

ECON 3060 - Intermediate Microeconomics
Section 1 (80104): TR 8:30-9:45, Hawes 209

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office hours: MTW 2:00-4:00 & by appt.

This course is intended to provide the basic mathematical, analytical and graphical tools used in the microeconomics analysis of consumer and firm behavior. Principles of Microeconomics and advanced mathematics (MATH 1950 or MATH 1161) are important pre-requisites for this course. The basic tools of calculus that are used in the course will be reviewed briefly, however the student taking this course without the mathematical pre-requisite does so at his or her own risk.

Book: Microeconomics 7e, Pindyck & Rubinfeld. Prentice Hall publishers. Any of the 4th to 6th editions is a suitable substitute. I recommend against spending \$130 on the most recent edition. I strongly recommend getting the book immediately and paying express shipping if it is bought online. Schaum's outline in Microeconomic Theory by Salvatore is also a very useful study guide. The textbook author's web site should also be helpful.

Course topics: We will follow the textbook in order for Chapter 1-12. Thereafter I will set a schedule of the remaining topics based on the time left. I expect to cover four chapters beyond Chapter 12.

Grading:

75 percent: Six exams, equally weighted. The first five exams will be during the class immediately following chapters 2, 5, 7, 11, and 13. The sixth exam will be during the final exam time slot and will cover whatever material we discussed after chapter 13. Approximate dates for exams: Sept 1, Sept 22, Oct 29, Nov 19. These are guesses. We could have the exams either before or after these dates. Exams will be 35 to 45 minutes long and we will have lecture after the exams. Exams are problem oriented, but may also include short answers or multiple choice. I may provide some choice of questions but that is not guaranteed. I suggest doing all problems at the end of each chapter for exam preparation. Calculators are allowed for basic mathematics on the exams, but programmable functions (graphing, etc.) may not be used. No books, notes, or other forms of assistance are allowed on the exams. Violations are subject to the university honor code, acceptance of which you signed upon admission to the university. Students may miss one exam for any reason, with the course grade being calculated with 5 equally weighted exams. I will not give make-up exams except in very, very, very, very, extreme circumstances.

25 percent: Problem sets graded on a scale of 0 to 5. I have not yet determined the number of problem sets. Working together is acceptable, but cheating is not allowed. The difference is simple. If students work together, they are each able to do a similar problem on their own when asked. There is also a high probability that some of the same problems will show up on the exams. Problem sets are due by the start of class and will not be accepted late under any circumstance.

Class participation is not graded but is important to learning economics. I have learned in my years of teaching that students learn more and learn more easily when the class is interesting. Whether an economics class is interesting depends on the professor's efforts to make the class interesting, on the students' efforts to make the class interesting, and on the student's level of preparedness for class. For a student to participate successfully in this course the student must do the following: read all assigned materials in advance, attend class, and offer insightful questions and comments during class.

Students may lose up to 10 percent of their grades for actions and behaviors that are disruptive to the learning environment.

Attendance: Class attendance is important. If you do not plan to attend consistently, drop the course now and change your major to something else. Once I begin lecturing and close the door you may not enter the classroom. You must take exams on the day and time assigned. I am very critical of excuses for missing exams. Because the attendance roster is used in determining course grades, you may mark the roster only for the current day and may not sign in another student for any reason.

Classroom behavior and the learning environment: An academic classroom is a learning environment. Actions that diminish the effectiveness of the classroom as a learning environment are discouraged. For this reasons, students may lose up to ten percent of their course grades for behaviors I consider to be disruptive to the learning environment. What follows is a list of common disruptions. It is not all-inclusive. Any actions that a reasonable person would consider disruptive to learning may affect the student's grade. I will not wait until the end of class to comment in private. Disruptive students may be given assigned seats, may be dismissed from lecture, or may be withdrawn from the course.

1. Arrive on time, leave at the end. You may not enter late or leave early without talking to me first.
2. No electronic devices except for calculators.
3. No side conversations or unnecessary noise during class.
4. Do not work on other courses or personal business in this class.
5. Do not come to class when you are ill and contagious. Please allow classmates to remain healthy.
6. Students are required to show respect for others' political beliefs.
7. Ideas are open to criticism; people are not. No personal attacks.

Contacting me and other stuff:

Please take advantage of my office hours, they are set aside for your benefit. This is the easiest method of contacting me. If my door is open during my office hours let me know you are there. If it is closed, knock. Don't shy away from my door when it is closed. Also, I'm not against students dropping in at other hours, but most students have similar questions, and will benefit from hearing other students' questions. I rarely answer questions on exam day. Proper learning requires longer recall than a few hours.

If you have a quick question, wish to make an appointment, or find my office hours inconvenient try me right after class or use E-mail. I usually check E-mail often.

If you believe you have a condition or an impairment that will affect your performance in this class, and would like to arrange for an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services. I am not qualified to evaluate disabilities and can make no accommodation without the proper reference.

Topics: The topics of the course will roughly follow the textbook beginning with chapter 1. I will provide advanced notice if we are to deviate from this.