ECON-3113-003 Intermediate Microeconomics
Syllabus - Fall 2019

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Class Time: Tue/Thu, 10:30AM-11:45AM
Classroom: CCD1, Room 237
Office Hours: Tue 4PM-5PM, Wed 11AM-12PM, and by appointment

Course Description
This course is a more advanced approach to the Principles of Microeconomics course that you already have taken. During this course, we will use some algebra like graphing, solving simple equations or taking the first derivative of a function. I will provide a short refresher during the first week, but beyond that it is up to you to make sure you have the necessary skills. We will start with supply and demand analysis. After that, using utility theory we will study how consumers behave. The next chapters of this course will cover the theory of the firm and the structure of the markets. In the end we will cover topics related to risk and uncertainty, and general equilibrium.

Prerequisite: 1113 and 1123 with a grade of C or better and Mathematics 1503 or 1643.

Textbooks

Grades
Your grade will be based on attendance (5%), bonus (5%), homework (20%), two midterms (20% each), and one final exam (30%).

Grading scale:
A: 90% <= your score
B: 80% <= your score < 90%
C: 70% <= your score < 80%
D: 60% <= your score < 70%
F: your score < 60%

Obs.1: 89.99 is a B, 79.99 is a C, and so on. There will be no rounding up.
Obs.2: Your final grade is based on your performance in this course and not on the fact that you need a certain grade (A, B, C, D) to graduate, apply for a certain program, financial aid, scholarship, etc. So please be sure to put the effort during the semester to get the grade you need to graduate, apply for programs, financial aid, scholarship, etc.
There will be two midterms and the final exam on the dates indicated below. The final exam will be cumulative. All exams will cover the material from the chapters from *Microeconomics* textbook that we discussed in class, the lecture notes and the homework. *Any student caught cheating will receive an F for the course.*

**MAKEUP EXAM POLICY:** There will be NO MAKEUP exams, no exceptions. If you miss a midterm without a valid excuse you will get a ZERO grade. If you have a valid excuse and bring solid documentation, you can be excused and the grade from your final will be re-weighted to account for the missed exam. **You should not miss the final!**

**Exam Dates**
- Midterm 1 - Thursday, September 26
- Midterm 2 - Thursday, October 31
- Final - Tuesday, December 10, 8:00AM-10:00AM, room CCD1 237

**Important:** the dates for the midterms can change in case of emergencies, such as the classes are canceled that day. Please do not schedule other things in the upcoming lectures since the midterm will be postpone to our next lecture.

**5% Bonus**
At the beginning of the semester you receive a bonus of 5% towards your grade. However, you lose 1% of this bonus each time when you ask me a question that has the answer in this syllabus, such as “Where is your office?” or “When do you have office hours?”, or something that I’ve mentioned in one of my emails. You lose 1% as well each time when you use the cell phone during our lecture.

**Homework**
I will assign homework during the entire semester. Mostly, the homework will be online homework but I might assign also regular type of homework. Please pay attention during class and check Canvas website for posted assignments. *Assignments need to be turned in on time; no late assignment will be accepted. If you have plans or anticipate problems when an assignment is due, make sure you submit it early.*

I will use mainly LaunchPad’s online homework system. However, I might assign also homework not related to this online application. For your online (LaunchPad) homework I would suggest to work on it in time in order to avoid problems such as no internet connection in the last hour before the deadline. I will not accept excuses such as “I lost internet connection and I was not able to finish the homework on time.”

For more information about how to purchase access to Launchpad, login, etc., please read the last page of the syllabus.

**Attendance**
Attendance is required. I will take attendance randomly. In order to get the maximum score for the attendance, you should not miss more than a total of 2 lectures when I took attendance. If you have a strong reason to miss more than 2 lectures, you have to **bring strong documentation for ALL**
**The times when you missed a lecture.** Also you should let me know in advance about missing the lectures (when it is possible).

If you leave the lecture before the end of it without my permission, I will consider that you did not attend that lecture.

*If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to talk to your colleagues, get the notes from them and/or get familiar with the material that you have missed.*

For each time you miss a lecture and do not provide strong documentation you lose 1% from the 5% allocated for the attendance.

**Example:**
- Someone misses 2 lectures: I will not ask for the documentation and the person receives 5%
- Someone misses 3 lectures: I will need documentation for all 3 lectures. If the person brings documentation only for one of these days, that person will lose 2% from the total of 5%.

