

# EC 311: Intermediate Microeconomics

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:00,  
Fridays 10:00-11:00, and by appointment

**Office:** PLC 523

**Class Hours:** MTWR 2:00-3:50pm

**Class Room:** MCK 125

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## Course Description

### Course Overview

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

### Course Materials

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

The lectures will pull from the Varian textbook. The textbook is not a substitute for attending lecture as lectures will also contain material not included in the textbook.

## Course Structure

### Canvas

All announcements, assignments, quizzes, grades, and extra materials will be posted on canvas; you are responsible for all materials posted on canvas. The canvas announcements in this course will contain critical information, so make sure you are receiving them. If you have any difficulties accessing canvas it is your responsibility to resolve the issue; for help with canvas you can contact the UO Libraries Computer Help Desk at 541-346-1807.

### Grading Policy

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. The grade will count the assessments using the following proportions:

- 35% Midterm Exam
- 35% Final Exam
- 15% Written Homework
- 15% Quizzes

### Assessments

**Exams:** There will be two exams for this course, a midterm and a final. The final exam is not cumulative, however, the material in the later part of the course builds on concepts learned in the first half of the term. The midterm is scheduled for Thursday 8/1 in class and the final is scheduled for Thursday 8/15 at 2:00.

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, August 5th for the first 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.

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.

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**Homework and Quizzes:** There will be two written homework assignments for the course. There will be three quizzes on Canvas due on Friday at 11:59 pm for weeks 1-3. You may use your notes, textbook, or any other materials on the quizzes.

## **Course Policies**

### **Technology Policy**

Laptops and tablets will be allowed for note taking purposes. However, if you wish to use a laptop for note taking, I ask that you sit in the back row of the classroom to minimize distractions to other students. Cell phones should not be seen or heard during class time.

### **Attendance Policy**

Your grade will not formally depend on your attendance during the lectures, but you are responsible for everything covered in class. Any notes posted to Canvas are not intended to be a perfect substitute for class time.

### **Office Hours 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.

### **Policy on Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be accepted for no penalty if a valid excuse is communicated to the instructor before the deadline. After the deadline, assignments will be accepted for a 50% deduction to the score up to 2 days after the deadline. After this any assignments handed in will be given 0.

### **Academic Integrity and Honesty**

**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.

**Homework:** Students are allowed and encouraged to work together on homework. However, each student must hand in their own work separately. Simply changing the name on a typed up homework assignment will not be accepted.

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.

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Additional information about maintaining your academic integrity is available at [integrity.uoregon.edu](http://integrity.uoregon.edu).

Information about plagiarism is available at [researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism](http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism).

## Diversity

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities.

All of us associated with the course - you included - are expected to value each class member's experiences and contributions and to communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way. You may also notify the Department of Economics at 541-346-8845. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the following campus services:

- Office of Equity and Inclusion: 1 Johnson Hall | 541-346-3175 | [oied.uoregon.edu](http://oied.uoregon.edu)
- Center on Diversity and Community: 54 Susan Campbell Hall | 541-346-3212 | [codac.uoregon.edu](http://codac.uoregon.edu)
- Bias Response Team: 164 Oregon Hall | 541-346-1134 | [brt@uoregon.edu](mailto:brt@uoregon.edu) | [bias.uoregon.edu](http://bias.uoregon.edu)

## Accessibility and Special Accommodations

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are any aspects of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. For more information or assistance, contact: Accessible Education Center: 164 Oregon Hall | 541-346-1155 | [aec.uoregon.edu](http://aec.uoregon.edu).

If you require special accommodations of any kind due to a documented disability please have the Accessible Education Center contact me verifying your need and detailing the appropriate accommodations. This is typically done automatically by the AEC at the beginning of a term. If there are new accommodations during a term or any changes to any existing accommodations please keep me advised as soon as possible.

If your accommodations involve any proctoring of exams at the AEC you will be responsible for scheduling those exams with sufficient anticipation with the AEC. Keep in mind that proctored midterms need to be scheduled at least seven days in advance and that proctored final exams need to be scheduled by the 5:00pm of the Friday of week 8 of the course. As you can see on the last page of this syllabus, the exams for this course are already set. I recommend that you make the necessary arrangements with AEC now.

## Schedule and weekly learning goals

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and on Canvas. The learning goals below should be viewed as the key concepts you should grasp after each week, and also as a study guide before each exam, and at the end of the term. The applications in the second half of the term tend to build on the concepts in the first half of the term though, so it is still important to at least review those concepts throughout the term.

### Week 01, 07/22 - 07/26: Consumer Theory

- Consumer Choice (Budget Constraints, Indifference Curves, Utility Maximization) - Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5

### Week 02, 07/29 - 08/02: Demand

- Individual and Market Demand - Chapters 6 and 15
- Uncertainty - Chapter 12
- **Homework 1 due on Tuesday**
- **Midterm on Thursday 8/1**

### Week 03, 08/05 - 08/09: Producer Theory

- Production/Technology - Chapter 19
- Cost Minimization - Chapters 21 and 22
- Profit Maximization - Chapter 20

### Week 04, 08/12 - 08/16: Market Equilibrium

- Perfect Competition - Chapters 23 and 24
- Monopolies - Chapter 25
- Oligopolies - Chapter 28
- **Homework 2 due on Tuesday**
- **Final Exam on Thursday 8/15**