

## **Econ 3113 (003) Intermediate Microeconomics (Honors)**

**Fall 2023**

**Class Time:** MWF 10:30 – 11:30am Cate Center 1 338

**Instructor:** Dr. Samantha Johnson

**Email:** [samrjohnson@ou.edu](mailto:samrjohnson@ou.edu)

**Office Location:** Room 325 Cate Center 1

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2-4pm

**TA:** Lily Albrecht

**TA Email:** liliannaalbrecht@ou.edu

**TA Office Hours:** Mondays 11:30 - 1:30pm (In-Person Cate Center 1 Room 429)

**Prerequisites:** A grade of C or better in 1113 and 1123 and Mathematics 1743 or 1823 or 1914 and be enrolled in the Honors College.

### **Material Needed:**

*Intermediate Microeconomics* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.) by Hal R. Varian

ISBN: 978-0-393-93424-3

I will be using the 8<sup>th</sup> edition, but any edition is fine. *Do not buy this book until we discuss it in class.*

### **Overview and Learning Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to important concepts regarding microeconomic theory. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Have a better understanding of intermediate economic principles and concepts.
- 2) Derive both supply and demand curves from maximization problems.

- 3) Evaluate techniques involved in microeconomics including consumer behavior, market fluctuations, equilibrium changes, and maximization problems.
- 4) Discuss implications involving social welfare.

### **Assignment Breakdown**

Grading for this class will consist of homework, a writing assignment, two midterms, and a final. The breakdown is as follows:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Homework             | 20% |
| Presentation & Paper | 20% |
| Midterm 1            | 20% |
| Midterm 2            | 20% |
| Final                | 20% |

### **Homework:**

There will be five homework assignments throughout the course of the semester. They will be due in Canvas by midnight on the assigned date (usually Sundays). ***I will not accept any hard copy assignments.*** The assignments can be typed or hand-written and then scanned (There are lots of free apps available. I like to use GeniusScan) and submitted to Canvas. Submitting a photo is also acceptable as long as the assignment is readable. You are allowed to work in groups; however, each person must submit their own assignment in Canvas. ***I will drop the lowest assignment, so only four homework assignments will count towards your final grade.*** In other words, each assignment will be approximately 5% of your grade. ***Since the lowest grade is dropped, I will not accept any late assignments.***

### **Presentation:**

For this assignment, you will pair up with one other student in the class and create your own Freakonomics-style topic. Your group will choose a question related to some economic topic we talked about, and answer that question using sources and data. It can be as weird/strange/abstract as you'd like as

long as you can relate it to economics in some way. The goal of this assignment is to take the concepts we learn in class and apply it to a real situation. It will require additional sources and possibly data (depending on the question). Your group will submit a paper between 6 - 10 pages (including any visuals if needed) summarizing the issue, how it relates to economics, and answering the question/topic you chose. Each group will then present their topic for 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions. Additional details can be found under the Files tab. There is a lot of potential here (and I'm giving points for creativity), so have some fun with it!

### **Midterms and Final:**

There will be three exams during the semester each worth 20% of your grade. These tests will consist of short answer/essay, calculation, and graph-type questions. These will be very similar to the homework questions. These will all be closed book/note, but you are allowed a calculator. Exams cannot be made up except for very specific circumstances (university events, illness, etc), and ***I must be told in advance***. Correct documentation may be needed to make-up a midterm or exam.

The final for this class has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 10am. This time has been set by the university, so ***you cannot take the it early***.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance for this class is not required, but ***it is highly recommended!*** Throughout the semester, I will sporadically take attendance and award bonus points for those in class. These points are the only chance for extra credit during the semester. ***There is no chance to make up attendance points.***

### **Grading Scale:**

I plan to use the following grading scale:

|        |               |               |               |        |
|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| A: 90+ | B: 80 – 89.99 | C: 70 – 79.99 | D: 60 – 69.99 | F: <60 |
|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|

**Tentative Schedule:**

I will plan to follow this layout; however, this schedule is subject to change.

