

EC 308, 2016
INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Matt Hampton
Location: Ten Hoor Hall (TH) 117
Time: MW 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm
Office: 343 Bidgood Hall
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Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm or by appointment

Prerequisites: You should have successfully completed EC 110 and one of MA 121 or 125 or equivalent. All C&BA students must be admitted to the upper division of the College of Commerce. All students (except A&S economics majors) must have earned 55 or more semester credit hours. If you fail to meet one or more of these prerequisites please notify me immediately. 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*, 1st ed.

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.

We will follow the textbook very closely. I will provide you with various practice problems throughout the semester that 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.

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 (202 Research Drive). After the initial arrangements are made with that office, please contact the instructor.

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.

Grading and Grade Policy:

Your final course grade will be determined by two midterm exams and a non-comprehensive final exam. Each of the three exams will count for 30% of your grade. We will have quizzes periodically which count for the remaining 10%.

The exam schedule is pending, however expect to have Midterm 1 sometime in mid to late February, Midterm 2 in late March, and the final exam is May 2, 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm in TH 117. Quizzes will be periodic and I will notify you a week in advance.

The Grading Scale used in this course is the standard +/- scale used by the University:

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

Any missed exam 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 student athlete etc.); even so, I prefer in this case that the remaining exams including the final simply be appropriately re-weighted.

Format of Exams:

Exams will consist of problems involving both a level of mathematical rigor and economic intuition. This is not a math course, and math is merely a tool to perform economic analysis. That being said, however, there will be a certain level of mathematical sophistication required within each exam. Good economists are able to perform mathematical analysis on a problem and then interpret the math and provide good economic intuition and explanation of the solution.

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

Blackboard & Handouts

Please check Blackboard before every class to make sure you are aware of what is going on. Powerpoint lectures will be posted on Blackboard but they are a grossly imperfect substitute for lecture class.

All quiz solutions and midterm solutions will be posted on Blackboard as well.

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