

ECON 200 F: INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMICS

University of Washington

Autumn 2020

Instructor: Rajarshi Datta	Meeting Time: Mon, Wed 12:30 – 2:20 PM
Email: rdatta2@uw.edu	Location: Online

Classroom: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/95908917958>

Course Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1397120>. All the material regarding the course will be posted on this page, including announcements about upcoming homeworks and exams. It is your responsibility to regularly check the course website.

Office Hours: Mon, Wed 3:00-4:00 PM (PST) (<https://washington.zoom.us/j/95232527611>) or by appointment, Online.

Main References:

Our main textbook is Microeconomics (3rd edition) Author: Dean Karlan and Jonathan Morduch (published by McGraw Hill) with MH Connect.

Learning Goals:

- Understand and be able to use microeconomic terminology.
- Understand that the highest-valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of what is chosen.
- Understand how individuals and firms make themselves as well off as possible in a world of scarcity.
- Understand how prices inform the decisions about which goods and services to produce, how to produce them, and who gets them.
- Understand how government policies and different institutional arrangements affect the allocation of resources in an economy.
- Use microeconomic principles to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena.

Class Rules:

- This course is served online. You are not required “live” attendance for regular lectures. However, regular attendance is essential and expected. Video recorded lectures will be available on canvas for a limited time. You MUST attend all exams on time.
- It is important to check the course website regularly. Please note that lecture notes and other materials will be posted on Canvas.
- If circumstances beyond your choice and control materialize (such as a sudden illness, an accident, etc.) that derail you from studying or taking a test on time, you have the responsibility of informing me as soon as possible. I will then try to help you to the best of my ability. Please read the Make-up Tests section on this syllabus.
- Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, bringing notes to a closed note exam, consulting a classmate or any other source of information during an exam.

Assignment	Percentage of Course Grade
Online HW (on MH Connect)	10%
Article Responses	10%
Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	40%

- **Online Homework:** The weekly online homework will be submitted on MH Connect, which is part of the digital or bundled purchase of the textbook- information on connect is on Canvas. It is worth 10% of your grade. You will have two tries for every homework problem with a small penalty on your second try. The online homework serves to check your basic understanding of the lecture and readings you've done. The first HW will act as a practice run. The grade for the first HW will not count as part of your course grade.
- **Exams:** There will be two exams with equal weight. Exams are non cumulative. A midterm worth 40% and the final exam worth 40%. All tests will be conducted via Zoom, during normal class time and/or during the set final exam time during finals week. You will need a calculator for some of the questions on your quizzes/tests. You are allowed to take a simple 4-function or a scientific calculator to all your exams. Graphing calculators are not allowed in any of the exams in this course. You will be required to log into a Zoom conference and complete your exam on video during class time. After completing the exam, you must scan your answer sheet (loose leaf paper) with a PDF scanner app such as Adobe Scan and upload your answer to Canvas.
- **Article Responses:** There will be two article responses. They are worth 5% each. Responses will be evaluated in a very simple manner, out of 5 points (I will explain more about the grading in lecture). The purpose of the article responses is to get you exposed to economic reasoning in a topic you are interested in and to analyze articles with the tools from this class. The Article Responses are collectively worth 10% of your grade.

Grading Scale:

There is a (preliminary) grading scale on the basis of which I determine course grades. The scale will be determined by class progress after your Midterm and finalized after your Final Exam. The grading policy of the Department of Economics sets the upper boundary for the Median grade in principles of economics courses at 3.1. I will maintain a median grade for this course in the 2.8-3.1 range. If the median grade for the course happens to be outside of 2.8-3.1 range on the preliminary grade scale, I will adjust the grade scale according to the class performance.

Make-up Tests:

If you miss the midterm and want to take a make-up due to your illness, you are required to present a doctor's note with both the phone number and address of the doctor/clinic in order to verify the authenticity of the documentation you provide. However, if schedule conflicts or other unforeseen reasons, prevent you from taking your make-up exam in the event of genuine reasons as outlined above, your grade will be automatically re-scaled(if needed). Other reasons such as family gathering, wedding, internship, travel, technical issue, etc. will not be excused for make-up exams. There is no make-up available for the final exam.

Important Dates:

- Article Response 1: Due October 21 Wednesday 11:59 PM (PT) Online on Canvas.
- Midterm: November 2 12:30 – 2:20 PM (PT), Online (live attendance with camera on is required).
- Article Response 2: Due December 2 Wednesday 11:59 PM (PT) Online on Canvas.
- Final Exam: December 17 8:30-10:20 AM (PT), Online (live attendance with camera on is required).

Academic Honesty:

- Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, bringing notes to a closed note exam, consulting a classmate or any other source of information during an exam.
- The Department will follow University policy in case of academic misconduct. I strongly recommend that you review University policy at <https://econ.washington.edu/policy-academic-conduct>.
- Students found to have 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. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

- Your experience in this class is important to me. 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 uwdrs@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 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 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/>).

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.

Tentative Course Outline				
Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Notice
1	September 30	Introduction, what is Economics	Syllabus, Chapter 1	
2	October 5	Principles & PPF	Chapter 2	
	October 7	Supply & Demand	Chapter 3	
3	October 12	Elasticity	Chapter 4	
	October 14	Efficiency	Chapter 5	
4	October 19	Government Intervention	Chapter 6	
	October 21	Consumer Behaviour	Chapter 7	Article Response 1
5	October 26	International Trade	Chapter 17	
	October 28	International Trade	Chapter 17	
6	November 2	Midterm		Midterm Exam
	November 4	Externalities	Chapter 18	
7	November 9	Externalities, the costs of production	Chapter 18, 12	
	November 16	The costs of Production	Chapter 12	
8	November 18	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13	
	November 23	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13	
9	November 25	Monopoly	Chapter 14	
	November 30	Monopoly	Chapter 14	
10	December 2	Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 15	
	December 7	Oligopoly, Introduction to Game Theory	Chapters 15, 9	Article Response 2
11	December 9	Introduction to Game Theory	Chapter 9	
	December 17	Final Exam		Final Exam