

EC201 A1: Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis

Patrick Power

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Key Details

E-mail: ppower1@bu.edu

Course Site: <https://pharringtonp19.github.io/mecon/>

Office Hours: Monday: 11-12, Wednesday: 4:30-5:30, Friday: 10-11

Class Hours: M/W/F 1:25-2:15pm

Textbook: Hal Varian: Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus

Welcome

If you have taken a class on the Principles of Microeconomics, either in high school or college, then you are more or less equipped to understand many of the key economic ideas that are frequently discussed in the news. If you want to contribute to the economic discussion, though, whether that be by assessing the validity of claims made by others or putting forth your own, then you will want to understand things in a little more depth. That is where this course comes in. Consider this to be an introductory Microeconomic Analysis course.

Lectures

While we'll be following Hal Varian's "Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus", I've constructed my own set of lecture notes that can be found on the class web-page which will be updated throughout the semester.¹

<https://pharringtonp19.github.io/mecon/>

Homework

We will have weekly homeworks that will alternative in nature between a small problem set and a written response.

¹We do not use blackboard or piazza for this class. Instead we will use of github. Please make a github account and share it with ppower1@bu.edu so that you can have access to the class's private repository.

Problem sets will consist of 3-5 questions and will be graded based upon participation. If you turn something in, you will receive full credit. We will, of course, provide feedback to each question that you attempt. The problem set questions will also form the basis of the midterms.

The written responses will be completed in small groups (2-3 people). You will take a recent newspaper article or podcast and, using the tools and frameworks discussed in class, model the relevant economic issue(s) in the article/podcast. While these submissions will be graded based upon quality, you will be able to re-submit them throughout the semester. That is, you will submit a draft, receive feedback on it, and then resubmit it. This iterative process can take place over the entire course of the semester.

Midterm and Final

The midterms (October 12th, November 21st), as mentioned above, will be based upon problem set questions. The Final (TBD), in contrast, will be similar in nature to the written responses.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is not required. As you will note in the grading policy, though, 5% of the final grade comes from class participation. Essentially, we ask that you make this a positive learning experience for your fellow classmates. This can, of course, come in many different forms.

Academic Conduct

As per the Boston University's Academic Conduct Code, "All students entering Boston University are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of the Academic Conduct Code's contents and to abide by its provisions." Students should be familiar with the Academic Conduct Code, which can be found here (<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conductcode/>). The definition of academic misconduct covers a lot more than just direct cheating or plagiarism, and you are expected to read the code or ask me directly for clarification. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean's office. Lack of knowledge of the academic conduct code is not acceptable in case of violation.

Grading Policy

Assignment Type	Weight
Class Participation	5%
Homework	35%
Midterm	15%
Final	30%