ECON 3113-901
INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY
SPRING 2020

Location and time  Mon/Wed, 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. in George Lynn Cross Hall (GLC), Room 131

Duration  January 13, 2020 – May 8, 2020

Instructor  Dr. Jonathan McFadden
335 Cate Center One
jmcfadden@ou.edu

Office hours  335 Cate Center One
• Tuesdays: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
• By appointment

Teaching Assistant  Tejas Ghirnikar, 226 Cate Center One
taghirnikar@ou.edu

TA Office hours  226 Cate Center One
• Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
• Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
• By appointment

Course description  This course involves a more in-depth study of the underlying economics of households, producers, and their interactions in markets. Students will be required to build on past knowledge of microeconomics principles to understand how consumers optimize purchases given their budget constraints and firms make optimal supply decisions based on costs. The nature of these interactions partially determines market structure, which can justify a range of public policy interventions. Note: a solid understanding of algebra and calculus are needed for this course, although use of calculus will be minimal.

Course prerequisites  Grade of C or higher in these three courses:
ECON 1113 (Econ–Micro Principles) and ECON 1123 (Econ–Macro Principles)
MATH 1743, MATH 1823, or MATH 1914 (Calculus I)

Course goal  After taking this course, students will be able to apply the tools of broader microeconomic theory, including mathematical and graphical analyses, to think critically about the implications of changes in the economic behavior of consumers and producers, as well as policy responses.

Course topics  Among other subjects, this course will delve into the following:

- Overview and Economic Reasoning
- Market Fundamentals: Supply, Demand, and Elasticities
- Supply and Demand Applications
- Consumer Behavior (e.g., utility maximization)
- Markets in Aggregate
- Producer Behavior (e.g., profit maximization and cost minimization)
• Perfect Competition
• Monopoly and Market Power
• Pricing with Market Power (e.g., bundling)
• Imperfect Competition (e.g., oligopoly and game theory, if time permits)

**Textbook (required)** *Microeconomics*, 3rd edition, Worth Publishing
A. Goolsbee, S. Levitt, and C. Syverson

**Course website** Canvas

**Important dates** These are university holidays, tentative dates for Exam 1 and Exam 2, final exam preparation week, and final exam time:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Mon, 1/20
- Exam 1: Wed, 2/19
- Spring Break: Mon – Fri, 3/16 – 3/20
- Exam 2: Mon, 4/6
- Finals Prep week: Mon – Fri, 4/27 – 5/1
- Final Exam: Monday, 5/4, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, GLC 131

**Grading** Assignments and exams in the course have these weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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There is no set “curve” for this course or designated number of certain grades. Extra credit opportunities available for all students are in the form of one short question per exam. No other extra credit opportunities are allowed.

Course grades are A: 90 or above, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D:60-69, F: lower than 60.

**Class format**

**Readings**
Weekly textbook reading assignments (not graded) will be given. Upcoming reading assignments will be announced in lecture. Please come to class prepared.

**Practice Problem Sets**
There will be roughly eight sets (tentatively) of practice problems assigned from the textbook, approximately one every other week. They will not be graded, but they will help you learn more about—and apply—the concepts introduced in lecture. Although they will not be graded, it will be difficult for you to perform well in the class without working through each of them. You are encouraged to work with your classmates on these problems and complete them before the suggested “due date.” A solutions key will be uploaded to the course website, and general descriptions of certain problems and solutions will be mentioned in lecture.

**In-Class Exercises**
There will be at least 15 sets of in-class exercises throughout the semester. There will generally be one or two exercises per week. When possible, these will be
announced ahead of time. These will consist of a few somewhat short questions on material recently discussed in lecture. You will be given roughly 10 minutes of time in lecture to complete the exercises, and you may use your notes. Your overall grade for the in-class exercises will be a simple average of your top 10 scores on the exercises. Since only 10 out of at least 15 sets of exercises will count toward your course grade, it is not expected you will need make-up attempts for being absent during one or more of the exercises.

Exams
All exams are closed notes and closed book, and any material from lectures or the assigned textbook readings could be covered. The final exam is comprehensive but will be weighted more toward new material covered after Exam 2. No electronic devices (i.e., laptops/notebooks, cell phones, calculators) are allowed in exams. Please bring your student ID to all exams.

Make-up exams will only be given for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness, family emergency, student athletics, religious holiday) with verifiable documentation (e.g., letter from physician). Unless you have a legitimate reason with third-party, verifiable documents for your absence during an exam, you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam. Notification in advance, if possible, is appreciated.

University Policies

Academic integrity
Cheating is strictly prohibited at the University of Oklahoma. Academic misconduct inhibits learning, erodes educational value, and damages the professional reputations of those affiliated with the University. Violations have serious consequences and will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity Programs.

Reasonable accommodation
Students in this course who have a disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunities. Note that the Disability Resources Center is located in Goddard Health Center, Room 166 (tel: 405-325-3852).

Title IX resources
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates at 405-615-0013 (24/7) to learn more or to report an incident.

Adjustments for pregnancy or childbirth issues
Should you need modifications or adjustments to course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.

Religious observances
It is the policy of the University to excuse student absences that result from religious observances and reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.