

# Course Syllabus

## ECONS 305

### Intermediate Microeconomics without Calculus

#### Course Details

##### Instructor:

Sahil Patil

##### Course Communication:

- General course questions should be submitted to the "**Ask the Instructor**" forum located in Class Discussions.
- Read the **Instructor Interaction** section in this syllabus for more details about course communications.
- Select the Course Tools link to see which communication tools your instructor is using for this course.
- Instructor email: sahil.patil@wsu.edu

##### Text and Resources:

**More Information** ([https://wsu.instructure.com/courses/1542220/external\\_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https://apps.aoi.wsu.edu/coursemoreinfo/course\\_more\\_info.aspx](https://wsu.instructure.com/courses/1542220/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https://apps.aoi.wsu.edu/coursemoreinfo/course_more_info.aspx))

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#### Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce key concepts of microeconomics towards the analysis of the behavior of individuals, consumers, and firms. The focus of the course will be highly theoretical, however, I will emphasize applications of the key concepts in real life. The overall teaching goals are to help you build a strong foundation of knowledge in the basic principles of microeconomics and to help you develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in applying these concepts in everyday life.

Please check your WSU email and Canvas course page at least once every day. Your first step should be making yourself familiar with the Canvas contents. I expect students to be actively involved in the learning process. This starts by keeping up with the material, such as watching the video lectures and doing

weekly problem sets. In this way, you become an active participant and we can engage in policy discussions. If you have any questions about the material, please email me.

My goal is to help you learn, so please reach out if you have questions.

- Prerequisites: Introductory Microeconomics (EconS 101 or 198)

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Extend students' understanding of principles learned in introductory microeconomics (101 or 198), such as supply and demand, market equilibrium, welfare, taxes, and other economic concepts.
2. Deepen students' understanding of markets by providing them the tools to think analytically.
3. Develop the understanding of students of intermediate microeconomic tools and develop their intuition for the microeconomic process in everyday life.

Students will be able to:

1. Learn the standard models of microeconomics.
  2. Understand the nature of economic decision making.
  3. Apply the principles of microeconomics to a range of phenomena
  4. Understand how markets operate and be able to identify welfare outcomes for consumers and producers.
  5. Understand how different market structures, firm technologies, and economic and social policies affect market equilibrium and welfare outcomes.
  6. Understand what occurs when markets fail.
- Develop information literacy skills as they relate to various microeconomic concepts and issues.

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## Course Work

### Resources


**Canvas:** Course information, lecture material, course links including homework and writing assignment (<https://wsu.instructure.com>). Due dates of assignments are located in the Course Schedule along with availability dates and end dates of exams.

**Material:** There are two recommended books for this course. First, Microeconomics. Third Edition. By Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson. Second, Freakonomics, by Stephen Dubner and Steven Levitt . If you study well by reading a textbook, I recommend getting the first book. The second book, Freakonomics, provides many interesting and useful economics insight in the society. A WSU School of Economic Sciences Ph.D. graduate, Eric Dunaway, has also recorded lectures that will parallel the content in the textbook. However, reading the recommended textbook for the course will deepen your understanding of the key concepts covered in the lecture, as well as allowing you to access extra practice problems (at the end of chapters) to solidify your

understanding of the content. In addition, I have created weekly problem sets. They follow the recorded lectures, and I recommend answering the problem set every week. It is an effective way to keep up with the material by testing your understanding of the concepts and calculations that are taught for the week.

## Assessments

**Problem Sets (5):** Problem sets are composed of short-answer style questions (requiring graphs, short essays, and math work). Five problem sets are assigned as homework, the remaining is available to you for practice. Besides using your books and notes, you may also work with your classmates. However, every student must submit their own work. To receive full credit on the assignment, you will need to show all your steps.

**Writing Assignment:** Pick a chapter, other than the introduction of the book Freakonomics, by Steven Levitt. Write a brief summary/reflection of that chapter and describe similar situations that you are aware of in the real world. The paper should be between **3 - 5 pages, double spaced**, and **12-point font size**. For ease, two chapters of the book have been added to WSU Library's eReserves. See Course Information for instructions on how to access eReserves and to obtain the password. [Freakonomics Project Overview \(https://wsu.instructure.com/courses/1542220/files/82347826?wrap=1\)](https://wsu.instructure.com/courses/1542220/files/82347826?wrap=1)   
([https://wsu.instructure.com/courses/1542220/files/82347826/download?download\\_frd=1](https://wsu.instructure.com/courses/1542220/files/82347826/download?download_frd=1))

**Quizzes (5):** These quizzes are designed to help prepare you for the exams. **All quizzes must be taken.** Quizzes are made up of a combination of multiple choice and short-answer on topics covered in lessons after the previous quiz. The quizzes are online and timed, only one attempt allowed; they will be available in Quizzes in the Course Menu at the appropriate time. Once you have begun the quiz, you will have **2 hours** to complete and submit the quiz.

