

# ECON 2304: Microeconomics Principles

## 3 Credits

Fall 2023

Section 006: MW 12:00 – 1:20 pm

### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Dr. José R Bucheli  
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**Office:** College of Business, room 205C  
**Office hours:** MW 4:00 – 5:00 pm or by appointment

### Course Description

This course provides a broad overview of microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of issues specific to households, firms, or industries with an emphasis on the role of markets. Topics discussed include household and firm behavior, demand and supply, government intervention, market structures, and the efficient allocation of resources.

**Prerequisites:** None

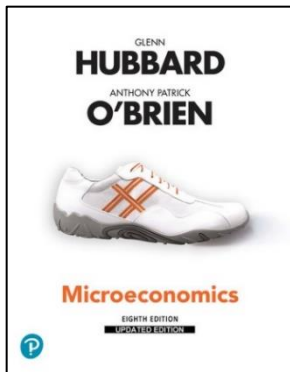
### Student Learning Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of opportunity cost.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the laws of supply and demand and equilibrium.
3. Use supply and demand curves to analyze responses of markets to external events.
4. Use supply and demand analysis to examine the impact of government intervention.
5. Explain and calculate price elasticity of demand and other elasticities.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of producer choice, including cost and break-even analysis.
7. Compare and contrast the following market structures: perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly.
8. Explain market failures and the need for government intervention.

### Required Course Materials

1. **Textbook:** *Microeconomics* by Hubbard and O'Brien, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson, ISBN: 9780135952955 (with access to MyLab and Learning Catalytics).



2. **MyLab Economics:** We will use the textbook accompanying online platform to access chapter quizzes, the textbook, and additional material. **Your instructor will provide sign-up instructions on the first day of class.**
3. **Learning Catalytics:** We will use Learning Catalytics through MyLab to complete in-class activities and keep track of student attendance and participation. You will be able to contribute through your phone, tablet, or laptop. **Your instructor will provide sign-up instructions on the first day of class.**
4. **Blackboard:** This course uses Blackboard intensively. This is where you will access assignments, grades, course announcements, additional materials, and more. You are required to check the course site regularly.

### Course Requirements and Grading Policy

All assignments will be graded within one week of the due date. The chapter quizzes will be graded automatically. Your quiz responses will be released after the due date for the quiz has passed. General feedback will be provided to the entire class.

Your final grade will be based on the completion and quality of the following items:

1. **Attendance and participation (15% of grade):** Attendance and participation are encouraged and expected. You will earn attendance and participation points by completing in-class activities. However, because “stuff happens,” you are allowed to miss up to two lectures without a penalty.
2. **Chapter quizzes (35% of grade):** You will submit chapter quizzes throughout the semester. Chapter quizzes are due on Sundays before midnight. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. Late assignments will lose 25% of the grade per late day. See below for make-ups and justified late submissions.
3. **Exams (50% of grade):** There are three exams: Two midterms (15% each) and a final exam (20%).

Requirement	% of Grade
Attendance and participation	15%
Chapter quizzes	35%
Midterm exams (2)	30%
Final exam	20%

## Final Exam

Per the [university academic calendar](#), this course's final exam is scheduled for the **week of December 11–15, 2023**. Please plan all your activities accordingly.

## Grading Scale

Final grades for this course will be based on the following grading scale:

<b>% Grade</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
97 ≤ Score	A+
94 ≤ Score < 97	A
90 ≤ Score < 94	A-
87 ≤ Score < 90	B+
84 ≤ Score < 87	B
80 ≤ Score < 84	B-
77 ≤ Score < 80	C+
74 ≤ Score < 77	C
70 ≤ Score < 74	C-
67 ≤ Score < 70	D+
64 ≤ Score < 67	D
60 ≤ Score < 64	D-
Score < 60	F

Note: I do not round grades.

## Attendance, Absences, and Make-ups

Daily attendance and active participation count toward your final grade and are essential for improving your economics knowledge. No matter the reason for the absence, failure to attend class always results in missed discussions, practice, and opportunities to apply the concepts. If you miss class, you are still responsible for the material covered.