**Obs.:** If you write the name of your colleague on the attendance list, it will be considered cheating.

**Office hours**

I am in my office during office hours unless other duties (i.e., committee work, interaction with a visitor to the Department of Economics) make that impossible, in which case I will inform you. If you need to see me outside regular office hours, send me an e-mail to make an appointment.

**Notifications**

I will use the Canvas website and the e-mail in order to send you information such as readings, homework assignments or to post files and grades online. *Please use your OU email account when you would like to send me an email. I will not reply to any email that comes from other email accounts such as Yahoo, Gmail, etc.*

I will not post solutions to problems (or other topics) that I have covered during the lecture. As I have mentioned, it is your responsibility to talk to your colleagues, get the notes from them.

**Etiquette**

1) Turn off cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices during class.
2) Do not use your laptop for other things besides the ones related to our class (doing your homework or projects for this class is not allowed as well). You should not open any program or application (such as games, Facebook, ESPN website, e-mail account, and so forth) that is not related to our lecture. *If I see you using the laptop for other purposes, you will lose the privilege to use the laptop during our lecture and 3% from the bonus points.*
3) Do not read newspapers or similar materials during class.
4) Do not eat in class.
5) If you have a question relevant to the lecture, please ask me and I will try to answer it. Otherwise please wait until the lecture is over and then you can ask or talk to your colleague.
6) **Please do not be late.** This is not just important for this course (someone late will disturb the lecture and his/her colleagues when entering the classroom), but it is also very important for you to get used to be on time in the future. *If you are late, you cannot attend the lecture without my permission.*

**Course schedule**
For this course I will use *Goolsbee, Levitt, Syverson - Microeconomics* textbook (see above). However, this is a tentative outline; small changes in the chapters that we will cover might occur. At the end of each lecture usually I will let you know the next chapter that I will cover.

1. Introduction.
2. Supply and Demand Analysis (Ch. 2,3)
3. Consumer Theory (Ch. 4,5)
   - Utility Maximization and Budget Constraints
   - Indifference Curves Analysis
   - *first midterm somewhere here*
4. Producer Theory and Market Structure (Ch. 6-9, 11)
   - Production Functions and Costs
   - Perfect Competition
   - Monopoly
   - Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
   - *second midterm somewhere here*
5. Basic Game Theory (Ch. 12)
6. Risk and Uncertainty (Ch. 14)
7. Asymmetric information (Ch. 16)
8. Behavioral and Experimental Economics (Ch. 18)
9. *General Equilibrium Theory* (Ch. 15) – *if we have the time to cover this chapter*

**Tips how to answer an essay question (for the exams and/or homework)**

On the internet you can find many websites with advices how to answer an essay question. One example that I like is the following:

“An effective answer will not do the following:
- restate the question (which wastes time)
- list everything that could conceivably be relevant to the question (which not only wastes time but suggests to the grader that you can't distinguish relevant from irrelevant information)
- place potentially useful statements of fact in random order (which forces the grader to attempt to discern your logic, usually to your detriment)
- use vague or very general sentences (which forces the grader to guess what you really meant to write)

An effective answer will do the following:
- state the major point as the first sentence (which declares an immediate focus for your answer and inspires confidence in the grader that you know what you are doing as you answer the question)
- organize supportive or explanatory material to follow the major point (which helps the grader understand your logic and the intent of your answer)
- use specific terms and careful language (which helps minimize ambiguity so that the grader does not misinterpret the meaning of the answer)”
LaunchPad online homework

Please wait until our first lecture before you create your account. This is to avoid possible issues.

Dear Students,

My online course is open for student registration. Follow these steps to get started. If you need additional guidance, consult the support site, especially the system requirements which list recommended browsers.

Go to https://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/gls2e/11298770

Bookmark the page to make it easy to return to (although note that the URL will look different due to security measures).

Enroll in this course using one of the following options:

If you have an access code, select "I have a student access code", enter the code exactly as it appears on the card, and click Submit.

If you don't have an access code, either purchase a text package that includes one OR click "I want to purchase access" and follow the instructions.

If you need to start working but can't purchase right away, select "I want temporary access" and follow the instructions. Please note: Your grades are linked to your Launchpad account username (email address). If you use temporary access, make sure you purchase or register your code using the same email address for your paid access.

If you have problems registering, purchasing, or logging in, please contact Customer Support.

You can reach a representative 7 days a week:

- through the online form
- by chat
- by phone at (800) 936-6899

Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Dr. Daniel Nedelescu
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