**Exams (Midterm and Final):** The exams are Online and Timed. The exams will be available on the date and time stated in the Course Schedule. You can choose to start at any time works for you, but once you have begun the exam, you will have **3 hours** to complete and submit the exam. The midterm and non-comprehensive final are both open note and open book. Due to the open note and open book nature, the problems on the exam are intensive and will require significant work to complete. Remember that this is an individual assessment and not a collaborative venture, so again, you must work alone. To receive full credit on the exam, you will need to show all your steps.

**Submissions of exams, assignments, and essay:** All submissions must be submitted as pdf files. Due dates and time are listed on the Course Schedule. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that submissions are completed prior to the deadlines. No late submissions are accepted after deadlines. Students can submit their answers in a typed or handwritten format, as long as the handwriting is legible and the work is neat. Essay must be typed. To submit the exams and assignments, you will need to either scan (there is a lot of free apps that do this) or take high quality pictures of the pages and collate them to form a single pdf file. Save the pdf file in the following format: First Name, Last Name, Title. For example: Jane Doe, Problem Set 1 Submission. Then, upload the pdf file to the respective drop box on Canvas. Whatever you choose, please make sure the image and your writing are readable.

## Grading

This section will contain grading information and tables and will NOT be public to web visitors for preview of the syllabus.

### Assignment Breakdown

Graded Course Work	Points	Weighted Percentage
Problem Sets, 5 @ 25 pts each	125	20%
Quizzes, 5 @ 25 pts each	125	15%
Project	100	15%
Midterm Exam	100	25%
Final Exam	100	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Grading Schema

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	90 & Above	C	70-74.99
A-	87.5 - 89.99	C-	67.5 - 69.99
B+	85 - 87.49	D+	65 - 67.49
B	80 - 84.99	D	60 - 64.99
B-	77.5 - 79.99	F	59.99 & Below
C+	75 - 77.49		

#### Questions about grades:

To calculate your grade on an individual assignment, you simply have to add the points you have received and divide by the total number of points possible to see your percentage, which can be translated into a letter grade using the scale above. For your cumulated grade, you need to add the points you have received for every component of your grade (see above) and multiply the total by the corresponding weight (i.e. if you got 100 points of 125 in the quizzes, this mean you have 80% for this component, then you obtain the 15% of this, which is 12. This is part of your final grade.

# Instructor Interaction

I anticipate being in the course space 3 - 5 times a week. If you have content related questions, please post them in Class Discussions under "Ask the Instructor". I will endeavor to respond to them within 24 hours. For private matters that should not be shared with the rest of the class, please contact me using the email address at the top of the Syllabus and I will try to respond within 24 hours. If you have questions regarding to homework, please contact me early. Otherwise, I may not have sufficient time to respond back to you.

## Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted. Be sure to print out or regularly check the Course Schedule so that you do not miss a deadline. For every late day of work submitted, there will be 10% reduction in the grade. Students must have a university-related activity or religious exemption to submit late homework and the instructor must be notified prior to the date of submission.

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## Incomplete Grade Policy (Academic Rule 90h)

Incompletes are granted only with permission of the instructor and are subject to the following guidelines:

1. Students must request an incomplete in writing or by e-mail from the instructor before the end of the semester.
2. The request must be signed and dated by the student (or identified by student's e-mail address) and must explain the reasons behind the request for the incomplete.
3. In order to be considered for an incomplete, there are two main conditions:
  1. A student must complete a minimum of 75 percent of the assigned course work.
  2. A student must have a mathematical possibility of scoring a 60 percent or above for the entire course.
4. If extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family emergency, serious illness) are involved and are documented to the instructor's satisfaction, the professor/instructor retains the discretion to grant an incomplete even if the minimum conditions outlined in item 3 above are not met.

If an incomplete is granted, the standard WSU policy applies (i.e., ALL work must be completed within one full year from the end of the enrollment semester at issue, unless a shorter time is specified by the instructor. Otherwise, an automatic grade of "F," or failing, will be entered on the student's transcript).

