

# ECON 200 A

Summer 2023

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## Course Pages:

1. Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1643398>

The Canvas page will contain all the important information regarding the course such as announcements, assignments, files and deadlines. Please check the Canvas page regularly to keep up to date with the course.

**Office Hours:** Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/93790507712>

1. **Instructor: Monday 9-10 am, Tuesday 2-3 pm**
2. **TA: Monday 3-4 pm, Wednesday 10 am - 12 pm and Friday 12-1 pm**

**Class Questions:** Questions about class material or course policies or procedures? If it's not in the syllabus, the Canvas discussion boards, office hours, and class meetings are the best place to ask questions.

**Personal Questions:** Send me a message in Canvas for personal inquiries.

**Main References:** We will be using selections from the following textbook.

- Karlan, Dean and Jonathan Morduch, Microeconomics: Improve Your World. 3e, McGraw Hill.

You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher's online homework website (MH Connect). I recommend you purchase the bundled e-book 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. Reading the book is not a substitute for watching the recorded lectures.

## 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.

**Lecture Recordings:** The class is asynchronous and so the lectures will be provided via recordings. I will post four 30-50 minute videos (equivalent to two lectures per week) every week on Monday. You will be expected to the Smartbook assignments (mentioned below) before watching the lectures and a homework assignment based on these lectures will be due the following Tuesday. The lecture recordings can be found under the **Zoom** tab on Canvas and then clicking to **Cloud Recordings**. I will also post a link to the recordings under the corresponding module.

**Quiz Sections:** In addition to the lectures, the TA will post 2-3 brief recordings every Friday. Each recording will work through a key analytical question from the material that week.

### Grading Policy:

Grades will be calculated based on the following:

- Homework Assignments (13%)
- Writing Assignments (10%)
- Exam 1 (30%)
- Exam 2 (40%)
- Smartbook (7%)

Note: Canvas will not round grades and I will not round grades for individual students.

Grades in this class will be curved so that the median student gets a grade point between 2.9 and 3.1 . As such, it is impossible to guarantee a particular grading scale for this class, as the median may be above or below what it was in the past. However, typically, we do not need to curve grades and often apply a standard conversion where 80-90% is a B+/- and 90-100% is an A+/- . I will try to give detailed information about the distribution of grades throughout the quarter, to try to help you understand how you are doing in the class.

### Assignments:

- **Smartbook:** Smartbook reading reviews are due at 11:59 PM Pacific Time on Sundays. They are found in MH connect and typically available from the beginning of the quarter. Smartbook is graded on completion, not accuracy, but you may skip a few. You will be expected to complete the Smartbook assignments before watching the recorded lectures each week.
- **Homework Assignments:** Short problem sets are due in MH Connect at 11:59 PM Pacific Time every Tuesday night. These will be graded for correctness. You will get 2 attempts on each assignment and the best score will be considered for final grade. You will have one assignment per week except for the week of Exam 1 when you will have two assignments due. There will be no homework due the week following Exam 1.
- **Writing Assignments:** You will turn in two short writing assignments this quarter on **7th July, 2023** and **4th August, 2023**. For each writing assignment, you will refer to a news article published since **20th June, 2023**. Further guidance on the writing assignment can be found on Canvas.
- **Exams:** We will have 2 exams in this course. The first exam will be available from **13th July, 2023** and the second one will be available from **17th August, 2023**. The second exam is not cumulative. Both the exams will be take home and you will be given a 72 hour window within which you have to start and finish the exam. You can start any time you want within that window but will have 80-110 minutes from your start time to finish. More details will follow closer to the time of the exam.

**Course Policy:**

- Your **2** lowest homework scores and **five** lowest Smartbook scores will be dropped before your final grade is calculated. There is no other makeup policy for these assignments. In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given an extension for your homework or Smartbook. Instead you will be expected to use your dropped score. If you have technical issues with MH Connect, please contact their tech support ASAP (and do not wait for me to respond). Sometimes it takes time to resolve these issues, so please do not start the homework the night it is due.
- Given the nature of the take home exams, make ups will only be provided under emergency circumstances. Note: I do not consider work schedules, travel plans or time zone difficulties to be extreme circumstances and I reserve the right to drop your exam score if we are not able to schedule a makeup exam that works for both of us.
- Late submissions (up to 7 days) on writing assignments will come with a 5% per day penalty unless approved by me.

**Attendance Policy:** This is a fully asynchronous course and as such you are not required to attend any classes. All the lectures will be recorded, however, you should try to maintain a weekly schedule in watching the lectures so that you do not fall behind.

**Accommodations:** Students who have established services with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) should contact me about their accommodations as soon as possible. Students with disabilities who have not yet established services with DRS should contact them at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924 to set up an access plan.

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 <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 at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

**Academic Misconduct:** All students are expected to know and to abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies as defined at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/SPCH209.html#7> summarized at <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>. In particular, while you are encouraged to study with each other, all assignments for this course must be completed on one's own. Exams are open book but the submission must be one's own work. Failure to abide by these policies is likely to result in failing this course, and may result in further sanctions as described by the policy. Should I believe that you cheated or plagiarized on an assignment, you will receive a "zero" grade on that assignment.

Table 1: Tentative Course Outline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Week 1	Introduction, Comparative Advantage and Trade	Chapter 1, Chapter 2.1-2.4
Week 2	Demand, Supply, Equilibrium and Elasticity	Chapter 3 and Chapter 4
Week 3	Efficiency	Chapter 5.1-5.8 and Appendix D
Week 4	Government Intervention	Chapter 6
07/13-07/15	<b>Exam 1:</b> Chapters 1-6	
Week 5	Trade and Externalities	Chapter 17 and Chapter 18
Week 6	Firms	Chapter 12.1-12.8
Week 7	Perfect Competition	Chapter 13
Week 8	Monopoly and Monopolistic Competition	Chapter 14.1-14.4 and Chapter 15.1-15.4
08/15-08/17	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 12-15, 17, 18</b>	