

## **ECON 2304: Principles of Microeconomics**

CRN: 11334 Section 003

Fall 2021

### **Course Meeting Information**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00pm to 1:20pm

BUSN 309

### **Professor Information**

Dr. Daniel Pastor

243 COBA

djpastor@utep.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm

**Course Information:** What this class is about and what we will do

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course covers microeconomic foundations of economics and includes topics such as elasticity, economic decision making, consumer theory, production theory, market structures, externalities, and resource markets, among others. Students will be exposed to the basic aspects of these areas and will be able to comprehend their applications in everyday life. Students will leave this course with a grasp of the fundamental nature of microeconomics and its practical utilization.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course you should have a good understanding of the concepts and methods of microeconomics. The main themes of this course are: application of microeconomic problem solving and decision making skills; optimal decisions in strategic situations; optimal decisions regarding inputs, outputs and pricing. Successful students will be prepared to use supply and demand analysis to predict the likely impacts of events on markets for goods and services, understand the role of prices in the markets, calculate various elasticities, understand the different costs of production, calculate the equilibrium conditions for cost minimization or profit maximization, understand economies of scope and economies of scale, and understand and explain different pricing strategies that arise from market power.

### **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

This course is designed using a modular format—that is, each week is “packaged” as a single module so that all the materials and lecture notes are in one area for a given week. Each module will be available on the Blackboard home page for this course.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

All assignments – reading, chapter assignments, and assessments - must be accessed through Blackboard. Additionally, this course will be utilizing the online course supplement McGraw-

Hill Connect. Students are required to register with and use Connect. **Registration becomes available when clicking on the first assignment in Blackboard.** Connect includes an e-book. Assignments and lecture readings will be assigned through Connect. The textbook for this course is:

*Economics*, 22<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Campbell McConnell, Stanley Brue, and Sean Flynn.

Since an e-book is included with Connect, **do not purchase a hard copy of the book.** More information about how to register with Connect will be posted on Blackboard. **Please note that Connect provides a grace period for users to start the course before paying; typically 14 days. No extensions for any assignments will be given for students who lose access due to non-payment.**

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

**Syllabus Quiz:** Since the syllabus contains important information regarding this course it is imperative that you read and understand the syllabus. Thus, the first assignment will be a syllabus quiz. The answers to the questions should be obvious if you read the syllabus and the quiz is designed to prevent misunderstandings because the syllabus was not read or understood.

**Reading Assignments:** You are expected to complete the assigned readings for each lecture. You are responsible for all assigned material. Lectures will follow the textbook but may not cover all the material. Each chapter has a various number of concepts that are assigned to help reinforce the readings as well as to give you some guidance as to your level of understanding as you read the chapter. The concepts are available when reading the e-text through Connect. There will be a link to each chapter provided in Blackboard. Those concepts are required to be completed but are not individually graded. If you complete all of the concept questions you receive full credit. Otherwise you will receive partial credit based on how many concepts were completed. **The due dates for all assigned work for each week in Sunday at 11:59 pm Mountain Time.**

**Chapter Assignments and Assessments:** There will be Assignments for each chapter in Connect for the semester. The assignments will be completed using Connect and must be accessed through the link posted on Blackboard. Connect The Dots videos are also required and a short videos with one or two questions designed to reinforce the concepts of the chapter. They will be part of the Assignments grade. Additionally, Assessments for each chapter will be assigned in Connect. The Assessments are end of chapter quizzes and are similar to the homework problems only you will have limited attempts to answer each question. Please note that due dates for the Assignments and Assessments are not flexible. **The due dates for all assigned work for each week in Sunday at 11:59 pm Mountain Time.** If the Assignment or Assessment is not completed by the due date you will receive partial credit for what you have completed. If you didn't start the Assignment or Assessment you will receive a zero. There are no exceptions.

I strongly urge the students to use Connect as preparation for the exams. Economics cannot be learned passively and the assignments in Connect are a part of active learning. In addition, it may be helpful to work on the problems with another student.



November 25-26: Thanksgiving  
December 2: Last day of classes

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course assignment are delivered through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

### **Course Communication:** How we will stay in contact with each other

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** My office hours will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm - 2:30 pm in 243 COBA.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number. A note about emailing questions. You are required to read and be familiar with the contents of the syllabus. If you do not understand something, please ask. However, if the answer is clearly provided, whether in the syllabus, Blackboard announcements, or some other information with which you have been provided, then do not expect an answer to your email. That means if you email me about the date of a midterm, the grading scale, if extra credit is provided, etc., then I will not respond because that information is clearly provided to you. Please check your resources before emailing your questions.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements at least one per week for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

## NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

### **Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course**

#### **EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

Attendance is optional in the sense that I do not keep track of students who come to class. However, it will be difficult for you to succeed in this course if you do not come to class. I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

#### **DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

All assignments for each week will be due on Sunday at 11:59 pm Mountain Time. The due dates are not flexible and no late work will be accepted without an acceptable excuse. Please check the assignments and Blackboard Calendar for due dates.

#### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

#### **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines. The student must have a reasonable chance of passing the course in order to be considered for an incomplete. An incomplete will not be granted in order to avoid failing the course.

## CLASS ETIQUETTE

I will make every effort to begin class promptly and end class on time. If you arrive late/leave early, please make every effort to do so quietly. Out of consideration for your classmates and the instructor, please refrain from talking with your neighbors or eating during class.

No electronic devices will be allowed during exams. Cell phones, iPods, other devices, etc., must be turned off. **Only standard calculators (e.g. TI-86) will be allowed during exams. No other type of calculators will be allowed.** If you have any questions about what's allowed, please see me.

**Please make sure your cell phones and other electronic devices are turned off while you're in class.**

## CAMPUS CARRY

Persons who hold a Concealed Handgun License can lawfully carry their gun into a UTEP classroom as long as it remains concealed. Open carry remains prohibited on campus. Should you feel someone is intentionally displaying a gun (or any other weapon for that matter), do not hesitate to call Campus Police (X 5611) or 9-1-1. For more information on campus carry, see [Campus Carry \(utep.edu\)](http://www.utep.edu/campus-carry).

## ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](http://www.utep.edu/cass). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](http://www.utep.edu/cass).

## SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be

reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

### **Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance**

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. It is important to follow all instructions that you receive as part of the diagnosis, including isolation and staying at home until a negative test is produced.

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, please follow the isolation protocol by staying at home and getting tested as soon as possible. If the test is negative but you are still seeking accommodations, please contact the Dean of Students Office for guidance in a timely manner. Your instructor will work with the Dean of Students Office to determine the extent of any such accommodations.

We strongly encourage you to think and act proactively in all matters related to COVID-19 and your academic endeavors. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

#### Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

#### Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.

#### Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

