

ECONOMICS 460
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION THEORY AND POLICY
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
ECAMPUS
FALL 2020

Instructor: Michael Jerman

Contact Information:

Zoom PID: 297 626 2177

Email: michael.jerman@oregonstate.edu

Zoom Office Hours:

T,Th: 3:00PM–4:00PM (PST)

Or by appointment

Learning Resources:

- Textbook: Carol Horton Tremblay and Victor J. Tremblay, *New Perspectives on Industrial Organization: Contributions from Behavioral Economics and Game Theory*, Springer, 2012, ISBN 978-1-4614-3240-1 (required). This book is expensive, but digital versions can be rented on Amazon at a much lower cost.
- Digital subscription to The New York Times (required). The subscription is provided by OSU, and information on creating your account can be found at this link:
<https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/nyt>
- Additional readings and/or notes may be posted. Both the notes and readings should receive the same careful consideration as the textbook. Students are also required to have access to a microphone and webcam.

Course Description: The study of the causes of market structure, the behavior of firms in game theoretic settings, and the welfare implications of competitive and imperfectly competitive markets; United States antitrust and other laws regulating business behavior.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of the models of competition, monopoly, and oligopoly.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the main theories of market structure, firm strategy, and economic performance.
- Explain how U.S. antitrust law and government regulation of businesses affect society.

Prerequisites: The prerequisites for this course are ECON 311 or ECON 411.

Course Structure: Course Delivery This course is delivered via Canvas, where you will interact with your classmates and your instructor. You will access the learning materials within the course site, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo:

<https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/course-demo/>

For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help:

<https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm>

Communication: Please post all course-related questions in the Q&A Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please contact me privately for matters of a personal nature.

I am primarily available via Canvas messaging or email (michael.jerman@oregonstate.edu). Please allow at least 24-48 hours for the instructor to respond to your email! Review your homework early in the week (you can open it and view it without starting it!), ask questions, and give yourself (and me) time to respond to your emails/questions. I will strive to return your assignments and grades for course activities to you within 7 days of the due date.

Canvas announcements are often sent out to announce changes in the schedule or content, as well as to confirm or change due dates of assignments and exams. Check your email frequently! Announcements will also be posted on Canvas. Because this is an online class, there are no set office hours. But if you prefer to talk on the phone, Zoom, or instant message, please email the instructor to set up a time.

Grades: Your grade will be calculated based on the following weights:

What Do You Want/Me as a Writer:	2.5%
Homework:	35%
Class Participation:	22.5%
Case Study Project:	40%

The *minimum* letter grade that you will receive based on your weighted total of points earned is given below:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

Homework: Homework will be administered through Canvas and can be found in the module for the current week. Homework will be available Monday at 12am PST at the start of each week and due the following Sunday at 11:59pm PST. Late work will receive a grade of zero. If you need further clarification on any of the problems, or want to discuss some ideas, post in the discussion board, or send me an email. The best way to contact the instructor and receive a timely response is via Canvas messaging, text, or email. On some multiple-choice assignments, you will have two opportunities to complete the assignment. Feel free to post questions for your classmates on the discussion board, or to work together on assignments in person or via email. However, make sure you understand and know how to solve the problems by yourself, and can understand and discuss the material on your own. What do I look for when grading your homework assignments?

- That you at least attempted the problem!
- Clear responses with proper sentence structure and grammar.

Discussion and Class Participation: Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. Most Mondays, the instructor will post discussion questions. You are required to comment on these discussion questions, or post questions of your own for class discussion. Your comments and questions must be meaningful and add to the topic, in order to be counted towards your grade.

You are required to post at least twice each week (but you are encouraged to post much more!), and participation must occur on at least two different days each week.

- Post #1 must occur between Monday-Wednesday.
- Post #2 must occur between Thursday-Saturday.

In addition, for the discussion boards to assist students in achieving learning goals for this class, there are two things that you must do:

1. Read everyone else's posts! This is supposed to take the place of having a discussion in the classroom. I ask the question, someone responds, and you listen. In this case, you have to read to understand someone else's opinion or viewpoint.
2. Respond to other student's posts! Do not just answer the question that I posted, because that makes for very boring reading and not much of a discussion. Read other student's posts and respond to them! If you agree, explain why! If you disagree, explain your opinion! If you have a question, ask it! Questions count as participation too (but you can't post only questions).

