

# ECON 201–Intermediate Microeconomics

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## Course Information

Dr. Christopher Blake

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Office: Seney 316

Office Hours: MWF–10:45a–11:45a, TR–8:30a–9:30a, and by appointment

## Course Description

In Principles of Microeconomics you received an introduction to decision-making for individuals, firms, and government. This introduced you the concepts of key economic agents and the allocation of scarce resources in markets. This course expands on the topics you learn in a Principles course. In many ways, the topics are the same, but the level of complexity is drastically increased through the incorporation of algebra and calculus. This course serves as an intermediary between Principles and Graduate-level modeling of things like supply and demand and optimal decision-making.

## Course Materials

There are plenty of materials that could be useful for this course. This section outlines some specific suggestions and highlights the required elements. It is expected that you will already have access to Canvas ([canvas.emory.edu](https://canvas.emory.edu)).

### MyEconLab (Required)

MyEconLab will be used for our graded quizzes and provide ample practice throughout the semester. Purchasing MyEconLab also comes with access to an online version of our textbook (see below), which you will be expected to read independently and use for study. A link to our specific MyEconLab course can be found on Canvas.

Access for MyEconLab can be purchased at the bookstore or independently through the publisher when registering.

### Textbook (Optional)

Our textbook this semester will be: *Microeconomics* (9th Edition) by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld (ISBN-13: 978-0134184241). You do not need a physical copy of the book. However, if you prefer reading on paper as opposed to digitally, this may be a good option for you. The bookstore will be selling a physical version of the book bundled with access to MyEconLab, if this is what you want. Should you choose to buy independently through another source, the ISBN above will guide you to the correct choice.

You will also have the ability to use the copy of the text that will be on course reserve in the library. Access to some form of the textbook is strongly encouraged.

## Coursework

This course will be graded based on percentages assigned to coursework. All coursework can be divided into three categories: Quizzes, Participation, and Exams.

### Quizzes

I will assign graded quizzes over the course of the semester, typically once per week. Your score across all of these quizzes will account for 30% of your overall final grade. Quizzes will always be due Sunday at 11:59 pm and the due dates will fall the Sunday after we have completed all of the necessary material. For example, one of your first quizzes this semester will cover a calculus review, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2. If we finish Chapter 2 on Thursday, January 25, then the corresponding quiz will be due Sunday, January 28.

*No quiz makeups will be allowed as they are online, so be sure to plan your week accordingly and work ahead, if need be.* You will have one attempt on each quiz so be sure to check your answers prior to submission on MyEconLab and have a stable internet connection. Your attempt will be 2 hours long to give you ample time and quizzes will be open book and open note. **Once you begin the quiz, the two hour timer continues to tick down, even if you exit the quiz. Choose your start time appropriately and make sure you have a solid internet connection.**

Prior to each quiz, I have developed practice homework assignments that mirror what you will see on the graded quiz; use these practice to prepare and ask me for questions prior to the graded portion.

### Participation

Periodically, I will distribute worksheets with practice problems and questions in class which will account for 20% of your final grade. You will be given class time to work through these worksheets and must submit them within a set time limit. This time limit will vary based on the length and style of worksheet handed out. They can be completed individually or in groups, though each student is expected to submit their own responses individually.

Worksheets will not happen every class period and more than one may happen in a given class. Each is meant to provide you with feedback on your understanding of course material and allow me to see what content may need to be discussed further. *Participation worksheets can only be completed for points in class.*<sup>1</sup>

The manner that each worksheet will be graded will be clearly stated at the top of each worksheet and each participation activity will be worth 10 points. Grading will work one of two ways:

1. "Participation Only"

This grading style will be used most often for open-ended questions that ask you to analyze a given concept. You will receive a 10 if you complete this worksheet and 0 otherwise.

2. "Answer-Driven"

This grading style will be more common and correspond to worksheets where there is a correct answer. If your answer is perfect, you will receive 10 points. If your answer is not perfect, but you are close, you will receive 5 points. If your answer is not very close, you will receive 0 points.

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<sup>1</sup>If you have a documented university excuse or medical hardship, please contact me when you will be missing class so we can discuss options.

If you receive a 5 or a 0, you will have the opportunity to make up some points. If you resubmit an accurately edited participation worksheet within one class period of the worksheet being handed back, your grade will be increased to a 7.5 and 5, respectively.

## Exams

You will have three exams this semester, each of which will be worth 100 points. Exams are held approximately once every five weeks. The first two exams will only cover new material while the last exam (Final Exam) will be cumulative in nature. You must be on time for exams. To prevent issues of academic dishonesty, I will not allow you to take an exam if you come late and someone has already submitted their exam.

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Most questions will be designed to directly reflect those seen in participation worksheets, practice homework, graded quizzes, lectures, the book, and class discussions. Exams will be taken in class; please check the course schedule and calendar on Canvas for these dates.

