

Syllabus: ECON 2200 MICRO ECONOMICS (Section 001), Fall 2023

Basic Information

Instructor: Eduardo Cenci

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Office Hours: By appointment (using [Calendly](#)). Preferred: Mondays, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, in Mammel Hall 332G or on Zoom. Email me to set appointments on alternative days/times (Zoom only).

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 10:15 am, in Mammel Hall 218

Canvas Webpage: All course content, assignments, and announcements will be posted on the course Canvas page at unomaha.instructure.com/courses/71036.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1150 and MATH 1310 or MATH 1220 with 'C-' (1.67) or better

Credit Hours: 3 (approximately 3 hours of lecture + 6 hours of out-of-class work each week)

Textbook: All required readings are from the textbook Microeconomics, by McConnell, Brue, and Flynn, 22nd edition (publisher: McGraw-Hill). As an alternative, you can use the 21st edition.

Course Presentation

Studying economics can lead you to a very successful career. One reason for this is that economics is the study of choices and decisions. Studying economics helps people, firms, and governments make better decisions, what we sometimes call "the economic way of thinking." Studying microeconomics, in particular, helps develop problem-solving and analytical skills and quantitative reasoning, all of which are highly valued in the labor market. Studying economics can also help you understand the world and the society in which you live—and help them thrive. The economic way of thinking can be applied to a wide range of social problems and designing policies that balance and foster efficiency, equity, and resilience. Economics is a powerful tool and one that you can master!

Microeconomics studies how firms and individuals make decisions when resources are scarce: how people and businesses make the best use of limited resources to satisfy their wants and needs. In this course, you will apply the economic way of thinking to various situations to determine what are the best-informed decisions and understand their consequences. You will be introduced to supply and demand and how they affect various markets, including but not limited to the markets for goods, labor, capital, ideas, and technology.

Course Structure

The course is organized around **12 content blocks**. Each block has two lectures and two quizzes: one at the beginning and one at the end (these are called pre-quizzes and post-quizzes, respectively). See the course calendar for the exact lecture and assignment dates in each block. The content blocks correspond roughly to weeks 2-8 and 10-15 in our calendar. In the remaining weeks, we will have introductions, reviews, exams, and holidays.

Lectures

We will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays for 75 minutes, from 9:00 to 10:15 am in Mammel Hall, Room 218. Our meetings will mix lectures, activities, and group discussions. Students are expected to **read the chapter(s) assigned for each block before the first meeting**. Students are also expected to participate in all in-class activities, including discussion and quizzes. Participation positively impacts your grade and, most importantly, your learning.

Unless stated otherwise, **I will not record lectures** and share recordings. Students are expected to attend all classes in person. If you miss a class for any reason, catch up on the missed content on Canvas, with your colleagues, or with me during office hours.

Grade Breakdown

Item	Points	% of Grade
Participation	120	12%
Pre-Quizzes	120	12%
Post-Quizzes	240	24%
Midterm Exam	200	20%
Final Exam	320	32%
Total	1,000	100%

Participation

I will pose questions to the class during lectures or on Canvas, and I will ask you to submit your answer on paper or share them on discussion boards. These questions—and other activities such

as responding to course surveys, asking questions in class, and engaging with classmates—count towards your participation grade. Students must **demonstrate participation in at least 80% of all course activities** to get a full participation grade. That means you can miss ~20% of the questions I will pose and still get all the corresponding participation points. Note that **attendance is required** for a good participation grade. After all, you cannot participate in in-class activities if you are not there. Also, in-class activities might happen in the first minutes, so be there on time.

Quizzes (Pre and Post)

Answers to all quizzes, pre and post, must be submitted on Canvas by Sunday 11:59 pm CT of their due date (Sundays until Thanksgiving and Tuesdays after that). Please carefully follow the instructions in each assignment and submit clear and organized image or text files when asked. Note that some questions might be graded mostly by completion, and that the organization of your answers can be part of the grading.

