



# ECON 2306 Syllabus

## Principles of Microeconomics

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The information and guidelines set in this syllabus are subject to change at any time.

### **Social Distancing Additions:**

- All classes are to be conducted online (synchronous) through Canvas' Conferences system, meaning unless otherwise announced, classes will be live and recorded. Since online courses may change quickly, if this does change for any reason, lectures will be posted through the announcement system.
- Exams will be conducted on Canvas. They will be available only for the duration of regular class time.

**Prerequisites:** A working knowledge of elementary algebra and geometry.

**Course Description:** Welcome to Principles of Microeconomics. Some students come into an economics course with misconceptions on what economics is and what economists do. This course will give you an introduction to microeconomic concepts and help you better grasp how economics can be used in our everyday lives.

Economics is the study of how people, institutions, and societies make choices under conditions of scarcity. Many individuals mistake economics as an international or national topic. While some areas of economics focus on the big picture, it can also be used to help us make daily decisions. We must weigh the benefits and costs of every decision we make; when a student chooses to attend class they must give something up, whether it is working at a part-time job or shopping with friends. Microeconomics helps us better understand the decision making process.

To ensure you get all you can from this course it is important to attend class, get help if you need it, and ask questions. I also encourage you to come into the course with an open mind, even if you have had a bad experience in the past or heard horror stories from others. I want to assure you that I will do my best to make economics interesting and relevant to you.

**Credit Hours:** 3

## Required Materials:

- A computer with a camera. I believe iPads may work, however, I am not sure about all tablets. A standard desktop/laptop would be advisable: if you are using something non-standard and it does not work for a graded/timed assignment, you will not be given extra time. You will have the opportunity to work on a practice assignment, prior to the exam to ensure that your equipment works correctly.
- A calculator. This is for assignments only. You will only be allowed to use the virtual calculator through canvas for quizzes and exams.

## Required Text: Economics Today: The Micro View

**Author:** Miller; **ISBN-13:** 978-0134479255

*I will not assign homework from this text*, so you can get other editions if you like. I recommend searching on [www.slugbooks.com](http://www.slugbooks.com) so that you can see what major online retailers are selling it for and compare. The book's purpose will be to supplement conceptual material. I will assign additional reading throughout the semester which will be posted under the appropriate module. I reserve the right to ask exam questions covered in assigned reading that was not covered in the lecture.

## Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will have basic knowledge of:

Learning Goals:

1. *Economic Fluency*: Students will be fluent in the language of microeconomics and understand the meaning of fundamental economic concepts.
2. *Scarcity*: Students will understand opportunity costs and the tradeoffs associated with the allocation of resources.
3. *Economic Reasoning*: Students will be able to think of individual (and firm) decisions as choices made to maximize some objective subject to constraints. Students should recognize that optimization occurs by comparing marginal costs and benefits associated with an action.
4. *Equilibrium*: Students will understand how prices and quantities are determined in competitive and imperfectly competitive markets and be able to determine how exogenous shocks and government interventions will affect the market outcome.
5. *Efficiency and Market Failure*: Students will understand the efficiency implications of different market structures and what are possible sources of market failure. Further, they will be able to evaluate the effects of government interventions on welfare in these settings.
6. *Interpretation of data*: Students will be able to identify why two correlated variables may or may not be causally related by thinking about an underlying economic model.
7. *Application*: Students should be able to apply goals 1-6 to contemporary issues.

## Key Dates:

- Aug. 26: First Day of Classes
- Sept. 7: Labor Day
- Sept. 11: Census Date
- Nov. 6: Last day to drop classes
- Nov. 25-27: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 8: Last day of classes
- Dec. 9: Study Day (Reading Day)
- Final Exam: <https://www.uta.edu/records/calendars/final-exams.php>

## Key Dates (Exams):

- Penultimate class of week 5: Midterm 1 Review
- Final class of week 5: Midterm 1
- Penultimate class of week 10: Midterm 2 Review
- Final class of week 10: Midterm 2
- Penultimate class of week 15: Midterm 3 review
- Final class of week 15: Midterm 3
- Final class of semester: Final Review

## Letter Grade Distribution:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90.0-100%
B	80.0-89.9%
C	70.0-79.9%
D	60.0-69.9%
F	below 60%

## Course Policies:

### • Email Policy

- Communication from me, other than the introductory email for the course, will be through Canvas' announcement system. Students are encouraged to adjust their Canvas settings to ensure that they receive notifications for the announcements, as many students have muted this feature.

