

## ECON 3303: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ONLINE)

CRN: 20738

Spring 2021



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Office Hours: Virtually via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Wednesday 10-11 am & Thursday 2-3 pm MT

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

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce the analytical framework used by economists in examining microeconomic issues. As a social science, economics provides a rigorous framework in which to organize observed economic phenomena so that we may come to some understanding of the world about us. The economy is a complex relationship of variables and behavior. Consequently, precision of language is necessary to the comprehension of economic relationships. The discipline of economics requires clear logic and clear thinking and promotes those qualities in those who study the subject. Microeconomics is the study of rational choice behavior on the part of individual consumers and firms. In general, economists are interested in how market mechanisms solve extremely complex resource allocation problems. This course is designed to present a logical and coherent framework in which to organize observed economic phenomena. Several economic models are developed and analyzed to help explain and predict a wide variety of economic (and sometimes, seemingly non-economic) phenomena. Microeconomic theory is based on the notion that individuals (and firms) have well-defined objectives (e.g., maximizing utility or profits) and behave systematically according to the incentives and constraints of their economic environment. It is this framework which allows the economist to gain a fundamental understanding of the human puzzle in an economic setting.

Intermediate microeconomics is an extension of what you learned in Economics 2304. Most of the material should be familiar to you, so expect us to move a bit more rapidly than we did in the principles course. With that said, upon completing this course you should be able to:

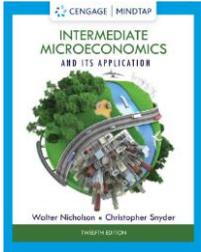
- understand basic economic analytical tools, which means being able to define, recognize, and provide illustrations of them
- understand the role of markets in allocating scarce resources.
- understand the impact of government intervention in the market
- understand discussions involving business and politics
- ask good questions, both to yourself and to others
- make good conjectures regarding the answers

**Commented [BBL1]:** This is a SAMPLE syllabus with detailed explanations in the margins. Please use this as a guide when creating your syllabus. Customize the content to your course and delete the comments in margin prior to use

**Commented [BBL2]:** Here you can provide a link to your virtual office hours sessions. More details can be provided in the syllabus, but it is good to repeat important information like this to increase its visibility.

**Commented [BBL3]:** The course description gives students an idea of what to expect from the course and how it falls within the scope of their degree plan.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS



Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application, 12<sup>th</sup> ed. by Walter Nicholson and Christopher Snyder (MINDTAP edition). ISBN-13: 978-0-357-38082-6

You will access the book and materials from inside of Blackboard.

Head to the Blackboard home page and log in with your UTEP credentials.

Click the link for our course (Econ 3303).

Once in the course Click any link to Cengage content to continue the registration process.

Not sure where to click? Ask your instructor or try a few. You'll know you've clicked the right one when you see the Cengage login screen. Need help? Visit <http://cengage.com/start-strong> for step-by-step registration instructions and videos. Just select MindTap, Blackboard, and course materials are not included with tuition.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

There will be three tests. The tests will consist of multiple choice and short-answer type questions over the covered chapters. The tests will be accessed from Blackboard.

There will be homework assignments completed in the MindTap software. All MindTap assignments will be accessed from inside Blackboard.

Each test will count for 25% of your total score in the course. The homework assignments will account for the remaining 25%. There are approximately 460 (subject to change as course progresses) points in the homework.

### *Grading Scale*

A	90%
B	80%
C	70%
D	60%

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). 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 often may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

We will also use Cengage MindTap from inside Blackboard to complete homework assignments. If you have any issues with MindTap, contact Cengage Customer Support.

**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 several ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra during the following times:

Wednesdays: 10-11 a.m. Mountain Time

Thursdays: 2 - 3 p.m. Mountain Time

When you enter the Collaborate office hours please be sure to click the "Raise Your Hand" to alert me that you have entered.

- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours (except on weekends). When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line as I have more than one class. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your name.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

**Commented [BBL4]:** Identify what technology is required to access course materials, complete the work, and submit assignments. If there are additional required software programs, be sure to list them and provide some information about how they can be accessed. If there is a cost associate with the software, also list it under required materials.

**Commented [BBL5]:** Communication with online students can take many forms, and you might feel at first as if you are "always on." In the syllabus, provide details as to how you will communicate with students, how they can contact you, and the expected length of time for a response. Establishing a regular time for checking in on the class will keep communication manageable.

Much of this section will also apply to class with an on-campus component, but be sure to adjust as necessary.

## 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 always be provided to classmates and to the instructor. 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

### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the "grading information" area of each forum)
- Participating in Blackboard Collaborate Ultra sessions (if we decide to schedule any)
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**This course is NOT self-paced. There are hard deadlines for assignments and tests.** You will have a window of time to take the tests. You will have two (2) attempts at the test. Your grade will be the higher of your attempts. The second attempt is to accommodate any technical issues you may encounter.

### 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

**Commented [BBL6]:** We suggest providing students with some guidelines for online communication, also known as "netiquette." It is a good idea to post your policies inside Blackboard as well and/or repeat them as needed throughout the semester.

**Commented [BBL7]:** Students may be unsure how participation will work in an online class. Be sure to provide clear examples of what will constitute their participation. This will help set expectations for how often they should log into the course and how to make their contributions visible to you and their classmates.

If you are teaching a class with an on-campus component, be sure to add the attendance and participation details for that setting as well.

**Commented [BBL8]:** The purpose of this section is to make clear the University's policy concerning accommodations for individuals with disabilities and to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging the violations of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, including complaints regarding a denial of requested accommodations and auxiliary aids or services, and programs that are perceived to be inaccessible.

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). 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](#).

### COVID-19 Accommodations

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure, or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

**Commented [BBL9]:** Please add this section to your syllabus to provide accommodations guidance relative to COVID-19.

If your class is 100% online, you may delete the second paragraph.

### 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](#).

**Commented [BBL10]:** The University's statement on Scholastic Integrity and Academic Honesty is important to help students understand that they are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. If a faculty member suspects academic dishonesty, they are to refer the incident to [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for review.

### COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](http://screening.utep.edu). If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](http://screening.utep.edu)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must always wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in this class. If you choose not to wear a face

**Commented [BBL11]:** Please provide this statement in your syllabus *even if your course is 100% online*. Students may still come to campus to visit the library or other services. Therefore, we need to be sure all students have this information at hand.

covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

## Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

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.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

### 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.

**Commented [BBL12]:** You may want to add resources more particular to your discipline.

**Commented [BBL13]:** Faculty are required to provide a weekly schedule with dates and general topics/major assignments within the syllabus. A more detailed checklist can be provided as a separate document, if desired.

Course Outline and Schedule (All dates subject to change)

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topics/Activities</b>
1 and Appendix	Economic Models
2	Utility and Choice
3	Demand
4	Uncertainty
<b>TEST 1</b>	<b>February 19</b>
6	Production
7	Costs
8	Profit Maximization and Supply
9	Perfect Competition
<b>TEST 3</b>	<b>April 2</b>
11	Monopoly
12	Imperfect Competition
5	Game Theory
16	Externalities and Public Goods
<b>TEST 3</b>	<b>May 11</b>