

# *Syllabus*

## **Intermediate Microeconomics**

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Office Hours:  
8:25-8:55 MWF  
11:00-11:30 MWF  
1:25-1:55 TTh  
3:20-3:50 TTh  
and by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the underlying assumptions and analytical tools used by economists to understand and explain the behavior of households and firms. It also examines models of price and output determination under various market structures and explores issues of distribution and market failure.

### **Textbooks**

Required: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. by Edgar K. Browning and Mark A Zupan.

Recommended: *Wall Street Journal* or *The Economist*: I recommend that you keep up with current events throughout the semester. The WSJ does have student subscriptions available if you are interested.

### **Expectations**

Learning is an active process. As students, you must take primary responsibility for your education. If you hope for a passing grade in this class, you should start by living up to these *minimum* expectations:

- Reading the syllabus and regularly checking the course website, and keeping track of requirements and due dates.
- Showing up for class on-time and familiar with the day's material.
- Contributing to the class by asking questions and offering your insights.
- Treating your classmates with respect.
- Behaving appropriately in the classroom. Talking out of turn, reading newspapers, arriving late and leaving early, sleeping, and the like are distracting, disrespectful to me and to your classmates, and impede the learning process. Therefore, these behaviors will not be tolerated.
- Asking questions, in or out of class, when you need help.
- Studying about 6-10 hours outside of class each week, or as much as needed to earn an acceptable grade.
- Picking up all completed assignments and exams.
- Behaving with honesty and integrity.

## Grades

Final grades will reflect student performance on homework, group projects, three midterm exams and a final exam. Exams will be given on the days indicated in the class schedule. Scores will be weighed on the following basis:

First Midterm:	100 points
Second Midterm:	100 points
Homework:	25 points
Paper:	50 points
Final:	<u>125 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 points</b>

Final grades will be awarded based on the following scale:

<b>373 - 400 points</b>	<b>= A</b>
<b>353 - 372 points</b>	<b>= A-</b>
<b>333 - 352 points</b>	<b>= B</b>
<b>313 - 332 points</b>	<b>= B-</b>
<b>293 - 312 points</b>	<b>= C</b>
<b>273 - 292 points</b>	<b>= C-</b>
<b>253 - 272 points</b>	<b>= D</b>
<b>below 253 points</b>	<b>= F</b>

There are no "plus" grades in this course. However, if a student feels strongly about it, a "minus" grade can be replaced by the next lower "plus" grade. Though the students should not count on such good fortune, the instructor reserves the right to modestly widen the ranges for passing grades.

If grades or attendance are low, then unannounced quizzes may be given for extra points.

Attendance and class participation will be considered in borderline cases.

## Final Exam

The final exam will primarily cover material from the third unit. Additionally, part of the exam will be comprehensive and cover topics from throughout the semester that are particularly important.

## Homework

Homework will consist largely of practice problems. The purpose of homework is to help students prepare for exams. Students should not expect to do well on exams unless they have first mastered the homework assignments. Students may collaborate on homework. However, all collaborations must be made explicit and a single homework should be handed in for each collaborative group. Each person in a group must work on fully understand the entire homework and the answers submitted. Submitting homework on behalf of a group member who does not understand its content will be considered an act cheating by the entire group. Note the cheating policy below.

## Paper

Students are expected to turn in a short paper on a microeconomic topic of their choosing. As part of the project, students will also turn in a bibliography and a detailed outline for an expanded research paper on the topic .

## Course Policies

**Technology:** All cell phones should be turned off when entering class. For tests, only simple calculators will be allowed. Graphing calculators, programmable calculators, and cell phones will not be allowed.

Permission must be obtained from the instructor before using any recording device in class. Violation of this policy may be considered an act of cheating or plagiarism (see below). The contents of class lectures are protected property. Recordings of the class including, but not limited to, digital audio, digital video and tapes, is not allowed without first obtaining written permission of the instructor.

**Absentee Policy:** Attendance will be taken throughout the course. Although attendance and grades tend to be positively correlated, I will not directly deduct any points for absenteeism.

**Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:** All members of the University community share the responsibility and authority to challenge and make known acts of apparent academic dishonesty. Any student detected participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, <http://www.missouristate.edu/assets/provost/AcademicIntegrityPolicyRev-1-08.pdf> also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library, and in abbreviated form in the Missouri State Undergraduate Catalog. **Possible sanctions include issuing an "XF" for a semester grade.** It is your responsibility to read and fully understand Missouri State's Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures.

At a minimum, anyone caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically receive a **zero** for the assignment. This zero will automatically be averaged into the semester's final score without any possibility of it being dropped, made-up, or weighted less. Students caught cheating on a quiz will have their semester grade lowered one letter in addition to receiving a zero on the quiz. Cheating and plagiarism include a variety of activities. If in doubt, ask me.

**Makeup Policy:** There will be NO make-up or early exams without an official, WRITTEN excuse. With a valid excuse, students will be allowed to take the exam on or before the day for which it was scheduled. After that day, the exam can be made-up only by taking an exam different than the one given in class. Students hoping to take a makeup exam should contact me immediately. The exam will be scheduled for the earliest time that is mutually workable. Students who do not make up their exam promptly will not be allowed to take it at all.

**Please note their are policies common to all MSU classes. These policies can be viewed here:** <http://www.missouristate.edu/econ/63185.htm>