- Students can message me through Canvas or at the email address listed at the start of this Syllabus.
- You can expect a response within two business days, from regular business hours: 9AM to 5PM. If you need more attention than this can provide, please come to office hours or set up an appointment.
- Please have manners and the favor will be returned.
  - \* Students should write professional, but casual, messages (i.e., I expect complete sentences and won't respond to texting-language like "i need 2 c u").
  - \* Include the following in your email: a subject line including the course and section (ECON 3310, Section 001), a greeting (e.g., "Hello Professor") and a clear explanation of the reason you are emailing for (i.e. The entirety of your email stating that you don't understand Problem 5 is not helpful).

- **Grades**

The grades will be based on:

- Problem sets on Canvas (30% in total). Ten problem sets will be assigned and will be due *at midnight* on the due date. Each homework is 3% of the final grade. You are responsible for completing the assignment on time regardless of technical errors. Allow yourself enough time to contact technical support by starting as early as possible. I am also willing to guide you if you are having difficulty, but I want to see what you have done in order to do that. I will also not guarantee that I will see your email if you wait until the last minute.
- Exams (70% in total)
  - \* Exams are closed book, closed notes.
  - \* **No makeup quizzes or exams will be given.**
  - \* Each midterm is 20% of the final grade. The lowest midterm will be dropped.
  - \* There will be a mandatory final cumulative exam (30%). Final exam schedule: <https://www.uta.edu/records/calendars/final-exams.php>
  - \* You are encouraged to take all exams
- Extra Credit. It is possible, though not necessarily true, that you get opportunities to earn extra credit in this course. Unannounced quizzes, bonus problem sets, and results of classroom games can help you earn small, incremental bonuses. These may (or may not) add up to something significant, but individually, may not be worth much. I reserve the right to not offer any extra credit. Students will not obtain extra credit because you did not obtain the score you wanted. Start earning the score you want NOW!
- Curving Policy. My teaching goal is to not have to curve exams. I will curve only when necessary and the curve applied may be non-linear.
- Canvas. Grades will be posted promptly to Canvas only once all grades for an exam have come through.
- Attendance. I may not take attendance every class; however, it is imperative to your chances of success that you attend lectures. If you are recorded missing more than 10% of lectures, I may deduct a letter grade as penalty.

**Class Recording:** Class sessions *may* be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this class. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the class and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the class in any form without express permission.

**Monitor and Lockdown Browser:** NOTICE: Your enrollment in this course may require the use of Respondus Monitor and Lockdown Browser for online assessment proctoring. These tools allow for monitoring during assessments. YOUR ACTIVITIES ARE RECORDED WHILE YOU ARE LOGGED INTO OR TAKING YOUR ASSESSMENT(S). THE RECORDINGS SERVE AS A PROCTOR AND WILL BE REVIEWED AND USED IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. You can find more detailed information on these programs at <https://ask.uta.edu/faq/294751>.

**Academic Honesty Policy Summary:** It is the responsibility of every student at the University of Texas at Arlington to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. The following examples illustrate conduct that violates the Honor Code, but this list is not intended to be an exhaustive compilation of conduct prohibited by the Honor Code.

- **Unauthorized Assistance:** Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or attempting to give or receive such assistance, in connection with the performance of any academic work. Examples: cheating on tests, helping someone to cheat on a test, working on an assignment or homework with someone when it is not permitted, etc.
- **Unauthorized Materials:** Unauthorized use of materials or information of any type or the unauthorized use of any electronic or mechanical device in connection with the completion of any academic work. Examples: cheat sheets during tests, using a cell phone during a test to get answers, use of a calculator during a test when not permitted, etc.
- **Access to Exam Before Examination:** Access to the contents of any test or examination or the purchase, sale, or theft of any test or examination prior to its administration. Examples: disclosing the content of a test to a friend who is in another section and taking the test after you, stealing a test before it is given, etc.
- **Plagiarism:** Unauthorized use of another person's work without proper acknowledgment of source. Examples: copying and pasting information as if it were your own work, not citing quotes or materials, poor paraphrasing, not citing after paraphrasing, utilizing another student's paper and turning it in as your own, etc.
- **Lying:** Intentional misrepresentation by word or action of any situation of fact, or intentional omission of material fact, so as to mislead any person in connection with any academic work (including, without limitation, the scheduling, completion, performance, or submission of any such work). Examples: fabricating documents, signing someone in on the attendance sheet for a class (or asking someone to sign in for you), taking a test or quiz for someone, lying about why you missed class, or need to make up a test, or need an extension on an assignment, etc.
- **Bribery:** Offering or giving any favor or thing of value for the purpose of influencing improperly a grade or other evaluation of a student in an academic program. Examples: Offering someone money for a better grade in the class, on a project, etc.
- **Interference:** Conduct intended to interfere with an instructor's ability to evaluate accurately a student's competency or performance in an academic program.

**Course Buddy:** I recommend that you find at least one course partner. This is the person you should contact for class notes in case you miss a class or have a question before the exam. Your course partner may also be a study buddy. Be sure to collect contact information from your study buddy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_