## Grading

With three types of coursework, the score breakdown for the course is as follows:

Item	Percentage Contribution
Quizzes	30%
Participation	20%
Exams	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Final grades for the course will be determined exclusively based on the percentages you earn across all coursework for the semester. *No rounding will occur after the semester, no matter how close you come to a threshold for a higher grade.* In order to earn each letter grade, you must earn *at least* the percentage listed in the following table:

Letter Grade	Necessary Percentage	Letter Grade	Necessary Percentage
A	93%	C+	77%
A–	90%	C	70%
B+	87%	D	60%
B	83%	F	0%
B–	80%		

## Expectations

In order to maximize the amount of learning for everyone, there are some rules I expect everyone to follow throughout the semester. These expectations should be treated like a contract and your continued registration in the course constitutes an acceptance of these terms. Failing to follow these will result in a penalty at the discretion of the instructor.

## Conduct

Oxford College of Emory University's ideals of inclusivity require that we foster an environment where people of diverse backgrounds, identities, abilities, and ideologies are affirmed, respected, and seen as a source of strength; where we strive to learn together, and ultimately thrive communally. If we at all fail to support these ideals, then we encourage discussion towards improvement, and we hope that this statement affirms your right to seek those discussions via dialogue with faculty, staff, your peers, and the use of the Speak Up! system when needed.

I treat this course as a “two-way” street. My goal is to provide the best education possible for you while covering the topics that need to be discussed prior to semester's end. If at any point you have suggestions or comments, I welcome them. If I am going too fast in class, or too slow, say so. If something is unclear, ask for clarification or help. I will not be able to adjust things without knowing about them.

Electronic devices are all around us and learning to responsibly use those devices is important. In class, refrain from using cell phones. If you need to make a call or respond to a message, step out of class as these actions are distracting to those around you. If you want, you may use a laptop/tablet to take notes, though keep the use of these electronic devices to class-related learning.

## Academic Honesty

The Honor Code is strictly enforced in this class. Academic dishonesty may include giving or receiving help on exams, plagiarizing material, copying another student's work, and more. Please familiarize yourself with the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code will result in a penalty at the discretion of the instructor, but will typically result in the automatic award of an 'F' for the course.

## Attendance and Communication

Any changes to the course will be made via Canvas announcements. Check these often, especially if you must miss class. You are expected to attend class, and will be directed to fellow classmates should you miss some time.

If something happens to prevent you from fully participating in class, communicate this with me immediately. In such moments, we can figure out a plan of action to ensure that the course remains manageable to you. You must be in class to receive credit on Participation worksheets.

All assignments (with the exception of exams) and course material can be found on Canvas. Check Canvas often to make sure that you are keeping up.

## Accommodations

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, please contact the OAS and complete the registration process. Faculty may not legally provide you with accommodations until an accommodation letter has been processed and discussed with them; accommodations do not start until this point and are not retroactive. Students registered with OAS who receive a letter outlining specific academic accommodations are thus strongly encouraged to immediately coordinate a meeting with their professors to discuss a protocol to implement accommodations that will (or may) be needed over the course of the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the term as possible. Contact Megan Bohinc in OAS for more information at

(770) 784-4690 or [oas\\_oxford@emory.edu](mailto:oas_oxford@emory.edu). Additional information is available at the OAS website at <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html>.

## Religious Holiday Arrangements

Instructors are encouraged, not required, to accommodate students' academic needs related to religious holidays. Please make every effort to negotiate your religious holiday needs within the first two weeks of the semester; waiting longer may compromise your instructors ability to extend satisfactory arrangements. If you need guidance negotiating your needs related to a religious holiday, the College Chaplain, Rev. Lyn Pace, [ppace@emory.edu](mailto:ppace@emory.edu), Candler Hall 202, is willing and available to help. Please be aware that Rev. Pace is not tasked with excusing students from classes or writing excuses for students to take to their professors. Emorys official list of religious holidays may be found at [http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith\\_traditions/holidays.html](http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu/faith_traditions/holidays.html).

## Course Structure and Schedule

On Canvas and as a separate document, I will outline the schedule for this course. This schedule is tentative and I reserve the right to amend the schedule at any time. When changes are made, I will update Canvas and the separate Course Schedule, as well as describe the changes via Canvas announcement.

## Final Exam

Students must obtain the permission of the Senior Associate Dean of academic affairs to take a final exam earlier or later than scheduled. Permission is normally granted for documented family emergencies, documented medical reasons, or for participation in educational programs. Permission will also be granted for students scheduled to take three exams on a single calendar day (not three exams within a general twenty-four-hour period). Students with three exams on one calendar day must document their situation with the Senior Associate Dean no later than 5:00 p.m. on Reading Day. Students in this situation will be granted permission to work with one of their instructors to arrange to take one of their exams at an alternate date and time within the official exam week. Leaving early for rides or flights, vacations, relatives or friends weddings or graduations, jobs, or having two exams on one day, and other situations, are not considered valid reasons to request an earlier or later exam.

### **For this course, your final exam will be:**

- For the 10:00 am class: Wednesday, May 2 from 2:00 pm–5:00 pm.
- For the 1:00 pm class: Monday, May 7 from 2:00 pm–5:00 pm.