

EC-308-321, Fall 2019  
Intermediate Microeconomics  
Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Rushaine Goulbourne

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**Office:** Bidgood Hall 343

**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment

**Class Time:** 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM Mon & Wed

**Location:** Houser Hall 3031

**Overview, Objectives, and Policy:**

This is an intermediate level course in microeconomics. The course is designed for students that have passed EC 110 (or its equivalent) and have a working knowledge of calculus. **Students should be familiar with derivatives and differential calculus.** The course has two overall objectives: (1) To develop a deeper understanding of the theoretical and analytical concepts that underlie consumer and producer behavior in a market economy; and (2) To develop and apply the analytical tools necessary to evaluate choices made by individuals and firms in the real world.

**Pre-requisites:** EC 110. Note, we will utilize several calculus concepts throughout the semester and it is essential that you are comfortable using these concepts.

**Required Textbooks:** Goolsbee, A., Levitt, S., and C. Syverson., *Microeconomics*, 2nd ed. A copy is also on reserve in Bruno Business Library.

For the duration of the course, we will follow the text very closely. Note however, the text is meant to supplement the material covered in class and is not in any way a substitute for attendance. As such, **it is highly recommended that you attend all lectures.** Coverage of the text will be supplemented with homework assignments, which will focus on the more mechanical and technical aspects of the course. I encourage you to attend class and to participate in class discussions and to ask (relevant) questions. Studies show that grade performance in *any* collegiate-level course is highly correlated with attendance and participation

**Grading and Grade policy:**

Your final course grade will be determined by a combination of four (4) in class examinations, 10 quizzes and bonus point opportunities. The four examinations are as follows: three (3) Mid-term exams of which you will be allowed to drop the lowest score. Your mid-terms will therefore be worth 30% each and one

(1) Final examination worth 30% which will be **cumulative**. The 10 quizzes will be worth 1% each towards your final grade. This therefore works out to be a total of 10%.

Any missed exam or quiz must be accompanied with a verifiable (and legible) written excuse complete with appropriate contact information of the person issuing the excuse (i.e., name, phone number, etc.). Makeup exams will not be offered under most circumstances and early exams are given under no circumstances. According to university rules an exception can be made to the no makeup exam policy if you are able to provide a university sanctioned reason for missing the exam (i.e., attending a sporting event as a bona fide student athlete etc.); even so, I prefer in this case that the remaining exams including the final simply be appropriately re-weighted.

Homework will be assigned but not collected or graded. **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DO ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND COMPARE YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED ON BLACKBOARD.**

### Regrades

If you feel that you were not fairly graded on a quiz or an exam, you have until the subsequent class period after the quiz/exam is returned to submit to the instructor a **written request** (feel free to email me) for a re-grade. Requesting a re-grade in no way assures you of receiving additional points.

Lastly, if you have questions about the material being covered, your performance in the course or related concerns, please meet with me after class, during office hours or arrange an appointment by email. Do not wait until the end of the semester to do so if a problem arises.

### Important dates:

The dates for all exams are as follows:

Midterm 1	Mon. Sep 23, 2019	5:00 PM – 6:15 PM
Midterm 2	Mon. Oct 21, 2019	5:00 PM – 6:15 PM
Midterm 3	Mon. Nov 25, 2019	5:00 PM – 6:15 PM
Final Exam	Wed. Dec 11, 2019	7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

The Grading scale used is the standard +/- scale used by the university:

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F = 59 and below
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	

### Blackboard and Handouts

Please check Blackboard before every class to make sure you are aware of what is going on. Lecture outlines will be posted on Blackboard and they should be brought to class and used to aid note taking. All homework solutions and midterm solutions will be posted on Blackboard as well.

### Cellphone/tablet usage

If you need to speak or correspond via email or text please excuse yourself quietly from my class and conduct your business outside. Otherwise be respectful of other students: turn your cellphones to vibrate during the class and do not text in class. Even though I believe – and research shows – that using laptops and/or iPads for note taking is counterproductive, I will not ban these devices. However, any student who is seen using such devices for purposes other than note-taking will lose all possible bonus points that could be gained where offered and will be asked to refrain from using their device in the future.

### Calculators:

You are allowed to use a business calculator (e.g. Texas Instruments BAII PLUSTM Financial Calculator or TI-30X IIS Scientific) during exams or quizzes.

### Tentative course outline:

The instructor reserves the right to change the dates and topics depending on the pace of the class and/or concepts that the students find particularly interesting. Prior notification will be provided however, if any detail below were to change.

Topics	Readings
<i>Part I.</i>	
Module 1 (Consumer Theory)	Chapter 4
Module 2 (Consumer choice)	Chapter 5
<b>Midterm 1- Sep 23, 2019</b>	
Module 3 (Understanding Aggregate Demand)	Chapter 2-3
Module 4 (Consumer Decisions under Imperfect Information)	Chapter 15
Module 5 (Preferences/attitudes towards risk)	Chapter 13
<b>Midterm 2- Oct 21, 2019</b>	
Module 6 (Production)	Chapter 6
Module 7 (Cost)	Chapter 7
Module 8 (Profit Maximization and Perfect Competition)	Chapter 8
Module 9 (- Monopoly)	Chapter 9
<b>Midterm 3- Nov 25, 2019</b>	
Module 10 (Imperfect Competition)	Chapter 11
<b>Final Exam- Dec 11, 2019 , 7:00 PM-9:30 PM</b>	

**ADA policy:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 348-4285. After the initial arrangements are made with that office, please contact me to ensure you receive the accommodation.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to abide by the University Of Alabama Code Of Academic Conduct. Violations of this code will result in a grade of “F” in the course. The Code of Student Conduct requires that students behave in a manner that is conducive to a teaching/learning environment. Students who engage in behavior that is disruptive or obstructive to the teaching/learning environment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined by the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive/obstructive behavior is not limited to but may include the following: physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation harassment, hazing, possession of controlled substances, and possession of alcoholic beverages.

**Severe Weather Protocol:** Please see the latest severe weather guidelines. (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/severe-weather-guidelines/>)

**Pregnant Student Accommodations:**

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in an education program. Among the types of gender discrimination covered by this statute, Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. Protection extends to students who are pregnant or who have either had a false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, have gone through childbirth, or are recovering from any of those conditions. Title IX regulations also prohibit a school from applying any rule related to a student’s parental, family or marital status that treats students differently based on their sex.