I will drop the two lowest grades in each type of quiz. We will have 12 quizzes throughout the semester, each pre-quiz is worth 12 points and each post-quiz is worth 24 points. Thus, you can earn at most $10 \times 12 = 120$ points on the pre-quizzes and $10 \times 24 = 240$ points on the post-quizzes.

Exams

The midterm exam will be on Wednesday, **Oct 18, 9:00am–10:15am**, in MH 218 (same room and time as our classes). It is worth 200 points and will cover all content seen until that date. The final exam will be on Wednesday, **Dec 13, 7:30am–9:30am**, in MH 218, following [UNO's final exam schedule](#). it will cover all content seen in the course, with emphasis on the second half, and is worth 320 points. Students can bring a simple calculator and a one-page, two-sided, handwritten “cheat sheet” to both exams.

Letter grade cutoffs

I will use the cutoffs below to assign you a final letter grade.

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
930–1,000	A	800–829	B-	670–699	D+
900–929	A-	770–799	C+	630–669	D
870–899	B+	730–769	C	600–629	D-
830–869	B	700–729	C-	0–599	F

The A and A+ grades give you the same number of GPA points. I will reserve the A+ for students whose performance in the course really exceeds expectations.

Grade curving

I reserve the right to adjust (curve) grades if needed. Such adjustments normally only occur for exam grades (not final grades) when the average or median is deemed too low. If I adjust grades, individual scores can only go up. That is, no student will be harmed by such an adjustment.

Course Policies

The policies below are indented to foster an efficient, professional, and flexible environment for all students in the course, so that they can take the most out of it. I will enforce them strictly.

No Extensions or Late Submissions

There are virtually no extensions, no late submissions, and no ways to make up for a missed assignment in this course. For both the pre- and post- quizzes, students can drop 2 out of 12 grades (~16% of the quizzes). And for the participation grade, students can miss ~20% of the questions posed. That means you can miss two full weeks of course activities and still get a full grade without an extension or makeup. Such allowances are designed to accommodate cases where a student has missed course activities due to extenuating circumstances. Therefore, there is no reason to ask for special accommodations unless you have already used your two drops and 20% participation allowance **due to justified reasons**.

No Cellphones, Tablets, or Computers in Class

Students are expected to pay attention and participate when in class. There is no need for electronics of any sort, such as cell phones, tablets, or computers, in the classroom. All that our class activities require are pens, pencils, and paper. (Having a simple calculator to check numerical calculations can come in handy, though). I kindly ask that you keep your electronics away during class and refrain from checking them unless absolutely necessary. If you need to use electronics for accessibility reasons, please let me know during the first week of classes.

Attendance

Attendance is required for a good participation grade (see above). Students are expected to attend, at minimum, 80% of all classes in person. More importantly, attendance positively impacts your learning, and therefore, your final grade in the course.

CBA's Two-Strikes Policy

This course (ECON 2200) is subject to CBA's two-strikes policy. According to this policy, a student may only attempt each required business core course three times. Any grade earned, excluding CR, W, NC, NR, I, IP, AU, S, U, or R, will count as an attempt for the three times limit.

Communication

I will reply to emails within one business day (24 hours, except weekends). The same goes for messages and posts on Canvas boards. If I do not reply within one business day, please send me a reminder. Feel free to ask questions before or after class, but keep in mind that some matters require time and are better suited for office hours. Use email for short inquiries and office hours for longer ones. If you communicate something to me verbally, please follow up with an email so that we both have a record of that communication. Such emails are useful reminders for when I am expected to follow up on a request or question from you.

Discussion Boards

I encourage you to use the Discussion Boards on Canvas to ask questions about the readings, lectures, and quizzes. When you ask questions this way, everyone can follow and benefit from the discussion. By email, it is just you and me. In other words, using Discussion Boards to ask (and answer) questions generates positive externalities.

Course Feedback

Just as I evaluate you, you will have opportunities to evaluate me. In addition to the university course evaluations, I will ask for your input halfway through the semester so that I can have feedback when there is still time to act on it. Though not mandatory, answering these surveys is highly encouraged. I value your honest thoughts and suggestions on how to improve the course.

