

# ECON: 3332-4: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

## SPRING 2023

---

**Radek Paluszynski**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
University of Houston

Office phone: 713 743 3800  
Email: rpaluszynski@uh.edu  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 4p-6p  
Office location: TBA

TA: **William Bennett** (williamrobertbennett@protonmail.com)  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1.30-3.30pm, TBA

## 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.

Office hours are on Tuesday afternoons, 4pm-6pm, conducted in person or through MS Teams (please message me to start a conversation). The TA will similarly hold his office hours on Wednesdays, 1.30-3.30pm 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 (February 17): 30%
- Exam 2 (March 31): 30%
- Final Exam (May 11): 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 **wrbennett@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](http://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](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

## **COVID-19 Information**

Students are encouraged to visit the University’s COVID-19 website for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, testing, vaccine information, and post-exposure guidance. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates. Consult the (select: Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy or Graduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

## **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 instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's 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.

## 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**