-class participation quizzes (graded for completion, not accuracy) via Poll Everywhere at this time. These lectures will be recorded, but you will not be able to make up the Poll Everywhere quizzes. We will not have graded quizzes the first week of class or the weeks of the exams.

Makeup Policies and Flexibility

Your lowest homework score and seven lowest class participation scores (lecture quizzes and Smartbook assignments combined) will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. There is no other makeup policy for these assignments, so please use these dropped scores sparingly. In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework. Instead you will be expected to use your dropped score. If you have technical issues with Connect, please contact their tech support asap. Sometimes it takes time to resolve these issues, so please do not start the homework the night it is due.

If you never attend the live class session, you will use up all of your dropped participation scores. Writing assignments can be submitted 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). You will be allowed to makeup exams with an approved excuse. Please contact me immediately and provide documentation of your excuse to have your makeup exam scheduled. I reserve the right to drop your exam score if we are not able to schedule a makeup in a timely manner.

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 (<http://disability.uw.edu>)  (http://disability.uw.edu/download?download_frd=1) 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/) (<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/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).