

EC 311: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
University of Oregon
Winter 2016

Instructor: Nigel McClung
Office Hours: 5-7 p.m. Tuesday
Office: PLC 520
E-mail: nmcclung@uoregon.edu
Lecture: MW 10:00am-12:00pm in Gerlinger 302

GTF: Max Mindock
Office Hours: Monday, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:45-9:45 a.m.
Office: PLC 319

Disclaimer: This is a draft of the syllabus. It may therefore be revised.

Course Description: The objective of this course is to provide you with an overview of the most important theoretical concepts in microeconomics. The material in this course provides the foundation for studying issues in a wide variety of fields in economics, including labor, health, education, industrial organization, trade, environmental economics, and other fields, and it is essential for further study in economics.

Our treatment of microeconomics is divided into three parts. First, we study consumer theory to gain an understanding of how consumers preferences and budgets lead to their consumption choices and the derivation of individual and market demand curves. Second, we study producer theory and will learn how available technologies lead to cost functions and supply curves. Third, we study the interactions of consumers and firms in different types of markets.

Prerequisites: EC 201, MATH 111, some calculus experience is highly recommended

Required Materials: *Intermediate Microeconomics* by Hal Varian, 9th ed. W.W. Norton, 2014.

Important Dates: You will be expected to complete homework/quiz assignments and three exams for this course. The following table lists **all** of the important dates you must remember for this course:

Obligation	Date	Time
Homeworks/Quizzes	Due Monday after assigned	10 a.m.
Midterm 1	Wednesday, January 27	10 a.m.
Midterm 2	Wednesday, February 24	10 a.m.
Final	Thursday, March 17	10:15 a.m.

Grades: Grades will be assigned using the following scale: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-59). Your

final grade will be a weighted average of the graded components of this course. Weights are assigned as follows:

Material	Grade Weight
Homework/Quizzes	20 percent
Midterm 1	20 percent
Midterm 1	25 percent
Final	35 percent

Attendance is not required. However, students will be responsible for all material in the assigned chapters as well as all material covered in class. The textbook should not be considered a substitute for attending class. Lecture slides may be posted on Canvas, but the slides will not contain everything we cover in class.

Exams: This course will have three exams: two midterms and a final. The final exam will be cumulative. The first midterm will be held on Wednesday, January 27 at 10 a.m. The second midterm will be held on Wednesday, February 24 at 10 a.m. The final exam will be held on Thursday, March 17 and 10:15 a.m. Please note that no make-up exams will be given. If any exam is missed, a type-written petition fully explaining and documenting the reason for missing the exam must be submitted to by Monday, February 1 for the first midterm, by Monday, February 29 for the second midterm or by the day after the final. If the petition is approved, the weight of the midterm will be applied to the final exam. A missed final due to an unanticipated, verifiable emergency will be handled with an incomplete for the course. Petitions will only be approved for extreme extenuating circumstances. If the petition is not approved (or no petition is submitted), a grade of zero will be assigned to the missed exam.

Assigned Readings: Assigned readings will primarily come from chapters 2-6, 14-16, 19-25, 35, and 37 of Varian's *Intermediate Microeconomics*. I will assign specific sections from each of these chapters (in other words, you do not need to study all of the material in the chapters listed above).

Homework/Quizzes: Weekly homework/quizzes will be assigned. Most weeks I will simply assign a quiz on Canvas. These quizzes are not timed and can be retaken as many times as you would like. You will be required to take the quiz before 10 a.m. on the Monday after the quiz is assigned. If I choose to assign written homework, your solutions must be turned into me either in person or via email by 10 a.m. on the Monday after the written homework is assigned. The objective of the homework/quizzes is to practice questions similar to what may appear on an exam that require graphical and written solutions.

Grade Appeals: Any requests for re-grading an exam must be submitted in writing within two days of when the exam was handed back. If you do not pick up your exam when it is handed back, you still must submit your request within two days of when the test was originally handed back. A re-grading request should include an argument for why you feel

your answer was correct. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire exam when a request to re-grade any part of the exam is made.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me during the first week of the term. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities (164 Oregon Hall) send me a letter verifying your disability. Canvas: All course materials will be distributed through the Canvas course website, which can be found at <http://canvas.uoregon.edu>. Things that will be posted on Canvas include, but are not limited to, homework assignments, lecture slide, and grades. Announcements made on Canvas should be considered modifications to this syllabus.

Academic Integrity: Any violations of the academic integrity policy will result in a failing grade for the course and a complaint will be filed with the University's Hearing Board. Cheating of any form will not be tolerated. **Exams:** All exams will be closed-note and closed-book. Students will be permitted to have a pen or pencil, ruler or straightedge, and a non-programmable calculator on their desk during the exam. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to use a cell phone during the exam, including as a calculator. The use of any other assistance or sources of information is prohibited and will be considered cheating. Also, speaking in the classroom to another student during the exam period will be considered cheating once exams are distributed. **Homework:** Students are allowed and encouraged to work together on homework assignments. However, each student must hand in their own work separately (i.e. separate written documents).

Slides, Study Guides, etc.: All instructor materials are copyrighted to the instructor at the moment of creation. This applies to print and digital materials. Students cannot reproduce or distribute such materials without permission.

Office Hour Policy: My office hours are specific times set aside for you. You are welcome to stop in during these hours to ask any questions or discuss any material from the course. If you cannot make my office hours, please e-mail me and we can set up an appointment.

Computers and Technology: Students are permitted to use computers for note taking during the course. Cellphones should not be heard during class.

Course Outline:

Week 1: Chapters 2 and 3

Week 2: Chapters 3, 4, 5

Week 3: Chapters 5

Week 4: Chapter 6; midterm review

Week 5: midterm (Monday) Chapters 15, 19

Week 6: Chapters 19, 20, 21

Week 7: Chapters 21, 22, 23

Week 8: review day (Monday); midterm (Wednesday)

Week 9: Chapters 14, 16, 24 and 25

Week 10: Chapters 25 and 35; review day (Wednesday)