

## Syllabus

### Course Summary

**WHAT IS COVERED IN THIS COURSE?** Microeconomics studies interactions between economic agents – consumers, firms, governments, and organizations – in market or non-market settings. It is the commonly believed starting point of modern economics analysis.

In this course, we will formalize the idea that market competitions are efficient. We will first consider the two sides of a market separately: demand side, and supply side, which leads to the analysis of consumer behaviors and producer behaviors. We will then study how the demand and supply work together to achieve market equilibrium and under some conditions, efficiency. The last part of the course will then examine what happens if these conditions are violated.

As part I of intermediate microeconomics, we will mostly use graphical methods in this course. Still, relatively simple mathematics are also used and required in selected sections.

**PREREQUISITES.** The following courses are required before taking ECON201D:

- Economics 101 or 101D, and,
- either Mathematics 105L and 106L, or Mathematics 21, 111L, 112L, 121, 122, 122L, 202, 212, or a higher-level math course.

We will mostly use derivatives and optimization tools from the math courses.

**TEXTBOOK.** *Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus*, Cengage Learning, 2nd Edition, 2017, by Thomas Nechyba. This textbook is required. The first 10 chapters will be posted on the course website at [Canvas](#) in order to give you time to order the textbook. These will be the only chapters available on Canvas.

Some textbook-related resources, including study guides and exercise solutions, will also be available on Canvas. Please note that these materials are copyright protected. Prof. Nechyba is greatly generous to make them available for the class, and I will really appreciate it if you do not further share these materials.

**SPECIAL NOTE FOR TAKING ECON201D IN SUMMER.** Students should note that this course will have relatively heavy workload when taking as a summer course. There are lectures every weekday, and the course progresses faster than the counterparts offered in the fall or spring terms. Students should expect to spend a significant proportion of each day studying this course, even including some weekends. Students should in general discuss with the instructors before taking another course simultaneously.

## Accommodations

Students who wish to receive accommodations should apply to SDAO. Accommodations will be provided when the instructor receives the professor letter from SDAO. Students should apply for accommodations as early as possible. If accommodations are approved relatively late (for example, very close to an exam), there may not be enough time for the instructor to provide accommodations.

**EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS.** The class will use the Testing Center to provide testing accommodations, including accommodated exams and make-up exams. Students should read the syllabus statements “*Procedure for Testing Accommodations / Supports and Make-up Tests*” on [this page](#).

## Lectures and Regular Assignments

Except university holidays, we will have lectures every weekday. Our general plan is as follows:

- Lectures on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons.
- Review sessions on Friday mornings.
- Weekly quizzes on Friday afternoons.
- Instructor office hours: M-F, 11:00am-noon at Social Sciences 113.

Specifically, for each Friday afternoon sessions, we will first have a 30-minute quiz (details below), and use the time remaining as regular lecture time. The Friday morning sessions are used as discussion sections instead.

Lecture slides will be posted on course website the night before each lecture.

**ATTENDANCES.** Lecture and discussion section attendances are required and will be taken randomly. If you have legitimate reasons and need to be excused, please send the instructor a short note via email. There is no need for supporting materials as long as no one abuses this policy. If too many students or some students repeatedly ask for excused absences, we will instead adopt the Trinity policy for class attendance [here](#). There is no point deduction regarding attendances as long as you receive a written approval of excused absences from the instructor.

Students who are late or leave early are considered absent. No partial credits for attendances.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.** We will have daily homework assignments. Each homework assignment has 5-7 questions from various sources that help you understand and review the materials covered in the lecture on the same day.

Homework assignments do not count towards to your course grades, and you are not required to submit your homework solutions. Instead, due to the intensive schedule of summer courses, the suggested solutions will be available the same time the homework assignment is posted. You are highly encouraged to finish the homework assignments. Ideally, you should first try to solve the problems by yourself, then consult with the solutions, and ask questions the next day if the

solutions are still not very clear to you. You are also encouraged to work on homework assignments in groups.

It is also encouraged to finish end-of-chapter exercises in the textbook that are not listed as homework problems, if you have some spare time. The solutions will also be posted on the course website.

**REVIEW SESSIONS.** We will cover difficult homework problems in review sessions every Friday morning. If you want the instructor to cover a problem, write the instructor a note the day before.

**QUIZZES.** Each quiz covers the lectures from last Friday afternoon to this Thursday. Each quiz will take 30 minutes and has 2 to 3 problems. Textbooks and notes are not allowed in quizzes. A stand-alone calculators are allowed, but usually not necessary.

Students with accommodations that extend quiz time should arrive at the classroom early to take the quizzes with longer durations.

Quiz grades and solutions will be posted within 24 hours. Students who have questions regarding the grades should contact the instructor within 3 days of the releasing time of the quiz grades via email.

