

ECON 3113-002
INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY
SPRING 2021

Location and time	Tues/Thurs, 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM, Video Conference
Duration	January 25, 2021 – May 14, 2021
Instructor	Dr. Jonathan McFadden 335 Cate Center One jmcfadden@ou.edu
Office hours	Virtual (Zoom) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesdays, 1-3 PM. Email me, and I will send you a Zoom meeting link.• By appointment
Teaching Assistant	Fuqing Yang yang145523@ou.edu
TA Office hours	Virtual (Zoom) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesdays, 1-3 PM• 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) <u>and</u> ECON 1123 (Econ–Macro Principles) MATH 1743, MATH 1823, <u>or</u> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)

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:

Exam 1:	Thursday, 3/4
Instructional Holiday:	Tuesday, 4/6
Exam 2:	Tuesday, 4/13
Finals Preparation week:	Monday – Friday, 5/3 – 5/7
Final Exam:	Friday, 5/14, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (online)

Grading Assignments and exams in the course have these weights:

Homework:	15%
Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

There is no set “curve” for this course or designated number of certain grades.
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.

Problem Sets

There will be (tentatively) 13-14 problems sets (PS) assigned from the textbook. There are many problem sets because learning outcomes are generally better when smaller “chunks” of information are processed and visited frequently. However, all problem sets are short, and some are quite short. Please turn them in electronically on the assigned date in Canvas. Only Word and PDF files will be accepted. You are free to work on the problem sets with others, but you must turn in your own solutions. Solutions keys will be uploaded to the course website throughout the semester, and general descriptions of a few certain problems and solutions will be mentioned briefly in class.

In-Class Problems

Extra credit opportunities, each worth 1 point on the next upcoming exam score, will be given in the form of short problems during lecture. Some lectures will contain these problems, while others will not. There are no make-ups for these extra credit questions and no other forms of extra credit. If in-class participation begins to drop off, the in-class problems will cease being extra credit.

Exams

All exams will be done at home and submitted online through Canvas. The only acceptable file formats are Word and PDF. 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.

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.

Course Expectations

You can expect that I will: 1) treat you with respect, 2) respond to your emails and return grades within a reasonable time period, 3) grade all assignments consistently and fairly, and 4) be available during office hours unless otherwise stated and announced in advance.

In return, I expect that you will: 1) treat me and your peers with respect, 2) come to class prepared, have your camera on throughout lecture (as if we were in a regular classroom environment), and participate in lecture, and 3) be proactive with learning, including completing reading assignments and problem sets, turning in assignments on time, and asking me or the TA for help if needed. If you cannot meet these expectations, let me know as soon as possible.

General Information

COVID-19 Related University Policies

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the current situation, changes (additions or deletions) to this syllabus may be required one or more times throughout the semester. I will let you know ahead of time about any necessary changes, which will be made in accordance with university policy.

Mandatory Masking

As outlined by the University of Oklahoma's Chief COVID Officer, until further notice, employees, students, and visitors of the OU community will be mandated to wear masks (1) when they are inside University facilities and vehicles and (2) when they are outdoors on campus and social distancing of at least six feet is not possible. For the well-being of the entire university community it is important that everyone demonstrate the appropriate health and safety behaviors outlined in the University Mandatory Masking Policy (<https://www.ou.edu/coronavirus/masking-policy>). As this mandate includes all campus classrooms, please make sure you are wearing your mask while in class. If you do not have a mask or forgot yours, see the professor for available masks. If you have an exemption from the Mandatory Masking Policy, please see the professor to make accommodations before class begins. If and where possible, please make your professor aware of your exemption and/or accommodation prior to arriving in class.

Attendance

A temporary university policy has been established to protect the OU community by ensuring that students who are ill or required to isolate feel encouraged to remain at home. Missing a class session or other class activity due to illness or isolation will not result in a penalty for the absence, and the student will not be asked to provide formal documentation from a healthcare provider to excuse the absence. This policy is based on all students and faculty adhering to the principles of integrity, honesty, and concern for others.

Students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache, chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea or who have been in close contact with others who have symptoms should:

- Remain at home to protect others
- Ensure that any needed screening has been conducted (COVID-19 Screening and Reporting Tool) and any needed treatment obtained
- Contact the instructor prior to absence or inability to participate, if possible, and provide an honest report of the reason for which you cannot attend class or complete a course activity
- Continue to complete coursework to the extent possible, using Canvas, Zoom, and other online tools
- Submit assignments electronically to the extent possible and as directed by the instructor
- Communicate with the instructor to arrange modifications to deadlines or work requirements or reschedule exams or other important course activities, when it is necessary

Academic integrity**Other University Policies**

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.

Tentative Outline

Note that several of the dates are likely to change over the semester, depending on how much class time is devoted to each topic. This outline should be interpreted as an indication of topics that will be covered and a general estimate of the timeline. Unless indicated in Canvas, the tentative due date is the day after. For example, PS 1 is tentatively due on Friday, February 5. Problem sets marked with * are short (2-3 problems) and require less time to complete.

Date	Day	Week	Topic	Reading	Due
1/26	Tues	1	Syllabus, Overview, and Math Review	Ch. 1	
1/28	Thurs	1	Supply and Demand	Ch. 2	
2/2	Tues	2	Supply and Demand	Ch. 2	
2/4	Thurs	2	Supply and Demand, Intro to Ch. 3	Chs. 2-3	PS 1
2/9	Tues	3	Consumer and Producer Surplus	Ch. 3	
2/11	Thurs	3	Policy Aspects	Ch. 3	
2/16	Tues	4	Price Ceilings, Price Floors, and Quotas	Ch. 3	
2/18	Thurs	4	Taxes and Subsidies	Ch. 3	PS 2
2/23	Tues	5	Utility and Indifference Curves	Ch. 4	
2/25	Thurs	5	Consumer Behavior	Ch. 4	PS 3*
3/2	Tues	6	Budget Constraints and Optimization	Ch. 4	
3/4	Thurs	6	Exam 1	--	--
3/9	Tues	7	End of Chapter 4, Types of Demand	Chs. 4-5	PS 4
3/11	Thurs	7	Individual and Market Demand	Ch. 5	PS 5*
3/16	Tues	8	Income Expansion, Engel, Demand Curves	Ch. 5	
3/18	Thurs	8	Deriving Demand Curves, Income/Subs Effects	Ch. 5-6	PS 6
3/23	Tues	9	Producer Behavior	Ch. 6	PS 7*
3/25	Thurs	9	Isoquants, Isocosts, and Firm Behavior	Ch. 6	
3/30	Tues	10	Technology, Expansion Paths, and Intro to Ch. 7	Chs. 6-7	PS 8
4/1	Thurs	10	Costs	Ch. 7	PS 9*
4/6	Tues	11	Instructional Holiday – no class	--	
4/8	Thurs	11	SR/LR Costs, Economies of Scale, Intro to Ch. 8	Chs. 7-8	PS 10
4/13	Tues	12	Exam 2	--	--
4/15	Thurs	12	Perfect Competition	Ch. 8	PS 11*
4/20	Tues	13	Long Run Competition, Rents, and Intro to Ch. 9	Chs. 8-9	
4/22	Thurs	13	Market Power and Monopoly	Ch. 9	PS 12
4/27	Tues	14	Government and Market Power	Ch. 9	
4/29	Thurs	14	Pricing Strategies	Chs. 9-10	PS 13*
5/4	Tues	15	Price Discrimination	Ch. 10	
5/6	Thurs	15	Imperfect Competition	Chs. 10-11	PS 14
5/14	Friday	16	Final Exam: 8:00-10:00 AM	--	--