Economics 300 A – Intermediate Microeconomics

Autumn 2013
Monday & Wednesday 12:30-2:20
Denny Hall 211

Yu-hsuan Su
yuhsu@uw.edu
Savery Hall 403

http://catalyst.uw.edu – grades & course resources
Office hours: Monday 2:30-3:30,
MyEconLab – online homework
Thursday 11-12 or by appointment

Course Description

Economics is the social science that analyzes the consumption, production, and distribution of goods and services. Economics provides a highly analytical and scientific framework to study the world. Hopefully your introductory economics courses gave you a taste of this approach. Intermediate Microeconomics builds on the theories of an introductory course by utilizing mathematics to more precisely model what we see in the world. The skills gained through this course will provide an opportunity to specialize in applied micro courses, such as Development Economics, Public Finance, Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, International Trade and many others.

Student Learning Goals

Fundamental Knowledge
• Understand and be able to use microeconomic terminology
• 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 affect the allocation of resources in a market economy
• Understand how market structure influences the allocation of resources

Applications
• Use microeconomic principles and diagrams to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena
• Use basic calculus to solve optimization problems
• Use economic reasoning to explain the strategic choices of individuals or organizations

Textbook
• Jeffrey M. Perloff, Microeconomics (6th edition), Addison-Wesley.
(Please obtain a copy with the access to MyEconLab)

Topics
• Introduction & Math Review
• Supply and Demand: 2.1-2.4, 3.1-3.3
• Consumer Theory: 4.1-4.4, Appendices 4A-4B, 5.1-5.3, 10.1-10.2
• Production Theory and Cost Functions: 6.1-6.5, 7.1-7.4, Appendices 7A, 7C
• Competitive Firms and Markets: 8.1-8.4, Appendices 8A-8B, 9.1-9.4
• Monopoly: 11.1-11.6
• Cournot Duopoly: 13.4-13.5, 13.7-13.8
• Game Theory: 14.1-14.3
Grading

The grade will be computed by the following items:

- **Exams (75%)**: 35% for Exam 1 (October 23, Wednesday) and 40% for Exam 2 (December 4, Wednesday). Exams will be closed-book. Please prepare a four-function-only calculator.
- **Online Homework & Surveys (25%)**: After we finish a chapter in class, you will be given a period of time to finish the homework for that chapter by using the online tool, MyEconLab. There will also be a few online surveys.
- **Participation points**: You can get additional 0.1% by answering a question or asking a good question, up to two points for each student in a day. This will be the only form of extra credit given so if you anticipate needing or wanting it, I recommend you prepare to be involved from day one.

The upper median grade for this course will be no higher than 3.1. This rule is set by the department of economics and thus nonnegotiable.

Classroom Rules

- **Attendance**: Classroom participation is expected in this class. This means that you should attend every class and take your own notes. If you miss any portion of any class, you should ask your classmates what information you missed before talking to me. If you encounter any difficulty, you are welcome to make an appointment with me anytime, but you should seek for help.
- **Talking**: When one person is talking in our class, be it myself or one of your classmates, no one else should be talking. This is essential for good question asking and answering.
- **Technology**: You are not allowed to use a computer in class without my approval. Cell phones should not be seen in the classroom and should be silenced or turned off during class.
- **Academic Integrity**: Exams are individual work and are a time to show what you, as an individual, have learned. Looking at someone else’s paper, working together, sharing answers, changing answers after the exam is passed back, will not be tolerated and will result in, at best, a zero on the given exam. Exams are closed-book so looking at books, notes, cellphone, will be considered cheating.

"Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department’s rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal for the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.” – from the Department

Additional Help

- **Office Hours**: You are always welcome to talk to me during the office hours or by making appointments in advance. For appointments, please e-mail me at least 24 hours in advance and give me three choices of times. I will confirm with you as soon as possible. Requests made within 24 hours or drop-ins are not guaranteed.
- **Free Tutoring Services**

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability I encourage you to work with the staff at Office of Disability Resources for Students. If you have a notification of a disability from that office and feel comfortable sharing that with me please do so, so that I can help making any necessary accommodations.