

ECON 3020 INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

Syllabus

Welcome to the Course

This course develops the theoretical foundations of microeconomics. It explores consumer and producer behavior, market equilibrium, game theory, and market failures. The course emphasizes analytical tools and graphical techniques, preparing students for upper-level economics electives and graduate work.

Course Information

Course Description	LEC. 3. Pr. ECON 2020 or ECON 2023 or ECON 2027. Theory of pricing under varying market conditions and distribution of income among the factors of production.
Instructor	Yushang Wei
Instructor's Email	yzw0178@auburn.edu
Office Hours & Location	TBA; 109D Miller Hall
Lecture Time	TBA
Lecture Location	TBA

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Analyze consumer and firm behavior using optimization techniques.
2. Predict market outcomes under different competitive structures.
3. Understand the welfare implications of market efficiency and failures.
4. Apply microeconomic tools to real-world policy questions.

Course Format

Lectures: Face-to-face. Students are encouraged to attend lectures in person, engage in learning activities, and visit office hours. Attendance is not mandatory.

Course Materials and Tools

- Textbooks/Readings/Other Material

- Hal R. Varian, Marc J. Melitz, Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach, 10th Edition
- **Technology Requirements**
 1. **Computer (Laptop or Desktop):** Necessary for accessing Canvas for quizzes and class materials.
 2. **Non-Graphing Calculator:** Required for completing quizzes, exams, and in-class questions.

Assignments, Exams, Quizzes, Extra Credits, and Grading

This section describes the types of scored activities that will be included in the course grade.

Summary of Grade Criteria

	Weight
Quizzes	20%
Final Exams	30%
Chapter Assignments	50%

Grading Scale

A = 90%-above B = 80-89.99% C = 70-79.99% D = 60-69.99% F = 59.99%-below

Grading Procedure and Structure

1. **Assignments:** There will be assignments after each chapter. I will provide plenty of opportunities to attempt them.
2. **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be conducted in class and will last 20 to 30 minutes each (open notes and open book). All questions will be multiple choice. There will be a total of six quizzes, and you may drop your one lowest score.
3. **Final Exams:** There will be only one exam in this course—the final exam. It is cumulative, will last 2 hours, and will include both multiple-choice and short-answer questions.



You could bring a 2-page cheat sheet (Letter size 8.5 by 11 inches), but it must be hand-written; internet-connected devices will not be allowed during exams.

"What should I do if I cannot take the exam due to illness, a family emergency, religious holidays, military orders, or other reasons?"

Arrangements to make up missed major examination (e.g. hour exams, mid-term exams) due to properly authorized excused absences. Except in unusual circumstances, such as continued absence of the student or the advent of University holidays, a make-up exam will take place within two weeks from the time the student initiates arrangements for it. I require written documentation supporting any excuse, and I must be notified of the excuse before the test day or, at the latest, on the day of the test.

4. **Other Extra Credits:** I may implement additional opportunities for extra credit during the semester, but this is not guaranteed.

Course Policies

Course Policies

1. Following Canvas is a **MUST**. Keep yourself updated with all posts and announcements.
2. Class and exam will be in person.
3. **Policies on Class Attendance, Submission of Late Written Assignments, Missed In-Class Work and Missed Examinations:**
 - a. **Excused Absences:** Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, death of a member of the student's immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for University classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance and religious holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from this class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required.
4. **No Cheating!**
University Academic Dishonesty & Cheating Policy



Auburn University has adopted an Honor System proposed by its students and faculty to promote academic integrity. It has enacted the following code: "We, the faculty, instructors, and students of the ECON 2030 - GL1, pledge to fulfill our mutual responsibilities to each other and the academic community at large with honor and integrity in order to build and maintain a climate of respect and trust that will enhance our research, teaching, and learning. We will support the Honor System of the School, and will not tolerate activities that undermine academic integrity." Academic dishonesty is an offense that will be reported to the Academic Honesty Committee. Please refer to the following document for further information regarding academic honesty:

<https://auburnpub.cfmnetwork.com/B.aspx?BookId=12839&PageId=463585>

Policy on Classroom Behavior

The goal of Auburn University and its faculty and students is to foster a dynamic environment of higher learning where all students develop analytical skills, learn to think critically, and communicate effectively, promote inquiry, pursue knowledge, and prepare for productive careers. Behavior in the classroom that impedes teaching and learning and creates obstacles to this goal is considered disruptive and therefore subject to sanctions. The purpose of these sanctions is to create and protect an optimum learning experience; they should not be considered punitive, neither by the student nor by the instructor. Disagreement expressed in a civil fashion, eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, and unconventional behavior are not, *per se*, disruptive to the classroom experience. These sanctions are intended only to preserve the classroom as a place to pursue knowledge, exchange ideas, and share opinions in an atmosphere of tolerance. Students have the responsibility of complying with behavioral standards. Faculty members have a professional responsibility to set reasonable limits on the expression of opinions while treating students with dignity, respect, and understanding while guiding classroom activities. At the classroom level, clear guidelines for behavior and early intervention are the foundation for an intellectually stimulating experience for students and instructors alike. Instructors are encouraged to include in their syllabi guidelines for classroom behavior. Instructors who state these guidelines early and enforce them at the first appearance of disruptive behavior prevent minor episodes of classroom misconduct from escalating into serious confrontations and help transgressors to avoid the more serious consequences of such actions. Examples of improper behavior in the classroom (including the virtual classroom of e-mail, chat rooms, telephony, and web activities associated with courses) may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Arriving after a class has begun (**If you are running late, please be quiet and find a seat without disturbing your classmates**);
2. Use of tobacco products;
3. Monopolizing discussion;
4. Persistent speaking out of turn;

