Syllabus
ECON 300C: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS
Autumn 2021

Instructor: Ferdous Z. Sardar	Lectures: T Th 3:30-5:20pm @ Anderson 010
Email: fzsardar@uw.edu	Office hours: Thursday 9:00am-11:00pm

Disclaimer: This syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change.

Course Website: https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1477900. **You are responsible for regularly checking it** and staying on top of announcements, assignments, etc.

In-person class: Lectures will be offered **live** at Anderson Hall 010 during the scheduled class time. They will not be recorded but lecture slides will be available for viewing on Canvas. Exams will be held live in class.

Office hours: Remotely via zoom on Thursdays at 9:00am-11:00pm. Register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information (e.g., meeting link, password, etc.) about joining the meeting.

Textbook:

(1) Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach (9th Edition) by Hal Varian (required)

(2) Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus (4th Edition) by Jeffrey Perloff

Course Description: This is an intermediate course in microeconomic theory. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the methods and tools of microeconomics analysis, and the study of decision-making on a "micro" level. We analyze changes in the behavior of individuals and firms in response to changes in the constraints they face, usually the constraints of budgets, prices, and input costs. Analytical reasoning and mathematical modeling based on fundamental principles are underlined throughout. Mathematics allows us to build precise models and to strip them down to their most important components and interactions. Note that, although models expressed mathematically may seem simplistic at first, the art of being an economist is to impart economic meaning and conclusions to the equations, derivatives and graphs. The payoff is a deeper understanding of the importance that logical modeling and critical thinking play in economics.

Prerequisites: Econ 200 and any one of Math 112, 124, or 134. We will make frequent use of calculus methods, most often optimizing an objective function subject to certain constraints.

Grading and Grading Scale

Exam 1	35%
Exam 2	40%
Assignments (4)	16%
Discussions	4%
Reflection report	5%

Your total score is converted to a 4.0 GPA by using the table below.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade-Point
94-100	A	3.9-4.0
90-93	A-	3.5-3.8
87-89	B+	3.2-3.4
84-86	B	2.9-3.1
80-83	B-	2.5-2.8
77-79	C+	2.2-2.4
74-76	C	1.9-2.1
70-73	C-	1.5-1.8
67-69	D+	1.2-1.4
64-66	D	0.9-1.1
60-63	D-	0.7-0.8
Below 60	F	0.0-0.6

The Department of Economics at UW requires that the median GPA for all undergraduate economics courses fall within the range of 2.8 - 3.1. If the median grade for the course happens to be outside of 2.8-3.1 range on the preliminary grade scale, the grade scale will be adjusted accordingly. However, I reserve the right to reward students who show a pattern of sustained improvement throughout the quarter.

Exams: There will be two exams. **Exam 1** will be held in-person on **Nov 9, 2021** (Tuesday) during the regular class hours. This exam will account for 35% of your total grade. **Exam 2** will be held in person on **Dec 9, 2021** (Thursday) during regular class hours. This one will be worth 40% of your total grade. Exam 2 will be **cumulative**, i.e., all materials discussed in this course may appear in the exam.

Exams will be held in-person, and students are expected to be present for exams, subject to absences due to illness. If you are ill and must miss an exam, please contact me immediately to receive information about the makeup exam.

More information regarding how the tests will be conducted will be announced during class or on Canvas later.

Reflection report: Write a three-page report summarizing what you have learned in this class. Instead of listing all the topics or just writing the definitions, express your understanding of the concepts discussed in this class. Then elaborate three of your favorite concepts using real life examples. Reports will be checked for plagiarism. If I believe that you have cheated or plagiarized, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. Depending on the severity of plagiarism, you may receive an F in this course.

Due: Dec 6, 2021 at 11:59 pm. Submit on Canvas.

Problem sets: There will be four problem sets. Solving these problem sets will be good preparation for the exams. Each problem set is worth 4 points.

Rubric: 2 points for completion
               1 point for correctness

1 point for submission within the deadline

Discussions: The topics and rule of discussions will be announced later in class and/or Canvas.

Grade Changes: Any change of grade in an assignment or exam must be requested in writing with a clear explanation of why any modification should be made. Such a request will only be accepted within one week of receiving the graded material.

Some general guidelines

- If you are struggling, please get help! You can join my online office hours or get the free tutoring available from the CLUE(http://webster.uaa.washington.edu/asp/website/).
- You are also always welcome to email me if you need help or have any question. But please be mindful that I may not reply immediately to your emails. For immediate response, please attend the office hours.
- Use the discussion board actively. If you have any question, ask there. If you know answer to someone else's question, please answer. I may reward students based on their presence on discussion board.
- If you have a documented disability, please let me know with supported documentation from the Office of Disability Resources for Students on the first day of class, so that I can make any arrangements required for accommodations.

How to study effectively:

- Read the relevant parts of the chapter(s) carefully before each lecture. Try to get a good idea of both the questions asked and the approach (the concept and the reasoning process) to addressing the questions in the textbook.
- Take notes during class, but it is not necessary to copy every slide. The slides will be posted online. You are welcome (and, in fact, encouraged) to ask questions during class.
- After the lecture, attempt the problems and make sure you fully write down the answer to each question using the relevant concepts you have learned.

Access and Accommodations: 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.

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/).

Tentative schedule*:

Week	Topic	Chapters
Week 1	Introduction Math Review	
Week 2	Budget constraint Consumer preference	Chapter 2 Chapter 3 & 4
Week 3	Constrained utility maximization	Chapter 5 & 6
Week 4	Constrained utility maximization	Chapter 5 & 6
Week 5	Constrained expenditure minimization	Chapter 6
Week 6	Slutsky Equation Review	Chapter 8
Week 7	Exam 1	
Week 8	Production Output maximization Cost minimization Profit maximization	Chapter 19 Chapter 19 Chapter 21 Chapter 20
Week 9	Cost curves Perfectly competitive market	Chapter 22 Chapter 23
Week 10	Monopoly Oligopoly Game theory	Chapter 25 Chapter 28 Chapter 29
Week 11	Review **Final**	

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