

ECON: 3332-2: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

FALL 2020

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Office Hours: Mondays, 3pm-5pm

TIME AND LOCATION

The instruction is fully online and asynchronous.

At the beginning of each week, the videos for two classes will be posted on MS Teams. It is the students' responsibility to work through these materials and stay current on the covered material.

Homework assignments and other course materials, as well as the current grades, will be posted on Blackboard. Blackboard will also be used to make general course announcements.

You have been added to Blackboard automatically. You can join the class platform on MS Teams using the following code: **a39raeb**

PREREQUISITES

Microeconomic Principles (ECON 2304) or equivalent introductory course in microeconomics. In case of doubt, please consult with instructor. Good command of high school algebra and graphical analysis is necessary. If you do not meet this prerequisite then it is your responsibility to work on your math skills to be able to follow the materials taught in this course.

COMMUNICATION

Email is the preferred means of communication, please allow up to 24 hours to get a response.

Virtual office hours are on Tuesday mornings, 10-11am, conducted through MS Teams. Questions and discussions of all kinds are encouraged. In case of a time conflict, alternative appointment may be arranged by email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the foundations of microeconomic theory, focusing on the behavior of individuals and firms, and the interaction of these agents in the market. It also examines the effects of government policies, market power and externalities on market efficiency. Emphasis will be placed on gaining good command of analytical tools used for microeconomic analysis.

TEXTBOOK AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

- Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson (2019): *Microeconomics*, Third Edition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades will be calculated based on the following scheme:

- Homework assignments: 10%
- Exam 1 (week of September 21): 30%
- Exam 2 (week of October 26): 30%
- Final Exam (week of December 7): 30%

Weekly homework will be posted on Blackboard, with the due date of each upcoming Sunday, 11.59pm. Answers should be submitted to **bkabore@central.uh.edu** with the title:

ECON 3332 - chapter X - *name and last name*

Submissions sent to a different address or with a different title will not be given credit. After the deadline has passed, an answer key will be posted on Blackboard. Homework is graded based on timely submissions only. It is your responsibility to check your answers for mistakes.

Exams will be based on lectures, homework assignments and the textbook. You will be taking the exams at home and you may use textbooks and other materials.

I will be posting articles on Blackboard from economic and financial press relevant to currently discussed material. You are encouraged to read them, but it is not mandatory and will not be graded.

COURSE POLICIES

Collaboration on problem sets in the form of discussions with fellow participants is encouraged. Copying the answers from others' work is not allowed.

This course will strictly observe the University's deadlines regarding withdrawals.

The course will follow the standard grading scale (93-100: A, 90-92: A-, 87-89: B+, and so on), but it may be adjusted to the distribution of scores at the end of the semester.

There is no extra credit available in this course beyond the grading schemes described above.

Participants with disabilities who require any modification of the seating or testing arrangements are requested to contact the instructor in advance so that the necessary steps can be taken. Such participants are also encouraged to register with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD).

Counseling and Psychological Services: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help

students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or somebody you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

Excused Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy and Graduate Excused Absence Policy for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

Interim Undergraduate Grading Policy

Due to the unique and unprecedented challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Houston has implemented an Interim Undergraduate Grade Policy for undergraduate grades which applies to all undergraduate students in courses offered in all sessions during fall 2020. Under this policy, students have the option of converting final assigned letter grades to S (Satisfactory, applicable to any letter grade from A to D-) or NCR (No Credit Reported COVID-19, applicable to grades of F) on their transcripts. Please visit FAQs for additional information.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Center for Students with DisABILITIES. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructors recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructors recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (specify how students will be notified of changes).

COURSE OUTLINE (TENTATIVE)

1. Adventures in microeconomics
Supply and Demand
2. Analyzing Markets with Supply and Demand
3. Consumer Behavior
4. Individual and Market Demand

Exam 1

5. Producer Behavior
6. Costs
7. Supply in a Competitive Market

Exam 2

8. Market Power and Monopoly
9. Pricing under Market Power
10. Imperfect Competition
11. Additional topics, possibly covering:
 - Game theory
 - General Equilibrium
 - Asymmetric Information
 - Externalities and Public Goods

Final Exam