

Econ 3113-005: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

General Course Information

Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:30-2:45pm, 160 Gould Hall
Final Exam: Friday, December 16, 8:00-10:00am, 160 Gould Hall
Learning Management Systems: Canvas & Achieve (by MacMillan Learning)

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Joan Hamory
Email: jhamory@ou.edu
Student/Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm, 439 Cate One

This syllabus is a contract between you and me.
By taking this course, you agree to abide by the policies listed within.

Course Description:

This course delves deeper into the microeconomic theories introduced in Economics 1123 (Principles of Microeconomics), using the mathematical tools of algebra, calculus, and constrained optimization. In particular, this course covers the theory of consumer behavior (utility maximization subject to a budget constraint), the theory of producer behavior (cost minimization and profit maximization), and the determination of equilibrium price and quantity in perfectly competitive and imperfectly competitive markets.

Course Goals:

Students will have a deeper understanding of fundamental microeconomic theories and how economists analyze economic issues through the combination of intuition and mathematical tools. They will be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed in upper level economics courses, and be prepared for more advanced graduate level courses.

Prerequisites:

The Department of Economics requires that students have completed Economics 1113 (Principles of Macroeconomics) and Economics 1123 (Principles of Microeconomics) with a grade of C or better, and have taken Mathematics 1743 or 1823 or 1914 (Calculus), prior to taking this course. I would add that a willingness to work and learn is essential to doing well in this course.

Required Text:

Text: Microeconomics, 3rd Edition, authored by Austan Goolsbee, Steven Levitt, and Chad Syverson

Note: You will need to purchase access to **Achieve**, which we will use heavily for this course – it is available for purchase at <https://www.macmillanlearning.com/college/us/product/Microeconomics/p/1319105564>. You can either purchase access to Achieve only (which includes an online version of the textbook), or you can purchase Achieve + a loose-leaf version of the textbook. The choice is completely dependent in your preferences. For instructions on how to log in to Achieve, please see below.

Learning Management System: Accessing Achieve via Canvas

Achieve will be used for online homework assignments throughout the semester. It has been incorporated into the Canvas system, but you will need to purchase the access code to access all online homework. (The access code can be either purchased alone or as a package with the loose-leaf textbook, as described above).

Please do not log into Achieve directly using your access code. You will need to log into Canvas instead, to register and link your Canvas and Achieve accounts. To do so, follow these instructions: <https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Students-Register-for-Achieve-courses-via-your-school-s-LMS?r=301&ui-knowledge-components-aura-actions.KnowledgeArticleVersionCreateDraftFromOnlineAction.createDraftFromOnlineArticle=1#canvas>. [Note that the video mentions a “MacMillan learning” app in Canvas, but this app may instead appear in your Canvas as “MacMillan Higher Education”.]

If you bought a textbook packaged with a Achieve access card or a standalone access card from the bookstore, **please ignore the standard registration instructions included there and log in through Canvas instead.**

Throughout the semester, you should log into Canvas in order to complete your homework assignments. If you do not do this, your grades will not sync with Canvas.

Administrative Information:

Email: jhamory@ou.edu

I check my email regularly and will try to respond quickly to questions. I do my best to respond to emails within 48 hours. Email is a great place to get *administrative* questions answered. In general, it is best to take most *subject* related questions to office hours or to lecture, as economics via email can be both taxing and unclear. If your questions require very long answers, or you have many of them, I may simply ask you to stop by office hours.

Student/Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, 439 Cate One

This is a great time to get economics questions answered. Feel free to visit to discuss issues and questions related to homework, exams, or questions about material covered or not covered in lectures. I can also be available on Zoom if you prefer – just drop me an email in advance to request this.

Requirements and Grading:

Grading:

Grades will be determined by performance on the online homework and the exams, with some final adjustment according to attendance. The weights in the final grade will be assigned as follows:

Achieve Homework	25%	[Due Sundays after chapter is complete.]
Exam I (Ch 2-4)	25%	[Tentatively set for October 3, during class.]
Exam II (Ch 5-7)	25%	[Tentatively set for November 7, during class.]
Exam III (Ch 8-10)	25%	[December 16, 8:00-10:00am.]

There is no fixed curve for this course dictating what share of students will receive what letter grade. It is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A. It is equally possible for everyone to earn a C. If you are struggling with the material, please come to my office hours for help – I am here for you! Also, see below for information on additional help via tutors that can be accessed through the Department of Economics.

Requirements:

The following is a detailed description of the course requirements.

1. *Achieve Homework* (“*practice quizzes*”) (25%)

Online homework assignments are given via Achieve, which is linked to Canvas. Homework deadlines will be announced in class, and also available on the Canvas calendar. Homework will generally be due the Sunday

night of the week that we finish a textbook chapter. You will have 2 attempts for each question, but you will lose points for each incorrect attempt (so try hard the first time!). Correct answers will only be shown after the due date. Since you have ample time to complete the homework, I do not expect to accept late work.

