

ECONOMICS 312
Intermediate Microeconomics
SPRING 2018

Session 15165: MWF 10:45-11:35

Session 22906: MWF 11:50-12:40

Location: BAC 209

Instructor: Tanisa Tawichsri

Office: CPCOM 425C

Email: ttawichs@asu.edu (The best way to reach me is via email. Please put ECN312 in the subject line)

Phone: 480-965-9912

Office Hours: M 2:00-3:00p, W 9:00-10:00, or by appointment

Recommended textbook: **Intermediate Microeconomics** by *Hal R. Varian*, 9th Edition (or earlier editions).

Course Description and Objectives

Pre-requisites: ECN 211 or 213 with C or better; ECN 212 or 214 with C or better; MAT 211, 266 or 271 with C or better

This class will develop fundamental tools used by economists in economic analysis. Much of the analysis will rely on mathematical tools that allow you to think about economic questions in systematic ways. Topics will be split into 3 main sections.

- Consumer Theory
- Producer Theory
- Game Theory

To do well in this course, students should have a solid background in algebra and basic calculus.

Please take time now to check your calendar and make note of the exam dates. **There will be no make-up dates for exams.** Notify me within the first three weeks of class if the exam dates interfere with your religious observance.

Exam 1: Friday February 9, 2018

Exam 2: Friday March 23, 2018

Exam 3: Friday April 27, 2018

Course Components and Requirements

- Homework (40%)
- Exams (3 exams) (50%)
- Participation (10%)
- Department assessment exam (extra credit, up to 5%)

Assigned readings

- Recommended textbook is **Intermediate Microeconomics** by *Hal R. Varian*, 9th Edition (or earlier editions)
- Additional course materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Tentative schedule

Contents are subject to changed. However, note that the exam dates are firm.

Section 1: Consumer Theory	
Week 1: Jan 8-14	Syllabus, Math review, Departmental Assessment (F. Jan 12)
Week 2: Jan15-21	Preferences, Budget constraints (2, 3)
Week 3: Jan22-28	Consumer choice, <i>HW1.a due (W Jan 24)</i>
Week 4: Jan29-Feb4	Individual Demand (4, 5)
Week 5: Feb5-11	Review, <i>HW1.b (W Feb 7)</i> , EXAM 1 (F Feb 9)
Section 2: Producer Theory and Market	
Week 6: Feb12-18	Technology (19), Cost minimization (21)
Week 7: Feb19-25	Cost curve (22), Firm supply (23)
Week 8: Feb26-Mar 4	Profit maximization (20), Monopoly (25) <i>HW 2.a due (F Mar 2)</i>
Week 9: Mar 5-11	--Spring Break- NO CLASS--
Week 10: Mar12-18	Welfare (34)
Week 11: Mar 19-25	Review, <i>HW 2.b due (W Mar 21)</i> , EXAM 2 (F Mar 23)
Section 3: Game Theory	
Week 12: Mar 26-Apr 1	Static Game, Nash Equilibrium and best response (29)
Week 13: Apr 2-8	Game and applications (30)
Week 14: Apr 9-15	<i>HW 3.a due (W Apr 11)</i>
Week 15: Apr 16-22	Public goods (37)
Week 16: Apr 23-27	Review, <i>HW 3.b (W Apr 25)</i> EXAM 3 (F Apr 27)

Homework

Homework assignment will be posted at least 1 week prior to the due date on Blackboard. Homework needs to be submitted in person at the beginning of the class on the due date when you enter the class room. I will go over homework review during the lecture. If you cannot hand in the assignment in person, email me the assignment before the start time of the class on the due date. **Late homework will not be accepted.**

Assignments are broken down into small parts to help you learn the materials consistently throughout the semester. Working through these exercises is a critical part of the learning process. Homework questions will be randomly selected to grade. The questions being graded will not be announced in advance. You should attempt to complete all the questions. This will be a good practice for exams.

Working together with your peers is allowed and encouraged. However, you need to submit your individual write-ups. You will get 0 on assignments that you do not turn in. The lowest assignment score will be dropped automatically.

If you have difficulty with homework or exams, consider studying in a group, attending office hours regularly, or utilizing the tutoring center. Asking questions during lectures

is also encouraged to create interactive learning environment. This will help you engage in the material, and learn faster and more efficiently.

Exams

There will be a total of 3 exams, each worth 100 points. The exams are not cumulative. If you have taken all 3 exams, your test scores will be based on the best 2 of the 3 test scores. You can miss one exam *only* in the case of documented illness or emergency, and your scores will be based on the 2 exams taken. If you miss an exam without providing a written proof of emergency or illness you will receive 0 for the missed exam, and the test score will be the average of all 3 exams. ***No make-up dates for exams will be given.*** *There will be no final exam during the final week.*

Exams are given during the regular class time and are closed notes. No books, notes, laptops or cellphones are allowed during an exam. A calculator is allowed for arithmetic only.

Participation

Regular attendance and meaningful participation in classroom discussion is expected. You are encouraged to ask questions during the lectures. It is likely that other classmates will also benefit from your questions. However, disruptive behavior that is distracting to classmates or teaching will result in loss of participation points.

Grading

- Grading scale
 - A+ 96% or more
 - A 90-95%
 - A- 86-89%
 - B+ 81-85%
 - B 74-80%
 - B- 70-73%
 - C+ 67-69%
 - C 60-66%
 - D 50-59%
 - E <49%

Grading concerns

If you believe there is a mistake in grading, you must contact me within 5 business days of receiving the tests or assignment back. If the grading error is clerical, please return your assignment or test with a note about the error to me. However, if you believe to you deserve more credits on a question, please return your exam or assignment with a paragraph justifying why you deserve more credits. If you request a re-grade, the whole assignment or test will be subjected to a re-grade, and your score may go up or down as a result.

Tutoring Support

The Economic Tutoring Center is available to all enrolled students. It is located in BA210. Tutoring availability is M/T/W/Th 10:30-16:00 and Friday 10:00-14:00. More information can be found here: <https://wpcarey.asu.edu/economics-degrees/tutoring>

Disability

If you need an accommodation for a disability, you must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). And as soon as you let me know of your needs, we can work together with Services for Students with Disabilities to accommodate your needs.

Academic Integrity

“All students assume as part of their obligation to the University the responsibility to exhibit in their academic performance the qualities of honesty and integrity. All forms of student dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action.” {Code of Conduct (5-301 through 5-307) and Student Disciplinary Procedures (5-401 through 5-405)}. In this course I will adopt the following policy. All participants involved in any academic dishonesty or attempts at dishonesty pertaining to an examination will result in, at least, the following penalties:

1. Automatic course grade of “E” and
2. A letter of reprimand placed in the student’s file with a file copy in the

Economics Department and the appropriate College.

Additional information on ASU’s academic integrity policy may be found here:

<https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>