## **Exams and Grades**

**EXAMS.** This class has two midterm exams and one final exam. Midterm exams are held on two Friday afternoons. Each midterm exam takes 2 hours. Midterm exams are not accumulative; that is, Midterm II will cover only the materials after Midterm I. The final exam will cover the whole course and takes 3 hours. The exam dates are in the class calendar at the end of the syllabus.

All exams are closed-book and closed-note. A stand-alone scientific calculator is allowed.

The majority of the exam problems are from homework and quizzes (maybe with slight modifications).<sup>1</sup>

All exam grades and solutions will be posted within 48 hours. For midterm exams, re-grading policies will be posted simultaneously. For the final exam, there is no re-grading period. Students who have questions about the course grades instead will have a year to appeal.

There is no make-up midterm exam. If a student misses one midterm exam, the weight of that midterm exam is automatically shifted to the final exam. Students who miss two midterm exams or anticipate missing the final exam should discuss with the instructor for available options as early as possible. Please note that the instructor must follow the Trinity policies [here](#) regarding the final exam absences.

**LETTER GRADES.** The overall course grades are calculated as shown in [Table 1](#).

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<sup>1</sup>If a homework question is marked with “optional” or “feel free to skip”, it will not show up in the exams. “Slight modifications” are modifications such as changing numbers. These modifications do not change the way of solving the problem.

**TABLE 1** Overall Course Grade Compositions

Components	Percentages
Attendances	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
Final	40%

The letter grades assigned according to the ranking of the overall course grades.

**BONUS POINTS.** If you spot a mistake/typo in the course materials, please send an email to the instructor. The instructor will award bonus points to the first student who spot the mistake. The bonus points will be added to the overall course grades when calculating the letter grades. The maximum bonus points one can get are 3 points.

**S/U GRADES.** You may take this course on the basis of S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grading. You will receive S if your overall course grade, when converted to the letter grade, is at least C-. To take the course on the basis of S/U grading, follow the policy [here](#).

Please be warned that you cannot count this course toward Economics major, minor, or certificate if you take this course on an S/U basis, unless approved by the director or the associate director of undergraduate studies.

**AUDIT THE COURSE.** If you wish to audit this course, please notify the instructor so that you can be added to the course Canvas site. All students are welcomed. If you do not need this course to show up in your transcript, formal paperworks are not required.

THE CLASS CALENDAR IS AT THE NEXT PAGE.

## Class Calendar

Regular class meeting: M-F 9:30-10:45am, F 2:00-4:05pm, at Social Sciences 119.

*The class calendar is tentative and subject to changes. The dates/time of the exams are fixed.*

Dates	Topics	Textbook Chapters
May 15 W	Consumer budget set	Chapter 2
May 16 Th	Consumer preferences and indifference maps	Chapter 4A, 5A
May 17 F	(morning) Review session (afternoon) <a href="#">Quiz 1</a> (afternoon) Utility functions	Chapter 4B, 5B
May 20 M	Utility maximization and demand functions	Chapter 6, 9
May 21 T	Income and substitution effects	Chapter 7, 9
May 22 W	Consumer surplus	Chapter 10
May 23 Th	Labor and capital markets	Chapter 3, 8
May 24 F	(morning) Review session (afternoon) <b>Midterm I</b>	
May 27 M	Memorial Day, no classes	
May 28 T	Short-run production	Chapter 11
May 29 W	Short-run production (cont)	Chapter 11
May 30 Th	Long-run production	Chapter 12
May 31 F	(morning) Review session (afternoon) <a href="#">Quiz 2</a> (afternoon) Production decisions in the short and long run	Chapter 13
Jun 3 M	Competitive market equilibrium: short run	Chapter 14
Jun 4 T	Competitive market equilibrium: long run	Chapter 14
Jun 5 W	Efficiency of competitive markets; price floors ceilings	Chapter 15, 18
Jun 6 Th	Distortionary taxes and subsidies	Chapter 19
Jun 7 F	(morning) Review session (afternoon) <b>Midterm II</b>	

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Dates		Topics	Textbook Chapters
Jun 10	M	Monopoly	Chapter 23
Jun 11	T	Normal form games	Chapter 24
Jun 12	W	Nash equilibrium	Chapter 24
Jun 13	Th	Cournot, Bertrand and Hotelling oligopoly competitions	Chapter 25, 26
Jun 14	F	(morning) Review session (afternoon) <a href="#">Quiz 3</a> (afternoon) Extensive form games and subgame perfection	Chapter 24, 25
Jun 17	M	Moral hazard	Chapter 22
Jun 18	T	Adverse selection	Chapter 22
Jun 19	W	Juneteenth Holiday, no classes	
Jun 20	Th	Repeated games	Chapter 24
Jun 21	F	(morning) Review session (afternoon) <a href="#">Quiz 4</a> (afternoon) Externalities and public goods	Chapter 21, 27
Jun 24	M	Concluding remarks	
Jun 26	W	(2:00-5:00pm) <a href="#">Final</a>	