

ECON 200 E: INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMICS

WINTER 2024

Instructor: Elliot Spears
Email: espear1@uw.edu

Time: T/TH 1:30 – 3:20 P.M.
Place: Condon Hall 110A

Course Page:

- <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1696138>

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12 P.M. - 1 P.M., Wednesdays 2 P.M. – 3 P.M., Savery 319C. I am also available by email. If you want to schedule office hours at a different time or schedule a Zoom meeting, please let me know.

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

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

We will be utilizing the MH Connect tools associated with this text for several assignments. This software comes with a digital copy of the text. A free trial of the MH Connect software and the digital text is available for the first two weeks of the class. Reading the book is not a substitute for attending class.

Objectives: This course serves as an introduction to the principles of microeconomics, used to understand the behavior of individuals and firms operating in markets and in other strategic interactions. Topics covered include opportunity cost, scarcity, preferences and decision making, gains from trade, game theory, social preferences, institutions, efficiency, firms, market power, competition, supply and demand, labor markets, market failure, and more.

Grading Policy: Problem Sets (25%), Essays (15%), Midterm (30%), Final (30%). Grades in this class will be curved so that the median student gets a grade point between 2.8 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. I will give detailed information about the distribution of grades throughout the quarter, to try to help you understand how you are doing in the class.

Essays: You will turn in two short essays this quarter. For each, you are to find a news article from one of three news sources (Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times) that was published since January 1, 2024 and related to some topic taught in class. The second article must cover a topic taught *after* the first essay was due. You should describe the economic issue presented within the article, and explain it using what you have learned in that half of the class. You should include at least one graph as part of your explanation. You should ensure that your article is a news article, rather than an opinion or editorial piece. The paper should be no more than two pages long, including the graph, and you must submit a copy of the article that can be

read without payment (so that it can be graded). Grades will be based on how well you relate the article to course material, how clearly and correctly you summarize the issue at hand, how clearly and correctly you explain the economics behind the topic, and the clarity and correctness of your graph.

Attendance Policy: It is your responsibility to keep up with the class throughout the quarter. It is highly recommended that you do this through regular attendance in class.

Exams will be in person. If you cannot attend an exam, please contact me as soon as you are aware of the potential conflict. Failure to do so will likely impact your opportunity to make up the exam. Under no circumstances will you be allowed to make up an exam unless you have been excused from the exam before missing it.

Exceptions will be made for health, religious, and academic reasons, and accommodations may be possible for those with other challenges.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Accommodations: Should you require disability accommodations, please contact Disability Resources for Students at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924.

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](#). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](#).

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](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 closed-book must be completed without accessing outside information, whether from "cheat-sheets," cellphones, your computer, or other sources. 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 Outline

| Date | Topic | Reading | Assignment |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 01/04 | Introduction to ECON 200E | Chapter 1 | |
| 01/09 | Comparative Advantage and Trade | Chapter 2 | |
| 01/11 | Demand | Chapter 3 | |
| 01/16 | Supply | Chapter 3 | |
| 01/18 | Elasticity | Chapter 4 | Chapter 3 HW |
| 01/23 | Efficiency | Chapter 5 | Chapter 4 HW |
| 01/25 | Taxes, Subsidies, and Other Interventions | Chapter 6 | |
| 01/30 | Taxes, Subsidies, and Other Interventions | Chapter 6 | |
| 02/01 | Review | | Essay 1 & Chapter 6 HW (HW Due the 2nd) |
| 02/06* | Midterm | Chapters 1 - 6 | |
| 02/08 | International Trade | Chapter 17 | |
| 02/13 | Externalities | Chapter 18 | |
| 02/15 | Firms | Chapter 12 | |
| 02/20 | Firms | Chapter 12 | Chapter 12 HW |
| 02/22 | Perfect Competition | Chapter 13 | |
| 02/27 | Perfect Competition | Chapter 13 | Chapter 13 HW |
| 02/29 | Monopoly | Chapter 14 | |
| 03/05 | Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly | Chapter 15 | |
| 03/07 | Review | | Essay 2 & Chapter 15 HW |
| 03/11* | Final Exam | Chapters 12 – 15, 17, 18 | |

Note: our final exam is scheduled for 4:30 – 6:20 P.M. on March 11th in our usual classroom.