

ECON: 3332-5: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

FALL 2021

Radek Paluszynski
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
University of Houston

Office phone: 713 743 3800
Email: rpaluszynski@uh.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays, 11a-1p
Office location: McElhinney Hall
221E

TA: **Victor Zuluaga** (vzuluag@cougarnet.uh.edu)
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4pm on MS Teams

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 should have been added to Blackboard and MS Teams automatically. If this is not the case, please let me know as soon as possible.

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 Wednesday mornings, 11am-1pm, conducted through MS Teams (please message me to start a conversation). The TA will similarly hold his virtual office hours on Tuesdays, 2-4pm on MS Teams. Questions and discussions of all kinds are encouraged. In case of a time conflict, an 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 (September 24): 30%
- Exam 2 (October 29): 30%
- Final Exam (December 16): 30%

Please note that the exam dates are tentative and may be modified later on.

Weekly homework will be posted on Blackboard, with the due date of each upcoming Sunday, 11.59pm. Answers should be submitted to **vhzuluag@cougarnet.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 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

Face Covering Policy

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University strongly encourages everyone (vaccinated or not) to wear face coverings indoors on campus including classrooms for both faculty and students.

Presence in Class

Your presence in class each session means that you:

- Are NOT exhibiting any Coronavirus Symptoms that makes you think that you may have COVID-19
- Have NOT tested positive or been diagnosed for COVID-19
- Have NOT knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or suspected/presumed COVID-19
- If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see Student Protocols for what to do if you experience symptoms and Potential Exposure to Coronavirus for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Consult the (select: Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy or Graduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

COVID-19 Information

Students are encouraged to visit the University's COVID-19 website for important information including on-campus testing, vaccines, diagnosis and symptom protocols, campus cleaning and safety practices, report forms, and positive cases on campus. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

Vaccinations

Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent vaccine information, consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES).

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. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

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 Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. 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
5. Intertemporal decision making and labor market

Exam 1

6. Producer Behavior
7. Costs
8. Supply in a Competitive Market
9. Market Power and Monopoly
10. Pricing under Market Power

Exam 2

11. Game Theory
12. Imperfect Competition
13. General Equilibrium
14. Externalities and Public Goods

Final Exam