

Econ 200: Introduction to Microeconomics

Sean Ewen

Autumn 2021

E-mail: sewen@uw.edu

Office Hours: Wed 11am-1pm via Zoom (or by appointment)

Zoom link: on Canvas

Office: Savery 319H

Class Hours: MW 3:30-5:20pm

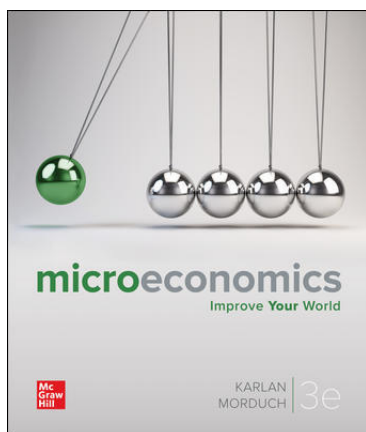
Class Room: THO 134

Learning Objectives

- To be able to understand and use microeconomic terminology to solve problems on homework assignments and exams and as they apply to current events.
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that the highest valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of any decision
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that individuals and firms make themselves as well-off as possible in a world of scarcity
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that prices inform decisions about which goods and services are produced in a market economy and how those goods and services are allocated.
- To be able to understand and apply the idea that government policies and the organization of industries and market affect both production and allocation decisions.

Required Materials

The required textbook is *Microeconomics*, 3rd edition, by Karlan and Morduch. You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework site (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled ebook and website access via Canvas for the best price. A two week free trial is available for those who are unsure about continuing in the class.



Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

- 3 Exams (66%)
- 8 Homeworks (13%)
- 3 Writing Assignments (21%)

Exams will be held in class and in person. You may use a simple calculator, not a graphing calculator or phone. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. This is to allow you to miss an exam if you are sick.

Homeworks are online through MH Connect. You can access them through MH Connect link on the course's Canvas page.

Writing assignments will require you to find a recent (since the start of the quarter) news article on a current event and analyze it using one of the economic models covered in class. More instruction will be given in class and on Canvas.

According to UW Department of Economics policy, final grades will be curved as necessary to reach a median grade for the class between 2.9 and 3.1.

Important Dates

- Homework is due in MH Connect at 11:59 pm PST every Wednesday night except the Wednesdays after Exams 1 and 2.
- Writing Assignments are due 10/20, 11/10, and 12/8 at 11:59 pm in Canvas. You may submit these up to one week late with a 5% per day grade penalty.
- Exams are 10/25, 11/15, and 12/16. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped.

Course Policies & Other Information

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/>).

Academic Integrity

The University takes academic integrity very seriously. Behaving with integrity is part of our responsibility to our shared learning community. If you're uncertain about if something is academic misconduct, ask me. I am willing to discuss questions you might have.

Acts of academic misconduct may include but are not limited to:

- Cheating (working collaboratively on quizzes/exams and discussion submissions, sharing answers and pre-viewing quizzes/exams)
- Plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own without giving appropriate credit to the original author(s))
- Unauthorized collaboration (working with each other on assignments)

Concerns about these or other behaviors prohibited by the Student Conduct Code will be referred for investigation and adjudication.

Students found to have engaged in academic misconduct may receive a zero on the assignment, a zero in the course and/or a referral to the Student Conduct Office.

Disability Resources

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.

Face Coverings

Students are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth at all times during class. The only exception to this rule is to briefly hydrate. This is in accordance with the University of Washington COVID-19 Face Covering Policy which you can find here: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/COVID-19-face-cover-policy.pdf>

Medical Excuse Notes

Students are expected to attend class and to participate in all graded activities, including exams. To protect student privacy and the integrity of the academic experience, students will not be required to provide a medical excuse note to justify an absence from class due to illness. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped to accommodate a missed exam.

Safety

Call SafeCampus at 206-685-7233 anytime – no matter where you work or study – to anonymously discuss safety and well-being concerns for yourself or others. SafeCampus’s team of caring professionals will provide individualized support, while discussing short- and long-term solutions and connecting you with additional resources when requested.

Title IX

Sex- and gender-based violence and harassment: UW, through numerous policies, prohibits sex- and gender-based violence and harassment, and we expect students, faculty, and staff to act professionally and respectfully in all work, learning, and research environments. For support, resources, and reporting options related to sex- and gender-based violence or harassment, visit the UW Title IX webpage, specifically the Know Your Rights & Resources guide.

If you disclose information to me about sex- or gender-based violence or harassment, I will connect you (or the person who experienced the conduct) with confidential and/or private resources who can best provide support and options. Please note that some senior leaders and other specified employees have been identified as “Officials Required to Report.” If an Official Required to Report learns of possible sex- or gender-based violence or harassment, they are required to call SafeCampus and report all the details they have in order to ensure that the person who experienced harm is offered support and reporting options.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 01, 09/27 - 10/01: Syllabus, Chapter 1

- First day of class 9/29

Week 02, 10/04 - 10/08: Chapters 2 & 3

- Homework 1 due 10/6

Week 03, 10/11 - 10/15: Chapters 3 & 4

- Homework 2 due 10/13

Week 04, 10/18 - 10/22: Chapters 4 & 5, Exam review

- Homework 3 due 10/20
- Writing Assignment 1 due 10/20

Week 05, 10/25 - 10/29: Chapters 5 & 6

- Exam 1 10/25 (Ch. 1-4)

Week 06, 11/01 - 11/05: Chapters 6, 17, & 18

- Homework 4 due 11/3

Week 07, 11/08 - 11/12: Chapter 12, Exam review

- Homework 5 due 11/10
- Writing Assignment 2 due 11/10

Week 08, 11/15 - 11/19: Chapter 12

- Exam 2 11/15 (Ch. 5, 6, 17, & 18)

Week 09, 11/22 - 11/26: Chapter 13

- Homework 6 due 11/24
- Online lecture 11/24

Week 10, 11/29 - 12/03: Chapters 14 & 15

- Homework 7 due 12/1

Week 11, 12/06 - 12/10: Chapter 15, Exam review

- Homework 8 due 12/8
- Writing assignment 3 due 12/8

Week 12, 12/13 - 12/17: Exam week

- Exam 3 12/16 2:30-4:20pm (Ch. 12-15)