

**Syllabus**  
**ECON 300B: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS**  
Winter 2020

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Instructor: Ferdous Z. Sardar  
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Lectures: MW 8:30-10:20am PM @ MOR 221  
Office hours: M10:30am-12:30pm @Savery 319A

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**Course Website:** <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1354257>

**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**

Exam 1	30% (on 01/29)
Exam 2	30% (on 02/26)
Exam 3 (Cumulative)	40% (on 03/11)

Your total score is converted to a 4.0 GPA by using the table below. On a typical quarter, a median grade is B.

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 do extremely well on the final and/or show a pattern of sustained improvement throughout the quarter.

**Exams:** There will be three exams. They will be graded for clarity and accuracy. Please mark your final answers and clearly show the steps you took to arrive at those answers. If you make any assumptions, state them up front.

There will be no early exams or make-up exams given without a doctor's note or a really reasonable documented ground. If you miss the final exam, your final exam grade will be 0; an incomplete grade for the class can be given with a doctor's note or a proper excuse provided to me before the final exam. As a rule, "cheat sheets", graphing calculators, and internet-capable devices are not allowed in exams, but you can use a simple calculator for the exams.

Please note that the final exam will be held on March 11, 2020 (during the last class). The exam will be cumulative, i.e., it will test everything from the beginning of the course.

**Practice problem sets:** Around 3 problem sets will be posted on Canvas. 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 tests/exams.

### **Some general guidelines**

- No make-up of midterm exam other than for medical reason. For make-up of midterm exam, you must submit verifiable documentation from the clinic/doctor. There is no make up for the final exam.
- If you are struggling, please get help! You can come to my office hours, go to the free tutoring available from the EUB(<http://depts.washington.edu/ecnboard/eub-tutoring/>).
- You are also always welcome to approach me after class with questions, or to email me to make an appointment.
- If you have a documented disability, please bring 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.

### **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/>).

**Topics:** Here is a rough guide to the topics we will be covering:

1. Introduction and Math Review: Appendix
2. Consumer Theory
3. Producer Theory
4. Monopoly, Oligopoly
5. Game Theory
6. Uncertainty (if time permits)
7. General Equilibrium (if time permits)