| Dates       | Section                      | Due Dates | Notes                 |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Week 1      | Introduction & The Market    |           |                       |
| Week 2      | Budget & Preferences         |           |                       |
| Week 3      | Utility & Choice             | HW 1      |                       |
| Week 4      | Choice & Demand              |           |                       |
| Week 5      | Demand & Review              | HW 2      |                       |
| Week 6      | Consumer Surplus             |           | Midterm 1             |
| Week 7      | Market Demand                |           |                       |
| Week 8      | Equilibrium                  | HW 3      |                       |
| Week 9      | Profit Maximization          | HW 4      |                       |
| Week 10     | Cost Minimization & Review   |           | Midterm 2             |
| Week 11     | Monopoly & Monopoly Behavior |           |                       |
| Week 12     | Oligopoly                    |           |                       |
| Week 13     | Oligopoly & Game Theory      | HW 5      |                       |
| Week 14     | Game Applications            |           |                       |
| Week 15     | Game Applications & Review   |           | Midterm 3             |
| Week 16     | Presentations                |           |                       |
| Finals Week | Presentations                |           | Final Exam – Dec 13th |

## **University Policies**

### **Copyright Syllabus Statement for In-Person or Online Courses:**

Sessions of this course may be recorded or live-streamed. These recordings are the intellectual property of the individual faculty member and may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit, written consent of the faculty member. In addition, privacy rights of others such as students, guest lecturers, and providers of copyrighted material displayed in the recording may be of concern. Students may not share any course recordings with individuals not enrolled in the class or upload them to any other online environment.

### **Religious Observance:**

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

### **Reasonable Accommodation Policy:**

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information, please visit <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html>. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

### **Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues:**

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see <http://www.ou.edu/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html> for answers to commonly asked questions.

## **Emergency Protocol:**

During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

### ***Severe Weather***

If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather:

1. *LOOK* for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances. 2. *SEEK* refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building. 3. *GO* to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows. 4. GET IN, GET DOWN, COVER UP. 5. *WAIT* for official notice to resume normal activities. [Link to Severe Weather Refuge Areas](#) , [Severe Weather Preparedness - Video](#)

### ***Armed Subject/Campus Intruder***

If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an active shooter or armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

1. *GET OUT*: If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911. 2. *HIDE OUT*: If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room. 3. *TAKE OUT*: As a last resort fight to defend yourself. For more information, visit <http://www.ou.edu/emergencypreparedness.html>  
[Shots Fired on Campus Procedure - Video](#)

### ***Fire Alarm/General Emergency***

If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates:

*1. LEAVE the building. Do not use the elevators. 2. KNOW at least two building exits. 3. ASSIST those that may need help. 4. PROCEED to the emergency assembly area. 5. ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues. 6. WAIT for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.* [OU Fire Safety on Campus](#)

### **Mental Health Support Services:**

If you are experiencing any mental health issues that are impacting your academic performance, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (UCC). The Center is located on the second floor of the Goddard Health Center, at 620 Elm Rm. 201, Norman, OK 73019.

To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911. For more information, please visit

<http://www.ou.edu/ucc>.

### **Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, the University offers a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at (405) 325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu). Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU Advocates at (405) 615-0013 (phones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies can be directed to University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at 405/325-3546 or [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu) . For more information, visit <http://www.ou.edu/eoo.html>.

**Final Exam Preparation Period:**

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's Final Exam Preparation Period policy (<https://apps.hr.ou.edu/FacultyHandbook#4.10>).

**Lauren's Promise:**

*I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.*

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. We must all take actions to ensure that this never happens again. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, please report it to me, and I will connect you to resources or call OU Advocates. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Oklahoma. OU has instituted procedures to respond to violations of these laws and standards, programs aimed at the prevention of such conduct, and intervention on behalf of the victims. OU/OUHSC police officers will treat victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking with respect and dignity. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance, and OU/OUHSC police will assist by providing resources to victims. In addition to its law enforcement efforts regarding sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, they can refer victims to the appropriate university and/or local community counseling and other resources devoted to assisting victims. Advocates help survivors determine their own needs in regard to their physical and emotional health, reporting options, and academic concerns. They connect survivors to campus and community services, and provide accompaniment to important appointments (court, hospital, and police) and support throughout the process. They can also connect you with advocacy services, if desired. The local advocacy group is YWCA Community Domestic Violence Advocacy, whose services are free, immediate, and confidential. They can be reached at (405) 948-1770. They also offer 24/7 advocates at (405) 917-9922 and 1-800-522-7233.



**OU Food Pantry:**

College students often (on average, 1 in 3) face food insecurity. For anyone facing food insecurity, the OU food pantry is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday from 10am-6pm at 333 Cate Center Drive, Norman, OK. All OU students are eligible, and there is no paperwork (all you need is your student ID). More information can be found here: <https://www.ou.edu/foodpantry>.