

## Syllabus

ECON 200M: Introduction to Microeconomics  
Autumn 2020

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Instructor: Ferdous Z. Sardar  
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Lectures: MW 06:30-08:20 @ [Zoom](#)  
Office hours: Monday 10:00am-12:00pm

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

**Course Website:** <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1397127>. **You are responsible for regularly checking it** and staying on top of announcements, assignments, quizzes, etc.

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

[https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtd-isrjkiGtMSK305OSkyDq7U4Qng\\_kzc](https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtd-isrjkiGtMSK305OSkyDq7U4Qng_kzc)

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 Monday 10:00am-12:00pm. See canvas for details.

**Textbook:** I will mostly use Microeconomics, 6th edition by R. Glenn Hubbard and Anthony Patrick O'Brien. But feel free to use any version of the textbook you are comfortable with.

**Course Description:** In this course students will be exposed to the economic way of thinking and learn about the functioning of economic agents in a modern economy. The course deals with basic economic principles that help us understand the process of decision making by individuals and firms. We analyze the fundamental economic activities of consumption, production, distribution and exchange. How these economic activities are affected under different policies, market structures, or property rights are also analyzed in this course.

**Learning Goals:** At the end of the course, you are expected to be able to

- Understand and use microeconomic terminology
- Explain how individuals and firms make themselves as well off as possible in a world of scarcity
- Analyze how prices inform the decisions about which goods and services to produce, how to produce them, and who gets them
- Analyze how government policies and different institutional arrangements affect the allocation of resources in an economy
- Explain how market structure influences the allocation of resources
- Critique the economic content of articles or presentations
- Use microeconomic principles to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena – under a competitive market structure
- Use elements of game theory to explain the strategic choices of individuals or organizations

## Grading and Grading Scale

Writing Assignment	10%
End of class quiz	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

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

Please note that the grading policy of the Department of Economics sets the upper boundary for the median grade in 200 level economics courses at 3.1. In this class, the grade will be curved maintaining a median grade from 2.8-3.0 range. However, I reserve the right to reward students who show a pattern of sustained improvement throughout the quarter.

**Quizzes:** There will be 12 quizzes at the end of classes. The date will be randomly selected. The quiz will test your understanding on the materials discussed in that class. Each quiz is weighted equally. Best 10 will be counted towards your grade.

**Practice Problem Sets:** There will be a few problem sets which are mainly for practice. Though you do not have to submit the problem sets and you will not be graded for these problems, solving these problem sets will be good preparation for the exams.

**Exams:** There will be two exams. The first one is a midterm which will be held on **November 04, 2020** (Wednesday). This exam will account for 30% of your total grade. The final exam will be held during the last day of instruction which is **December 9, 2020**. This one will be worth 40% of your total grade. The **final exam will be cumulative**, i.e., all materials discussed in this course may appear in the exam.

**Reflection report:** Write a 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 with real life personal experience. Word limit: 750 to 1250.

Reports will be checked for plagiarism. 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.

Due: December 7, 2020 at 5pm on Canvas. [Submit on Canvas](#).

**Extra credit for correction:** If you find a typo in lecture slides, quizzes, problem sets or during lecture, post it on [Canvas under discussion board](#).

**Grade Changes:** Any change of grade in an assignment or exam must be requested in writing with a clear explanation of why any modification should be made. Such a request will only be accepted within one week of receiving the graded material.

**Access and Accommodations:** Your experience in this class is important to me. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please activate your accommodations via myDRS so we can discuss how they will be implemented 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), contact DRS directly to set up an Access Plan. DRS facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations. Contact DRS at [disability.uw.edu](mailto:disability.uw.edu).

**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/>).

**Privacy statement of zoom class:** This course is scheduled to run synchronously at your scheduled class time via Zoom. These Zoom class sessions will be recorded. The recording will capture the presenter's audio, video and computer screen. Student audio and video will be recorded if they share their computer audio and video during the recorded session. The recordings will only be accessible to students enrolled in the course to review materials. These recordings will not be shared with or accessible to the public.

The University and Zoom have FERPA-compliant agreements in place to protect the security and privacy of UW Zoom accounts. Students who do not wish to be recorded should:

- Change their Zoom screen name to hide any personal identifying information such as their name or UW Net ID, and
- Not share their computer audio or video during their Zoom sessions.

## Tentative Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for the quarter. It is subject to change. Any modification will be announced in class or course website.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Week 1	Introduction Math Review
Week 2	Demand Supply Market Equilibrium
Week 3	Tax Subsidies Price Control
Week 4	Elasticities
Week 5	Externalities
Week 6	PPF/Opp. Cost Gains from trade Trade Restrictions
Week 7	Production/Technology SR Costs SR Cost Curves
Week 8	LR Costs and cost curves Perfect competition
Week 9	Monopoly Monopolistic Competition/Oligopoly
Week 10	Property Rights
Week 11	Review <b>Final exam</b>