# Credit Hour Equivalent

Academic credit is a measure of the total minimum time commitment required of a typical student in a specific course. For the WSU semester system, one semester credit is assigned for a minimum of 45 hours of student effort. See Academic regulation 27.

For a 15-week course, students should expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week for each online 3-credit course engaged in activities including, but not limited to: reading, listening to/viewing media, completing assignments and reviewing instructor feedback, contributing to discussions, conducting research, studying for and completing assessments, etc.

For a 7-week course, students should expect to spend a minimum of 19 hours per week for each online 3-credit course engaged in the activities as listed above.

## For Graduate Students

The Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities describes procedures for channeling graduate student complaints, grievances, and concerns to faculty, staff and administrators for appropriate action. In conjunction with this document, graduate students must adhere to the Graduate School's Policies and Procedures. While these rights and responsibilities outline the complaint process, students are encouraged to use the Graduate School Deans for guidance and advice on conflicts that may arise at any point during their course of study at the University.

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## Academic Integrity

You are responsible for reading WSU's [Academic Integrity Policy \(https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/policies-and-reporting/academic-integrity-policy/\)](https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/policies-and-reporting/academic-integrity-policy/), which is based on [Washington State law \(https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=504-26-202\)](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=504-26-202). If you cheat in your work in this class you will:

- Incur a penalty up to and including failing the assignment, exam, quiz, course requirement, or the course itself.
- Be reported to the [Center for Community Standards \(https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/\)](https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/).
- Have the right to appeal my decision.
- Not be able to drop the course or withdraw from the course until the **appeals** process is finished.

If you have any questions about what you can and cannot do in this course, ask me.

If you want to ask for a change in my decision about academic integrity, use [the form \(https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?WashingtonStateUniv&layout\\_id=10\)](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?WashingtonStateUniv&layout_id=10) at the [Center for Community Standards \(https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/\)](https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/) website. You must submit this request within 21 calendar days of the decision.

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## Copyright

Any course-related materials, presentations, lectures, etc. are the instructor's intellectual property and may be protected by copyright. The use of University electronic resources for commercial purposes, including advertising to other students to buy notes, is a violation of WSU's computer abuses and theft policy (WAC 504-26-218). Selling class notes through commercial note taking services without written advance permission from the faculty, could be viewed as be as copyright infringement and/or academic integrity violation, WAC 504-26-010 (3)(a,b,c,i).

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## Academic Regulations

Students enrolled in online courses are subject to the same University academic regulations as on-campus students. For the most accurate and up to date information go to **Academic Regulations** (<https://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-regulations/>).

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## Lauren's Promise: WSU's Commitment to Address Discrimination and Harassment

On October 22, 2018, Lauren McCluskey, 21 years old, was murdered by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus, where she was a student. Lauren was raised in Pullman, Washington. Together with her parents, who are professors at WSU, this university community stands firmly behind Lauren's Promise: **WSU will listen and facilitate support and reporting options if someone is threatening you.**

WSU prohibits discrimination and sexual misbehavior. Discrimination includes discriminatory harassment, sexual harassment, and sexual misbehavior. Sexual misbehavior includes stalking, violence between intimate partners, and all types of sexual violence.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you have experienced or have witnessed discriminatory behavior, you can contact the WSU Office of Civil Rights Compliance & Investigation (CRCI) and/or the **WSU Title IX Coordinator** (<https://crci.wsu.edu/title-ix/>) at 509-335-8288. These offices can give you confidential resources and explain your choices to report the behavior. (Go to [crci.wsu.edu](https://crci.wsu.edu) (<https://crci.wsu.edu/title-ix/>) for more information).

See Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Discriminatory Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Sex and Gender Based Violence ([Executive Policy 15](https://policies.wsu.edu/prf/index/manuals/executive-policy-manual/ep15/) (<https://policies.wsu.edu/prf/index/manuals/executive-policy-manual/ep15/>)) and WSU Standards of Conduct for Students ([Chapter 504-26 WAC](https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=504-26) (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=504-26>)).

## Reasonable Accommodation Statement

Students with disabilities or chronic medical or psychological conditions can request reasonable accommodations. If you need reasonable accommodations to fully participate in this class, please go to your campus' Access Center/Services website. Follow the procedures to request accommodations. You may also contact your campus office to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor.