Although I do not assign them for a grade, **I highly recommend that you work through the Achieve Learning Curve problems – they provide personalized practice to help you grasp the material.**

2. *Exams (25%, 25%, 25%)*

Exams are closed book and closed notes, but you can and should bring a calculator. Each exam covers approximately three chapters of the textbook. The final exam will NOT be cumulative. Tentative exam dates are: October 3, November 7, and December 16. Unless otherwise announced in class or by email, we will follow that schedule. It is your responsibility to take exams at the scheduled times and to make alternative arrangements in advance if you have a documented, verifiable, and serious reason to miss an exam. If you miss an exam without making prior arrangements, you will only be allowed a make-up exam if you provide proof and documentation to me within 48 hours of the exam.

3. *Attendance*

You are expected to attend class regularly. Much of the learning process that occurs inside the classroom is not perfectly replicated from solely reading the textbook. While there is no formal “class attendance” portion of the grade, I will take attendance 10 times over the course of the semester, for the purpose of discretionary grade adjustment at the end of the term. These attendance days will not be announced ahead of time. Based on your attendance, I will adjust your final overall grade at the end of the semester in the following way:

- Present for 8-10 attendance checks: Grade raised by 2 percentage points
- Present for 5-7 attendance checks: Grade raised by 1 percentage point
- Present for 3-4 attendance checks: Grade unchanged
- Present for 1-2 attendance checks: Grade reduced by 1 percentage point
- Present for 0 attendance checks: Grade reduced by 2 percentage points

Please note that if you have excused absences for official University activities that you can provide documentation for, I will not count those missed days against you. As missing class due to illness is rare, I will not adjust attendance checks for illness, even if it is documented. Note that you are responsible for all material covered and all announcements made in class, whether you are present or not.

Additional Help:

There are additional sources of help outside of lectures and office hours if you need it. The Department of Economics can provide helpful resources for students looking to hire a private tutor. For more information on this, check with the Economics Department office.

Expectations:

You can expect me to:

- Be respectful of you and your learning.
- Engage you in lecture and other activities that facilitate learning.
- Be available for office hours, and return emails and grading in a timely fashion.

In return, I expect you to:

- Attend class on time, pay attention, and be engaged.
- Be respectful to me and your classmates.
- Take responsibility for your learning, including reading the text and completing assignments on time.
- Seek help from me when necessary.

University Policies:

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, and academic honesty. For further clarification please see: <http://integrity.ou.edu>. In particular for this course, in order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed, cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment/exam. In addition, *I will report* incidences of cheating to the Office of Academic Integrity, who may in turn administer additional punishment.

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: The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center is committed to supporting students with disabilities to ensure that they are able to enjoy equal access to all components of their education. This includes your academics, housing, and community events. If you are experiencing a disability, a mental/medical health condition that has a significant impact on one or more life functions, you can receive accommodations to provide equal access. Possible disabilities include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, AD(H)D, mental health, and chronic health. Additionally, we support students with temporary medical conditions (broken wrist, shoulder surgery, etc.) and pregnancy. To discuss potential accommodations, please contact the ADRC at 730 College Avenue, (ph.) 405.325.3852, or adrc@ou.edu.

Title IX Resources: Anyone who has been impacted by gender-based violence, including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and sexual assault, deserves access to resources so that they are supported personally and academically. The University of Oklahoma is committed to offering resources to those impacted, including: speaking with someone confidentially about your options, medical attention, counseling, reporting, academic support, and safety plans. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact [OU Advocates](#) (available 24/7 at 405-615-0013) or another confidential resource (see “[Can I make an anonymous report?](#)”). You may also choose to report gender-based violence and discrimination through other means, including by contacting the [Institutional Equity Office](#) (ieo@ou.edu, 405-325-3546) or police (911). Because the University of Oklahoma is committed to the safety of you and other students, I, as well as other faculty, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Assistants, are mandatory reporters. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This includes disclosures that occur in: class discussion, writing assignments, discussion boards, emails and during Student/Office Hours. For more information, please visit the [Institutional Equity Office](#).

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 Accessibility and Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see the Institutional Equity Office [FAQ on Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

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](#).

Emergency (Severe Weather) Protocol: During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety. 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.
4. 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.
5. Get in, Get Down, Cover Up.

6. Wait for official notice to resume normal activities.

Additional [Weather Safety Information](#) is available through the Department of Campus Safety.

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. Avoid: 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. Deny: 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. Defend: As a last resort fight to defend yourself.

For more information, visit [OU's Emergency Preparedness site](#) and watch [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 [University Counseling Center](#).

Shameless Plug to Create More Economists:

Economics majors succeed in a wide variety of areas, including business, finance, education, law, medicine, international relations, banking, insurance, non-profits, consulting, and government agencies. Economists analyze data, run models (including projections/forecasts), write, report, explain, think, argue, solve problems, and generally help facilitate the private and public sectors in countless ways. The BLS currently reports median salaries for economists around \$109,000. Later career economists rise significantly from this level.

Economics is also a fun and exciting field to work in! Specializations include Health Economics, Public Finance, Education, International Trade, Environmental Economics, Industrial Organization, Labor Economics, Statistics & Econometrics, Discrimination, Development Economics, Financial Economics, Game Theory, Housing Economics, Agricultural Economics, and Sports Economics. Most all of these are all offered regularly by the OU Department of Economics. You should take these classes!!

Anyone interested in an OU Economics degree, or even just in taking more classes in Econ, should visit with the undergraduate advisor for the department, Ms. Corey Quiett (cquiett@ou.edu).