

# ECON 2304: Microeconomics Principles

## 3 Credits

Spring 2024

Section 005: MW 3:00 – 4:20 pm, College of Business, room 302  
Section 006: MW 12:00 – 1:20 pm, College of Business, room 313

### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Dr. José R Bucheli  
**E-mail:** [jrbucheli@utep.edu](mailto:jrbucheli@utep.edu)  
**Office:** College of Business, room 205C  
**Office hours:** MW 1:30 – 2:30 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 and apply 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 the responses of markets to external events.
4. Use supply and demand analysis to examine the impact of government intervention.
5. Explain and calculate the 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:** *Principles of Microeconomics 3e* from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1-947172-34-4, Digital ISBN 1-947172-35-2.

Good news! Your textbook for this class is **available for free** online, in web view and PDF format: <https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-microeconomics-3e>. You can also purchase a printed version, if you prefer, via OpenStax on Amazon.com.

Note: Although not required for this class, I will complement my lectures and slides with two additional textbooks:

- i. *Microeconomics* by Hubbard and O'Brien from Pearson, ISBN-13: 9780136713876
  - ii. *Microeconomics* by Acemoglu, Laibson, and List from Pearson, ISBN-13: 9780135794234
2. **iClicker:** We will use iClicker in class this semester. This will help me understand what you know, keep track of attendance, and allow everyone to participate. I will use this software to keep track of attendance; please refer to the attendance policy below. The use of iClicker in this course will account for 15 % of your final grade.
- You are required to bring a device to participate in iClicker sessions during class. You can participate with a smartphone, tablet, or laptop. You can download the iClicker student mobile app via the App Store or Google Play or use the iClicker web app by signing in as a student with your UTEP email at iclicker.com. You are responsible for setting up your iClicker Student account on time and ensuring your device is working correctly. **I will provide sign-up instructions on the first day of class.**
3. **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 May 6–10, 2024**. Please plan all your activities accordingly.

## Grading Scale

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

% Grade	Letter Grade
$90 \leq \text{Score}$	A
$80 \leq \text{Score} < 90$	B
$70 \leq \text{Score} < 80$	C
$60 \leq \text{Score} < 70$	D
$\text{Score} < 60$	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 knowledge of economics. 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 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 iClicker to participate and collaborate with peers in class. You will have opportunities to actively contribute to 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 an F grade, 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 your official UTEP email account. **Please be advised that I cannot respond to emails from or about students that do not originate from an official UTEP email address due to privacy and security concerns.** 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 ensure you receive announcements daily.

### **Scholastic 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).

### **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 violates University policy is subject to the full range of disciplinary action, up to and including separation from UTEP.

### **Accommodations Policy**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations under state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

### **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.

### **Course Resources**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit:

[https://www.utep.edu/advising/student\\_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html).



### **Guidance on Artificial Intelligence**

AI prohibited and not needed: Given the introductory nature of this class, the use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is not allowed. Students are expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

### **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: Welcome to Economics!
2	Chapter 2: Choice in a World of Scarcity
3	Chapter 3: Demand and Supply
4	Chapter 3: Demand and Supply (continuation)
5	Chapter 4: Labor and Financial Markets <b>Midterm Exam 1: Chapters 1-4 (2/14)</b>
6	Chapter 5: Elasticity
7	Chapter 6: Consumer Choices
8	Chapter 7: Production, Costs, and Industry Structure
9	<b>Spring break</b>
10	Chapter 8: Perfect Competition
11	<b>Midterm Exam 2: Chapters 5-7 (3/25)</b> Chapter 9: Monopoly
12	Chapter 10: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
13	Chapter 12: Environmental Protection and Negative Externalities
14	Chapter 12: Environmental Protection and Negative Externalities (continuation) Chapter 13: Positive Externalities and Public Goods
15	Chapter 13: Positive Externalities and Public Goods (continuation)
16	As needed
<b>Final Exam:</b>	
<b>Section 005: Monday, May 6, 2024, 1:00 PM – 3:45 PM in BUSN 302</b>	
<b>Section 006: Friday, May 10, 2024, 1:00 PM – 3:45 PM in BUSN 313</b>	

*Note:* There will be no class during spring break (March 11 – 15).