The Access Center/Services will notify your instructors of your requested accommodations, but you made need to communicate with your instructors about how some of your accommodations will work (by email, Zoom, or in person).

Contact an Access Advisor on your campus:

- [Global Campus, Pullman Campus, Everett Campus, Bremerton Campus, and Puyallup Campus](https://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu/) (<https://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu/>), 509-335-3417, or email [access.center@wsu.edu](mailto:access.center@wsu.edu) (<mailto:access.center@wsu.edu>)
- [Spokane Campus](https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/access-resources/) (<https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/access-resources/>), 509-358-7816, or email [The Access Services Team](mailto:j.schneider@wsu.edu) (<mailto:j.schneider@wsu.edu>)
- [Tri-Cities Campus](https://www.tricity.wsu.edu/disability/) (<https://www.tricity.wsu.edu/disability/>), 509-372-7352, or email [The Access Services Team](mailto:g.hormel@wsu.edu) (<mailto:g.hormel@wsu.edu>)
- [Vancouver Campus](https://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/access-center/) (<https://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/access-center/>), 360-546-9238, or email [van.access.center@wsu.edu](mailto:van.access.center@wsu.edu) (<mailto:van.access.center@wsu.edu>)

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## Arrangements for Religious Reasons

Washington State University tries to accommodate students for religious reasons. Students must work with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester to schedule examinations or other required course activities during the absence. Students should include the specific dates of the religious activity. If the instructor approves the absence, the student's grade is not affected. However, the student is still responsible for any course work required during the



absence. If you disagree with the instructor's response, check [Academic Regulation 104 \(https://catalog.wsu.edu/General/AcademicRegulations/ListBy/104\)](https://catalog.wsu.edu/General/AcademicRegulations/ListBy/104) - Academic Complaint Procedures. If you think your request was treated unfairly, contact the [Office of Compliance and Civil Rights \(https://ccr.wsu.edu/\)](https://ccr.wsu.edu/).

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## Emergencies on Campus

To receive emergency alerts on your phone or by email, click on the link to the page of your campus below. These alerts may include information about active shooter situations and severe weather.

In case of an active shooter, follow these ideas: "[Run, Hide, Fight \(https://oem.wsu.edu/emergency-procedures/active-shooter/\)](https://oem.wsu.edu/emergency-procedures/active-shooter/)".

In any emergency, remain ALERT by observing and paying attention to WSU emergency alerts. ASSESS your specific situation, and ACT to ensure your own safety and the safety of others if you are able.

- [Bremerton Campus \(https://school.eecs.wsu.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/electrical-engineering/bremerton/safety-and-security-for-students-at-wsu-bremerton/\)](https://school.eecs.wsu.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/electrical-engineering/bremerton/safety-and-security-for-students-at-wsu-bremerton/)
  - [Everett Campus \(https://everett.wsu.edu/campus-safety/\)](https://everett.wsu.edu/campus-safety/)
  - [Pullman Campus \(https://oem.wsu.edu/\)](https://oem.wsu.edu/)
  - [Spokane Campus \(https://spokane.wsu.edu/emergency-management/\)](https://spokane.wsu.edu/emergency-management/)
  - [Tri-Cities Campus \(https://tricity.wsu.edu/emergency/\)](https://tricity.wsu.edu/emergency/)
  - [Vancouver Campus \(https://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/public-safety/\)](https://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/public-safety/)
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## Online Collaboration

The essence of education is exposure to diverse viewpoints. You will engage with people with vastly different opinions and backgrounds. You are encouraged to disagree with the substance of others' ideas and opinions but do so with an active sense of respect for one another, and without losing focus on the topic at hand. Personal attacks, inflammatory statements, flaming, trolling, and disruption of the discussion do not have a place in academic discourse. Postings must comply with University policy on use of computing resources, including those regarding harassment and discrimination, as well as conform to the [WSU Community Standards \(https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/home/\)](https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/home/).

Your instructors will promote high-quality academic discussions by removing any posts they view as disruptive of the educational process and alerting students whose posts have been removed that they have violated course expectations. Students who continue to misuse the discussion boards after a warning may be

subject to removal of access rights, course failure, and referral to the Office of Community Standards.

**[Review the netiquette guidelines. \(https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/netiquette-guidelines/\)](https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/netiquette-guidelines/)**

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## Cougar Community and Reimbursement Options

**[Student Involvement \(https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/student-involvement/\)](https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/student-involvement/)**: Explore all the ways to become involved at WSU Global Campus and get connected with the Coug community.