I will pop into the discussion to clarify questions or guide the discussion to certain topics, but this should be THE STUDENTS interacting and sharing thoughts, opinions, and insights on the issues.

Case Study Project: By the end of Week 2, each student will be assigned a partner(s) for the Case Study Project. You will work in a team to develop a case study for a topic that is relevant to this class and applies the ideas and theories you have learned. You will submit ONE proposal/outline/etc.

Your final paper should be 12-14 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and in Times New Roman 12pt font. Note that quality is more important than length. See the handout posted on Canvas for information on case study topics, requirements, and due dates. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me.

Writing Guidelines: All assignments submitted (homework, Case Study, and anything else) will be graded on clarity, accuracy, and proper sentence structure and grammar. You should proofread

all assignments before turning them in and should include a bibliography if additional sources are cited.

Homework and Grading Policies: There is no extra credit available for this class. Makeup exams/homework will not routinely be given. Makeup exams/homework will be given only for missed exams/homework excused in advance by the instructor. For missed exams/homework that can be anticipated ahead of time, advance permission from the instructor to miss the exams/homework will be necessary. Excused absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances. Re-grades of exams/homework will be performed when there is an error and the student requests it. All requests for re-grading must be made within 3 class days of the day the homework assignment/exam is returned. After that period of time, grades will be fixed and will not be changed.

Tutoring and Writing Assistance: NetTutor (<https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/student-services/online-tutoring/>) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

The Oregon State Online Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.oregonstate.edu/online-writing-lab>) is also available for students enrolled in Ecampus courses.

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom: Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor.

Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.

- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

TurnItIn: Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin, and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited. Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information, visit

<https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/c.php?g=286121p=1906660>

Diversity Commitment: The School of Public Policy in the College of Liberal Arts is a community that includes and values the voices of all people. As such, we recognize the social barriers that have systematically marginalized and excluded people and communities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic background, age, disability, national origin and religion. We are committed to the equity of opportunities, and strive to promote and advance diverse communities. We value and proactively seek genuine participation from these historically under-represented and underserved groups, and recognize them as an essential component of creating a welcoming and rich academic, intellectual, and cultural environment for everyone.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval, please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Religious Holiday Statement: Oregon State University strives to respect all religious practices. If you have religious holidays that are in conflict with any of the requirements of this class, please see me immediately so that we can make alternative arrangements.

Academic Integrity and Expectations for Student Conduct: The Student Conduct Code establishes community standards and procedures necessary to maintain and protect an environment conducive to learning, in keeping with the educational objectives of Oregon State University. Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is prohibited and considered a serious violation of the Student

Conduct Code. It is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another. See the following link for additional information: <https://beav.es/codeofconduct>.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Student Conduct and Community Standards, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

Reach Out for Success: University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it's important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at oregonstate.edu/ReachOut. If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Course Schedule:

Week	Material
0	What Do You Want? Me as a Writer Syllabus Quiz
1	Chapter 1 – Introduction Chapter 4 – Behavioral Economics Chapter 21 – Industry and Firm Studies
2	Chapter 2 – Demand, Technology/Cost, and Firm Theory Appendix A (Review for homework help) Case Study Proposal Due October 11
3	Chapter 5 – Perfect Competition and Market Imperfections Chapter 6 – Monopoly and Monopolistic Competition
4	Chapter 7 – Product Differentiation Chapter 8 – Market Structure, Industry Concentration, Barriers to Entry
5	Chapter 3 – Game Theory and Economic Information Chapter 9 – Cartels First Project Report Due November 1st
6	Chapter 10 – Quantity and Price Competition in Static Oligopoly Models Chapter 11 – Dynamic Monopoly and Oligopoly Models
7	Online Presentation / Report Due November 15th
8	Chapter 14 – Price Discrimination and Other Marketing Strategies Chapter 15 – Advertising Comments on Presentations Due November 19th
9	Chapter 17 – Technological Change, Dynamic Efficiency, Market Structures Chapter 18 – Horizontal, Vertical, and Conglomerate Mergers Rough Draft of Final Paper Due November 29th
10	Chapter 19 – Efficiency, Equity, and Corporate Responsibility Chapter 20 – Antitrust Law and Regulation
11	Final Paper Partner Review Due December 10th