

Syllabus
ECON 300C: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS
Spring 2020

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Lectures: MW 12:30-2:20pm
Office hours: Tuesday 10:30am-12:30pm

Disclaimer: This syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change.

Course Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1372202>. You are responsible for regularly checking it and staying on top of announcements, including the reading and homework schedules.

Online class: The class will be held remotely using Zoom. Please complete the registration using the following URL:

<https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/upUtcO-oqD4uqkyXUC8JQqRjLNPqLUV0g>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information (e.g., meeting link, password, etc.) about joining the meeting.

Office hours: Remotely via zoom on Tuesdays at 10:30am-12:30pm

Textbook:

- (1) Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach (9th Edition) by Hal Varian
- (2) Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus (4th Edition) by Jeffrey Perloff

Course Description: This is an intermediate course in microeconomic theory. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the methods and tools of microeconomics analysis, and the study of decision-making on a “micro” level. 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. Mathematics allows us to build precise models and to strip them down to their most important components and interactions. Note that, although models expressed mathematically may seem simplistic at first, the art of being an economist is to impart economic meaning and conclusions to the equations, derivatives and graphs. The payoff is a deeper understanding of the importance that logical modeling and critical thinking play in economics.

Prerequisites: 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 subject to certain constraints.

Grading and Grading Scale

Tests	60%
Assignments/quizzes	35%
Reflection report	5%

Your total score is converted to a 4.0 GPA by using the table below.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade-Point
94-100	A	3.9-4.0
90-93	A-	3.5-3.8
87-89	B+	3.2-3.4
84-86	B	2.9-3.1
80-83	B-	2.5-2.8
77-79	C+	2.2-2.4
74-76	C	1.9-2.1
70-73	C-	1.5-1.8
67-69	D+	1.2-1.4
64-66	D	0.9-1.1
60-63	D-	0.7-0.8
Below 60	F	0.0-0.6

The Department of Economics at UW requires that the median GPA for all undergraduate economics courses fall within the range of 2.8 - 3.1. If the median grade for the course happens to be outside of 2.8-3.1 range on the preliminary grade scale, the grade scale will be adjusted accordingly. However, I reserve the right to reward students who show a pattern of sustained improvement throughout the quarter.

Quizzes: There will be 8 quizzes/assignments which will test your knowledge on the materials discussed in recent classes. Each test is weighted equally. Your best 7 quizzes will be considered for your course grade calculation. No make-up for quizzes. If you miss one quiz, that's the one that will be dropped. The quiz will be held on the following dates:

Quiz	Date
Quiz 1	04/06/2020
Quiz 2	04/15/2020
Quiz 3	04/20/2020
Quiz 4	04/29/2020
Quiz 5	05/04/2020
Quiz 6	05/13/2020
Quiz 7	05/18/2020
Quiz 8	06/01/2020

The quizzes will be held during class, usually will start at 12:45pm. You will have around 15 minutes to complete the quiz.

Tests: There will be five tests. Each test is weighted equally. The tests will be held on the following dates:

Test	Date
Test 1	04/08/2020
Test 2	04/22/2020
Test 3	05/06/2020
Test 4	05/20/2020
Test 5	06/03/2020

There will be no early exams or make-up exams given without a reasonable ground. More information regarding how the tests will be conducted will be announced during class or on Canvas later.

Reflection report: Write a three-page report summarizing what you have learned in this class. Instead of listing all the topics or just writing the definitions, express your understanding of the concepts discussed in this class. Reports will be checked for plagiarism using Vericite. If I believe that you have cheated or plagiarized, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. Depending on the severity of plagiarism, you may receive an F in this course.

Some general guidelines

- If you are struggling, please get help! You can join my online office hours or get the free tutoring available from the CLUE(<http://webster.uaa.washington.edu/asp/website/>).
- You are also always welcome to email me if you need help or have any question. But please be mindful that I may not reply immediately to your emails. For immediate response, please attend the office hours.
- Use the discussion board actively. If you have any question, ask there. If you know answer to someone else's question, please answer. I may reward students based on their presence on discussion board.
- If you have a documented disability, please let me know with supported documentation from the Office of Disability Resources for Students on the first day of class, so that I can make any arrangements required for accommodations.

How to study effectively:

- Read the relevant parts of the chapter(s) carefully before each lecture. Try to get a good idea of both the questions asked and the approach (the concept and the reasoning process) to addressing the questions in the textbook.
- Take notes during class, but it is not necessary to copy every slide. The slides will be posted online. You are welcome (and, in fact, encouraged) to ask questions during class.
- After the lecture, attempt the problems and make sure you fully write down the answer to each question using the relevant concepts you have learned.

Religious Accommodations

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/>).

Tentative schedule:

Date	Topic	Relevant chapters from textbook	
		Perloff	Varian
03/30/2020	Introduction, Math Review		
04/01/2020	Budget constraint	Chapter 3	Chapter 2
04/06/2020	Quiz 1 Consumer preference	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 & 4
04/08/2020	Test 1		
04/13/2020	Constrained utility maximization	Chapter 4	Chapter 5 & 6
04/15/2020	Quiz 2 Constrained expenditure minimization	Chapter 4	
04/20/2020	Quiz 3 Slutsky Equation	Chapter 4	Chapter 8
04/22/2020	Test 2		
04/27/2020	Production	Chapter 6	Chapter 19
04/29/2020	Quiz 4 Profit maximization	Chapter 8	Chapter 20
05/04/2020	Quiz 5 Cost minimization, output maximization		Chapter 21
05/06/2020	Test 3		
05/11/2020	Cost curves	Chapter 7	Chapter 22
05/13/2020	Quiz 6 Perfectly competitive market	Chapter 8	Chapter 23
05/18/2020	Quiz 7 Monopoly	Chapter 11	Chapter 25
05/20/2020	Test 4		
05/27/2020	Oligopoly, Game theory	Chapter 13 & 14	Chapter 28 & 29
06/01/2020	Quiz 8 Welfare analysis	Chapter 5 & 10	Chapter 14
06/03/2020	Test 5		

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