**[Reimbursements \(https://online.wsu.edu/aswsug/reimbursements/\)](https://online.wsu.edu/aswsug/reimbursements/)**: ASWSU Global offers a variety of reimbursements to current S&A fee paying Global Campus students, including internet, childcare, mental health and wellness, a grocery voucher program and more.

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## Mental Health Resources and Support

**[Mental Health \(https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/mental-health/\)](https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/mental-health/)**: Life as a student can be stressful. WSU Global Campus has mental health resources that may help.

**[988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline \(https://988lifeline.org/\)](https://988lifeline.org/)**: 24/7 call for yourself or if you are concerned about a friend, acquaintance, or family member.

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## Technical Support

The **[WSU Global Campus Current Student \(https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/\)](https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/)** site has all the non-content and administrative and contact related information you need to be a successful online learner as well as **[study tips and skills for success \(https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/student-support/skills-for-success/\)](https://online.wsu.edu/currentstudent/student-support/skills-for-success/)**.

Before contacting Technical Support please visit our **[Equipment Requirements web page \(http://online.wsu.edu/currentStudent/supportTeam/techRequirements.aspx\)](http://online.wsu.edu/currentStudent/supportTeam/techRequirements.aspx)** to ensure your system meets our computer requirements and test your connection.

Technical support is available 24/7

A member of our technical support team will assist you or direct your request to the appropriate group. The technical support team is NOT able to answer questions about course content or procedures (e.g., assignments, grades).

## Library Support

All students enrolled in Washington State University online courses can use the WSU Libraries online databases and receive reference and research assistance from their home campus. Students can also borrow books and other circulating material as well as access full-text journal articles.

### General Library Links by Campus

- [Pullman Library Support \(http://libraries.wsu.edu/\)](http://libraries.wsu.edu/)
- [Global Campus Library Support \(http://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/global\)](http://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/global)
- [Vancouver Library Support \(https://library.vancouver.wsu.edu/\)](https://library.vancouver.wsu.edu/)
- [Tri-Cities Library Support \(http://tricities.wsu.edu/library\)](http://tricities.wsu.edu/library)
- [Library Support at Spokane – Riverpoint and Nursing at Yakima \(https://spokane.wsu.edu/library/\)](https://spokane.wsu.edu/library/)
- [College of Nursing Library Support \(https://nursing.wsu.edu/library-services/\)](https://nursing.wsu.edu/library-services/)

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## Online Tutoring

As a WSU student enrolled in an undergraduate course, you have FREE unlimited access to Online Tutoring. This is not a course requirement, but a resource for you to utilize as needed.

With three ways to access a tutor you can choose the one that best fits your needs:

- **Submit a paper:** Writing Lab tutors will respond to papers in ANY academic subject. Just submit your paper, ask specific questions on the submission form, and a tutor will respond within 24-48 hours.
- **Live tutoring:** eChat rooms allow students to meet with tutors in one-on-one tutoring sessions via a fully interactive, virtual online environment.
- **Leave a question:** Students can leave specific questions for a tutor in any of our subjects by taking advantage of our eQuestions option. Our tutors will respond to your question within 24-48 hours.

More details and the list of available tutoring subjects can be found at [www.eTutoringOnline.org \(https://www.etutoringonline.org/\)](https://www.etutoringonline.org/).

As a WSU student enrolled in a graduate level course, you have FREE unlimited access to writing support through eTutoringOnline. This is not a course requirement, but a resource you may utilize as needed.

Writing Lab tutors will respond to papers in ANY academic subject. If you're working on a paper for ANY of your courses our tutors can help you. Just submit your paper, ask specific questions on the submission form, and a tutor will respond within 24-48 hours. For more information visit [www.eTutoringOnline.org](http://www.eTutoringOnline.org) (<https://www.etutoringonline.org/>).

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## Important Dates and Deadlines

Students are encouraged to refer to the [academic calendar \(https://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-calendar/\)](https://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-calendar/) often to be aware of critical deadlines throughout the semester.

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Please see the Course Schedule for the most comprehensive list of due dates.

## University Syllabus

Students are responsible for reading and understanding all university-wide policies and resources pertaining to all courses (for instance: accommodations, crisis resources, policies on discrimination or harassment), which can be found in the university syllabus:

<https://syllabus.wsu.edu/university-syllabus>  (<https://syllabus.wsu.edu/university-syllabus>)