

EC-308-009, Fall 2020
Intermediate Microeconomics
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Rushaine Goulbourne

Email: rdgoulbourne@crimson.ua.edu

Office: Bidgood Hall 343

Office Hours: After class or by appointment (Zoom only due to university regulations)

Class Time: 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM Tuesday & Thursday

Location: NL 1018

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.

Required for all Quizzes and Tests: Laptop/Tablet as we try to avoid passing around papers in class and thus limiting chances of contamination.

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) examinations, three (3) of which will be in-class (during class hours). The four examinations are as follows: three (3) Mid-terms and one

(1) Final examination which will be **cumulative**. I will drop you lowest test score which then makes the **FINAL OPTIONAL**.

Any missed exam must be accompanied by 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.

Quizzes (10 bonus points towards your final grade)

You can earn extra credit (bonus points given by doing extra assignments given during class as a pop quiz or as a homework assignment). There will be 10 assignments of this type each worth 1%. It is strongly advised that you attend all classes such that you do not miss any opportunity to take a quiz or earn the in-class assignment bonus. There will be **no opportunities to retake** a missed quiz. Quizzes will be administered at varying points during class, thus, in addition to attending class it will work in your favor **to remain for the duration of the class time each day**.

How do bonus points work? If you earn 80% of midterm 1, 90% on midterm 2 and 85% on midterm 3 and 85% on the final then your final grade is 86.7 or a B. (We obtain this by dropping the lowest score- 80%)

Add in bonus points: If you do all 10 bonus assignments and get the following scores on these assignments 100%, 90%, 30%, 20%, 34%, 21%, 75%, 45%, 55%, 3% then your total bonus points will be 4.73.

Then your final grade will be $86.7 + 4.73 = 91.43$ which rounds to 91.43 and is an A-.

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 (appropriately distanced), during office hours (zoom) 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	Tues. Sep 22, 2020	3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
Midterm 2	Tues. Oct 20, 2020	3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
Midterm 3	Tues. Nov 19, 2020	3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
Final Exam	Thur. Dec 10, 2020	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	

Collection and return of tests:

Due to the present climate with Covid-19, I will ask of you that instead of turning in assignments/tests, you take photos/scan the documents using any app on your phone that allows you to convert pictures to PDF format and upload them to the appropriate assignment tab which will be provided in Blackboard. In this manner we will be able to protect each other and maintain social distancing.

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 via quiz 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
Midterm 1- Tuesday Sep 22, 2020	
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
Midterm 2- Tuesday Oct 20, 2010	
Module 6 (Production)	Chapter 6
Module 7 (Cost)	Chapter 7
Module 8 (Profit Maximization and Perfect Competition)	Chapter 8
Module 9 (- Monopoly)	Chapter 9
Midterm 3- Nov 19, 2020 (Potential Final Exam)	
Module 10 (Imperfect Competition)	Chapter 11
Final Exam- Dec 10, 2020	

COVID-19 Statement:

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at <https://studentaccounts.ua.edu/> and <https://financialaid.ua.edu/>.

All students must be familiar with and abide by the requirements outlined in the UA Return Plan | UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. Students must (1) wear a mask or face covering at all times while participating in face-to-face class; (2) adhere to social distancing standards; and (3) comply with all other health and safety restrictions. If a student refuses to comply with the requirements, the student will be asked to leave the class and reported for a conduct violation. Unless a student has an exemption from the requirement to wear a face covering, (more information can be found at <http://ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/>), the student will be reported to Student Life for further disciplinary action. More information on these requirements and UA Healthcheck system and screening can be found at healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan. You are expected to visit the site and comply with all noted requirements related to in-person class attendance.

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.