5. Distractive talking, including cell phone usage. (**Please set cell phones and laptops to silent mode.**)
6. Audio or video recording of classroom activities or the use of electronic devices without the permission of the instructor;
7. Refusal to comply with reasonable instructor directions;
8. Employing insulting language or gestures; and
9. Verbal, psychological, or physical threats, harassment, and physical violence.
10. Please avoid eating foods with strong odors during the lecture, as it can disturb your classmates. If you're really hungry, consider having an energy bar, candy, or chocolate instead. Any food that may disturb the study environment is not permitted.

When confronted with disruptive but non-threatening behavior, the instructor should issue a general word of caution to the class as a whole rather than to a particular student so as not to exacerbate the problem.

If a general caution directed to the entire class does not stop the disruptive activity, the instructor should endeavor to meet in private with the disruptive student. The resulting discussion should include a description of the problem, the reason it is disruptive, and the consequences of continued violations of classroom behavior guidelines.

If the disruptive behavior is preventing further instruction, the instructor is authorized to ask the disruptive student to leave the class immediately for the remainder of the class session. Removal from the classroom more than one class period, for an extended period, or on a permanent basis normally requires the instructor to file charges of a violation of the Auburn University Code of Student Conduct with the Vice President for Student Affairs. The department head/chair or dean may negotiate a withdrawal from the course or a transfer of the disruptive student to a different course section or course, if, in his or her opinion, a different instructor and different classmates would diffuse the situation and provide the disruptive student with a new learning opportunity.

If threats have been made or physical violence is imminent, the instructor should notify the Auburn University Department of Campus Safety & Security immediately. The instructor should also notify the course department head/chair or dean promptly, followed by a memo to the department head/chair or dean.

Other Policies

- **Campus Alcohol Policy: Link**
- <https://auburnpub.cfmnetwork.com/B.aspx?BookId=12261&PageId=460639>
- **Drug Free Campus and Workplace Policy**
- <https://auburnpub.cfmnetwork.com/B.aspx?BookId=12566&PageId=462077>
- **Smoke-Free Campus Policy**

- <https://auburnpub.cfmnetwork.com/B.aspx?BookId=12367&PageId=461532>

Mental Health

If you or someone you know needs support, you are encouraged to contact Auburn Cares at 334-844-1305 or auburn.edu/auburncares. Auburn Cares will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

Student Counseling & Psychological Services provides confidential, no-cost mental health counseling and psychiatric services to Auburn Students. You can speak with a counselor 24/7/365 by calling 334-844-5123. Learn more about mental health information on campus at auburn.edu/scps.

Basic Needs

Any student experiencing food insecurity or an unexpected financial crisis is encouraged to contact Auburn Cares at 334-844-1305 or auburn.edu/auburncares. for resources and support.

Sexual Misconduct Resources Statement

Auburn University faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. Please be aware that if you choose to confide in a faculty member regarding an issue of sexual misconduct, dating violence, or stalking, we are obligated to inform the Title IX Office, who can assist you with filing a formal complaint, No-Contact Directives, and obtaining supportive measures. Find more information at auburn.edu/titleix.

If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, Safe Harbor (334-844-7233) and Student Counseling & Psychological Services (334-844-5123) are both confidential resources. Safe Harbor provides support to students who have experienced sexual or relationship violence by connecting them with academic, medical, mental health, and safety resources. For additional information, visit auburn.edu/safeharbor.

Course Outline

- ✓ *Ch 1: The Market*
- ✓ *Ch 2: Budget Constraint*
- ✓ *Ch 3: Preferences*
- ✓ *Ch 4: Utility*
- ✓ *Ch 5: Choice*
- ✓ *Ch 6: Demand*
- ✓ *Ch 7: Revealed Preference*

- ✓ **Ch 14:** Consumer's surplus
- ✓ **Ch 15:** Market demand
- ✓ **Ch 16:** Equilibrium
- ✓ **Ch 19:** Technology
- ✓ **Ch 20:** Profit Maximization
- ✓ **Ch 21:** Cost Minimization
- ✓ **Ch 22:** Cost Curves
- ✓ **Ch 23:** Firm Supply
- ✓ **Ch 25:** Monopoly
- ✓ **Ch 29:** Game Theory

NOTE: The actual dates may be modified due to the requirements of the class. Also, the indicated dates may be moved backward or forward depending on class progress. Exact dates and instructions will be announced on CANVAS.