Diversity and Accommodations

I understand that each one of you comes to class with unique backgrounds, strengths, and challenges. I will do my best to create space for this diversity in our course and use it in our favor—and I count on your help to do so. Our diversity makes our class richer. You belong to this class, and you belong to economics. Our course is better because you are in it, and economics will be better off with you in it.

Preferred Name and Preferred Gender Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun if you wish. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I can change my records accordingly. My pronouns are he/him/his.

Students with Children

I am willing to make accommodations for students with parenting responsibilities. If that's your case and you expect to need such accommodations, please let me know early in the semester.

Accessibility Accommodations

It is my goal that this class will be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students. Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Accessibility Services Center (ASC) and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact ASC (Location: 104 H&K, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu). Or visit the [Accessibility Services Center's webpage](#).

Video Recordings

Course lectures may be audio/video recorded, and the recordings may be available to students registered for this class. This is intended to supplement the classroom experience. As part of your participation in this course, you may be recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded, please contact me during the first week of class to discuss alternative arrangements. Notice that the **students may not make audio or video recordings** of, or live stream, any classroom activity, including lectures, without express prior written consent from the course instructor or if a student has an approved accommodation that requires recording. For more details, check the [Campus Policy on the Recording of Classroom Activities](#).

Academic Integrity Policy

The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. All students are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and behavior and must satisfy the UNO [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). As a student, it is your responsibility to read, understand and abide by these policies. Students involved in cheating in our course activities—including exams, quizzes, and others—will fail the course and have their names reported to the UNO administration, which may result in being expelled from the College or University.

Appendix A: Resources for Students

CBA Tutoring Labs

The College of Business Administration offers free tutoring services for students. This includes tutoring in Economics, Finance, and Math. Schedule an appointment [here](#) (link also available on our Canvas webpage).

Math Science Learning Center (MSLC):

The Math-Science Learning Center offers peer assisted, independent study in the form of peer tutoring, facilitated study groups and supplemental instruction. The MSLC is here to help all UNO students studying math and science free of charge. Students wishing to work with a peer-tutor simply need to drop in - no appointment is necessary for most courses. Students interested in joining a facilitated study group can sign up simply by visiting the [MSLC webpage](#).

Speech Center

The UNO Speech Center provides free consulting and coaching services to all UNO students, faculty, and staff in preparing oral presentations. The Speech Center Consulting Room can help you with presentation preparation, outlining, effective delivery techniques, along with any other presentational needs. Speech consulting will help at any stage in the speech-making process, whether you are just starting to develop topic ideas or nearly finished with preparing a presentation. For more information about their services or to schedule an appointment, visit the [Speech Center's webpage](#).

Writing Center

The UNO Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations with trained consultants to all students, faculty, and staff. Their goal is to help writers improve their writing skills and confidence in all types of writing, in all subject areas, and at all stages of the writing process. For more information about their hours and locations or to schedule an appointment, visit the [Writing Center's webpage](#).

Criss Library

UNO's Criss Library offers a wide variety of resources that support student learning. Subject specialist librarians have in-depth knowledge of researching within specific disciplines and can give you guidance specifically for your area of study. Students are encouraged to explore customized resources featured on [library's webpage](#).

Appendix B: Course Calendar

The calendar below is **tentative** and may be altered as needed. In particular, the content covered in each lecture might be shortened or moved. Exam and due dates are unlikely to change.

