

Syllabus
ECON 300B: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS
Spring 2021

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Lectures: M W 12:30-2:20pm
Office hours: Tuesday 11:30am-1:30pm

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

Course Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1449036>. **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. [Register](#) in advance. 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 11:30am-1:30pm. [Register](#) in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information (e.g., meeting link, password, etc.) about joining the meeting.

Textbook:

- (1) Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach (9th Edition) by Hal Varian (required)
- (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. 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

Midterm exam (1)	35%
Final exam (1)	45%
Assignments (2)	5%
Discussions	5%
Attendance	5%
Reflection report (1)	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.

Exams: There will be two exams. The first one is a midterm which will be held on **April 28, 2021** (Wednesday) during the class hours. This exam will account for 35% of your total grade. As per UW's final exam schedule, the final exam will be held on **June 10, 2021 (Thursday) from 8:30 am to 10:20 am**. This one will be worth 45% of your total grade. **The final exam will be cumulative**, i.e., all materials discussed in this course may appear in the exam.

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. 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: June 2, 2021 at 12:25pm. Submit on Canvas.

Problem sets: There will be two [problem sets](#). Solving these problem sets will be good preparation for the exams. If you submit complete assignments by the deadline you will get the full credit.

Discussions: By participating in the discussions on topics posted on the [Discussions on Canvas](#) you can get 5 points. The topics and rule of discussions will be announced later in class and/or Canvas.

Attendance: This course is scheduled to run synchronously via Zoom. Other than the two exams we will have a total of 18 meetings. You must attend 12 of those meetings. Being present in 17 meetings you can get a perfect 5% on attendance.

Number of attendances	Points
12 or less	0
13	1
14	2
15	3
16	4
17 or more	5

Extra credit: By turning your video on during the lecture session on zoom, you may get extra credit.

Number of meetings	Extra credit points
12 to 14	1
15 to 17	2
18	3

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.

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.

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.

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*:

Week	Topic	Chapters
Week 1	Introduction Math Review Budget constraint	Chapter 2
Week 2	Consumer preference Constrained utility maximization	Chapter 3 & 4 Chapter 5 & 6
Week 3	Constrained utility maximization	Chapter 5 & 6
Week 4	Constrained expenditure minimization Slutsky Equation	Chapter 6 Chapter 8
Week 5	Review Midterm exam	
Week 6	Production Output maximization Cost minimization	Chapter 19 Chapter 19 Chapter 21
Week 7	Profit maximization Cost curves	Chapter 20 Chapter 22
Week 8	Perfectly competitive market	Chapter 23
Week 9	Monopoly Oligopoly Game theory	Chapter 25 Chapter 28 Chapter 29
Week 10	Review	
Week 11	Final	

* This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.