

ECON 3303: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

3 Credits

Fall 2023

MW 1:30 – 2:50 pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. José R. Bucheli
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Office hours: MW 4:00 – 5:00 pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course delves deeper into the fundamental principles and concepts that govern individuals' and firms' economic decision-making and market interactions. Building upon the foundation laid in introductory microeconomics, this course offers a more comprehensive and rigorous analysis of microeconomic theory.

It covers cost, demand, and price theory; the concepts, assumptions, and policy implications of partial equilibrium and general equilibrium theory; and conducts a critical survey of various concepts of the scope, methods, and approaches to economics.

Prerequisites: ECON 2304: Principles of Microeconomics with a minimum grade of C. May not be taken concurrently.

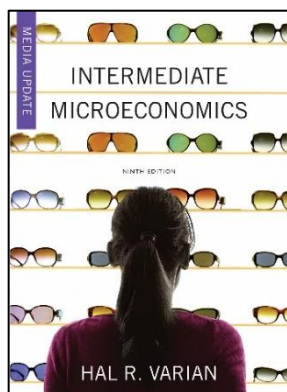
Student Learning Objectives

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

1. Analyze and interpret individual consumer behavior.
2. Examine and evaluate firm behavior and market structures.
3. Understand and analyze market failures and the role of government intervention.
4. Integrate microeconomic theory and models to analyze real-world issues and policies.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in implementing numerical and graphical techniques in microeconomics.

Required Course Materials

1. **Textbook:** *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach* by Hal R. Varian, 9th edition media update, W. W. Norton, ISBN 978-0-393-69132-0 (with Ebook and access to Smartwork5).



2. **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.

Rubrics will be used to grade open-ended assignments and will be attached to each assignment. Individual feedback will be provided using the Blackboard annotation tool.

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

1. **Attendance and participation (5% of grade):** Attendance and participation are encouraged and expected. You will earn 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 (25% 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. **Problem Sets (20% of grade):** You will submit four problem sets throughout the semester. These assignments will require that you apply economic concepts and models covered in class and will be more in-depth than chapter quizzes.
4. **Exams (50% of grade):** There are three exams in this course: Two midterms and a final exam. Make-ups will only be permitted with proper documentation (see below).

Requirement	% of Grade
Attendance and participation	5%
Chapter quizzes	25%
Problem sets	20%
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:

% Grade	Letter Grade
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 missed an assignment and it is excused, it is your responsibility to reach out to me to make up for it. Alternatively, if you decide not to submit the late assignment, you can also use a “dropped” assignment in place of a make-up, but it is NOT required that you do.

Class Participation and Interaction

Student participation in this course is crucial and will take many forms. You will have opportunities to actively contribute every lecture by volunteering answers, responding to polls, sharing your work with the class, and getting cold called.

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.

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.