Course Presentation & Introduction (Ch. 1)		
Mon	21-Aug	Course Presentation and Syllabus Highlights
Wed	23-Aug	Ch. 1 - Limits, Alternatives, and Choices (overview)
Block 01 - The Market System; Demand, Supply, and Equilibrium (Ch. 2 & 3)		
Sun	27-Aug	Due: Pre-Quiz 01
Mon	28-Aug	Ch. 2 (overview) & Ch. 3 (complete)
Wed	30-Aug	Ch. 2 (overview) & Ch. 3 (complete) (cont.)
Labor Day and Quantitative Tools Training		
Mon	4-Sep	Labor Day (no class)
Wed	6-Sep	Training on Quantitative Tools
Block 02 - Externalities, Public Goods, and Market Failures (Ch. 4 & 5)		
Sun	10-Sep	Due: Post-Quiz 01 & Pre-Quiz 02
Mon	11-Sep	Ch. 4 (complete) & Ch. 5 (overview)
Wed	13-Sep	Ch. 4 (complete) & Ch. 5 (overview) (cont.)
Block 03 - Elasticities (Ch. 6)		
Sun	17-Sep	Due: Post-Quiz 02 & Pre-Quiz 03
Mon	18-Sep	Ch. 6 (complete)
Wed	20-Sep	Ch. 6 (complete) (cont.)
Block 04 - Utility Maximization and Behavioral Economics (Ch. 7 & 8)		
Sun	24-Sep	Due: Post-Quiz 03 & Pre-Quiz 04
Mon	25-Sep	Ch. 7 (complete) & Ch. 8 (overview)
Wed	27-Sep	Ch. 7 (complete) & Ch. 8 (overview) (cont.)
Block 05 - Businesses and the Costs of Production (Ch. 9)		
Sun	1-Oct	Due: Post-Quiz 04 & Pre-Quiz 05
Mon	2-Oct	Ch. 9 (complete)
Wed	4-Oct	Ch. 9 (complete) (cont.)
Block 06 - Competition in the Short and Long Run (Ch. 10 & 11)		
Sun	8-Oct	Due: Post-Quiz 05 & Pre-Quiz 06
Mon	9-Oct	Ch. 10 (complete) & Ch. 11 (complete)
Wed	11-Oct	Ch. 10 (complete) & Ch. 11 (complete) (cont.)
Fall Break & Midterm Exam		
Sun	15-Oct	Due: Post-Quiz 06
Mon	16-Oct	Fall Break (no class)
Wed	18-Oct	Midterm Exam (9:00am–10:15am, MH 218)

Block 07 - Monopoly (Ch. 12)		
Sun	22-Oct	Due: Pre-Quiz 07
Mon	23-Oct	Ch. 12 (complete)
Wed	25-Oct	Ch. 12 (complete) (cont.)
Block 08 - Monopolistic Competition, Rents, and Profits (Ch. 13 & 18)		
Sun	29-Oct	Due: Post-Quiz 07 & Pre-Quiz 08
Mon	30-Oct	Ch. 13 (complete) & Ch. 18 (overview)
Wed	1-Nov	Ch. 13 (complete) & Ch. 18 (overview) (cont.)
Block 09 - Oligopoly and Strategic Behavior (Ch. 14)		
Sun	5-Nov	Due: Post-Quiz 08 & Pre-Quiz 09
Mon	6-Nov	Ch. 14 (complete)
Wed	8-Nov	Ch. 14 (complete) (cont.)
Block 10 - Wage Determination (Ch. 17)		
Sun	12-Nov	Due: Post-Quiz 09 & Pre-Quiz 10
Mon	13-Nov	Ch. 17 (complete)
Wed	15-Nov	Ch. 17 (complete) (cont.)
Block 11 - Immigration & International Trade (Ch. 25 & 26)		
Sun	19-Nov	Due: Post-Quiz 10 & Pre-Quiz 11
Mon	20-Nov	Ch. 25 (overview)
Wed	22-Nov	Thanksgiving (no class)
Mon	27-Nov	Ch. 26 (overview)
Block 12 - Inequality, Poverty, and Developing Economies (Ch. 23 & 28)		
Tue	28-Nov	Due: Post-Quiz 11 & Pre-Quiz 12
Wed	29-Nov	Ch. 23 (overview)
Mon	4-Dec	Ch. 28 (overview)
Review & Final Exam		
Tue	5-Dec	Due: Post-Quiz 12
Wed	6-Dec	Review
Wed	13-Dec	Final Exam (7:30am-9:30am, MH 218)

* The terms "complete" and "overview" in parentheses refer to the treatment we will give to each chapter. Complete means students are expected to read the whole chapter, and questions on it in the pre-quiz can be graded by correctness. Overview means students are expected to skim the chapter focusing on a few core concepts, and questions on it in the pre-quiz will be graded by completion only.