Absences for university-sponsored events and for personal and family illnesses will be excused with proper documentation, and you will have the opportunity to submit late assignments. If you miss an assignment and it is excused, it is your responsibility to reach out to me to make up for it.

## Class Participation and Interaction

Student participation in this course is crucial. We will mostly rely on Learning Catalytics to participate and collaborate with peers in class. You will have opportunities to actively contribute every lecture by responding to polls, answering content and applied questions, sharing your work with the class, and getting cold-called. It is crucial that you have the appropriate technology that will allow you to participate in class (see Course Requirements above).

## Incomplete Grade

An incomplete (a grade of "I") may only be assigned if the student cannot complete the course due to exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course.

## **Class Withdrawals**

I do not drop students from this class due to poor attendance. If you decide to stop attending class and do not wish to receive a grade of F, it is your responsibility to be advised of deadlines and drop the class by the appropriate date.

## **Email Communication**

Your UTEP email account is the official means of communicating with the university, as well as your instructor and peers. Information critical to your success is delivered to you via this account, and you are expected to follow the rules and policies provided to you via this communication method. I expect you to check your UTEP email daily.

Any email to the instructor should be sent either through Blackboard or through your official UTEP email account. Please be advised that due to privacy and security concerns, I am unable to respond to emails from or about students that do not originate from an official UTEP email address. I will make every effort to respond to emails within one business day.

## **Announcements**

I use Blackboard announcements to send time-sensitive and important information to the entire class. Because you can set your own notification preferences in Blackboard, you will need to make sure you receive announcements daily.

## **Academic Integrity**

I take academic misconduct—including plagiarism, cheating, assisting to cheat, or submitting someone else's work as your own—very seriously. Using other people's work, ideas, and words and passing them as your own (intentionally or unintentionally) is dishonest and erodes scholarship. Even using your own work may constitute academic dishonesty if it was submitted as an assignment for another class and you did not obtain your instructor's permission beforehand. Students suspected of violating academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

## **Accessibility Support**

Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires instructors to provide equal access to course materials for all students. If you have questions or need an accommodation in the classroom, please contact UTEP's [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

## **Anti-discrimination**

UTEP does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity in employment or the provision of services. Any member of UTEP who engages in discrimination or other conduct that is in violation of University policy is subject to the full range of disciplinary action, up to and including separation from UTEP. You may contact the

## **Assistance for Members of the Military and Veterans**

UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the [Military Student Success Center](#) and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

**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 or posted online.

**Syllabus Modifications Statement**

I reserve the right to change this syllabus, course content, and assignment dates. Any changes will be announced to the class promptly.

**ECON 2304 – Tentative Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	Course Syllabus; Chapter 1: Economics: Foundations and Models
2	Chapter 2: Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, and the Market System
3	Chapter 3: Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply
4	Chapter 3: Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply (continuation)
5	Chapter 4: Economic Efficiency, Government Price Setting, and Taxes
6	Chapter 6: Elasticity: The Responsiveness of Demand and Supply <b>Midterm Exam 1: (10/4)</b>
7	Chapter 10: Consumer Choice and Behavioral Economics Chapter 10 Appendix: Using Indifference Curves and Budget Lines to Understand Consumer Behavior
8	Chapter 11: Technology, Production, and Costs
9	Chapter 12: Firms in Perfectly Competitive Markets
10	Chapter 15: Monopoly and Antitrust Policy
11	Chapter 13: Monopolistic Competition: The Competitive Model in a More Realistic Setting <b>Midterm Exam 2: (11/8)</b>
12	Chapter 14: Oligopoly: Firms in Less Competitive Markets
13	Chapter 5: Externalities, Environmental Policy, and Public Goods
14	As needed
15	As needed
<b>Final Exam: Friday, December 15, 2023 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm</b>	

*Note:* There will be no class on Labor Day (Monday, September 4).