

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
ECON 3303-001 CRN 13796
MW 1:30-2:50 PM
CBA 301

Instructor: Nathan Ashby, Ph.D.
Office: CBA Room 242
Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:45 AM, 3:00-4:00 PM; TR 1:30-2:45 PM; or by appointment
Email: njashby@utep.edu
Phone: 915-747-7791
Required Text:

Varian, Hal. 2014. *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, Ninth Edition
Hardcover; ISBN: 978-0-393-68986-0.

Course Description: A study of cost, demand, and price theory; the concepts, assumptions, and policy implications of aspects of particular equilibrium and general equilibrium theory; a critical survey of various concepts of the scope, methods, and approaches to economics.

Grades: The class grade will be determined by the following four components:

Four Exams 60% [300 points]
Four Problem Sets 28% [140 points]
In-Class Participation (12%)[60 points]

Exams: There will be a total of five exams. The first four will be based on the first four units and titled in the course outline below. The final exam will effectively be a makeup exam for students that would like to improve their performance on previous exams. Each student will be able to select up to two exams that they would like to retake. For each score that exceeds the performance of the previous exam, they will be able to replace this score. For instance, if a student receives a 50 on Exam II and a 55 Exams III , but receives a 45 on the final version of Exam II and a 70 on the final version of Exam III, the original score of 50 would remain for Exam II, but they would be able to replace the 55 from the original Exam III with the final version score of 70. Dates for exams are below. Please take note of these as make ups will not be allowed except for university excused absences.

Exam I	Wednesday, September 18
Exam II	Wednesday, October 16
Exam III	Monday, November 11
Exam IV	Monday, December 2
Final Exam	<u>Wednesday, December 11, 4:00-6:45 PM</u>

Problem Sets: There will be a problem set associated with each of the four units. These will be challenging, but I intend to grade these with feedback that will assist you in preparation for exams. Collaboration, working with others on assignments is permitted and even encouraged, but I will be greatly concerned if I see evidence of collusion which is not permitted. Assignments with

identical answers will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for review.

These will be due as ***hard copies*** on the dates shown below:

Problem Set 1	Monday, September 9
Problem Set 2	Wednesday, October 2
Problem Set 3	Wednesday, October 30
Problem Set 4	Monday, November 25

Participation: I will be grading active participation throughout the semester. Attendance will go a long way toward this portion of the grade, but it will be far from sufficient for garnering full credit. I will expect to see students taking notes, listening intently, asking good questions, and making comments related to the lectures. For this reason, I will ask students to display name tags, at least until I am able to get names down. Also, expect there to be some delays at the beginning of class as I look over the class to be able to keep tabs during the class. I will take notes after each class and will give students updates throughout the semester regarding participation. That said, this does not mean that each student will be expected to speak during each class session. With so many students, this would be overwhelming and detract from the learning experience. I am not looking for forced comments. I will be looking for a natural flow of questions and comments that should emerge as you engage with the material.

Outline: The course will be divided into four units as shown below:

Unit 1: The Market and Consumer Choice	
8/26	Introduction, Chapter 1: The Market
8/28	Chapter 2: The Budget Constraint
9/4	Chapter 3: Preferences
9/9	Chapter 4: Utility
9/11	Chapter 5: Choice
9/16	Catch Up and Review
9/18	Exam I
Unit 2: Demand and Equilibrium	
9/23	Chapter 6: Demand
9/25	Chapter 7: Revealed Preferences
9/30	Chapter 8: Slutsky Equation

10/2	Chapter 14: Consumer Surplus
10/7	Chapter 15: Market Demand
10/9	Chapter 16: Equilibrium
10/14	Catch up and Review
10/16	Exam II
Unit 3: Technology, Production, and Profit Maximization	
10/21	Chapter 19: Technology
10/23	Chapter 20: Profit Maximization
10/28	Chapter 21: Cost Minimization
10/30	Chapter 22: Cost Curves
11/4	Chapter 23: Firm Supply
11/6	Catch up and Review
11/11	Exam III
Unit 4: Market Structure	
11/13	Chapter 24: Industry Supply
11/18	Chapter 25: Monopoly
11/20	Chapter 26: Monopoly Behavior
11/25	Chapter 28: Oligopoly
11/27	Chapter 29: Game Theory- Catch up and Review
12/2	Exam IV
12/4	Review
Wednesday, December 11, 4:00-6:45 PM	Final Exam

Student Conduct: It should go without saying that everyone should treat each other respectfully. However, given recent laws introduced in the state of Texas, it is necessary for me to emphasize that you be careful in how you address others in my presence if you feel that you are clearly joking. This can place me and other in a difficult situation *Anything that can be perceived as sexual assault, harassment, or anything similar I will report to the authorities. [Texas Senate Bill 212](#) requires me to report anything suspicious. It is not up to me to determine whether or not the*

activity is consensual or not. My failure to report would likely lead to my termination. Please be considerate and try and avoid comments that could be misconstrued as offensive or threatening.

COVID-19 Precautions: Please follow the latest protocol with regard to Covid 19 and the appropriate quarantine recommendations. I will provide accommodations and participation credit as necessary if notified in a timely manner. As has been the case for the past few years, some aspects of the delivery of this course content may change based on latest circumstances.

Communication: During the semester it will be important for me to inform you of announcements or important changes to the course. Given the nature of this course, you should regularly check your email. If you do not use your UTEP account, you should have it forwarded to the account that you do use on a regular basis. Please properly include ECON 3303 in the subject line if you want me to read and/or respond to your message.

Note: Incompletes will not be given for poor performance in this class. Also, note that it is the student's responsibility to ensure proper registration for the course. Failure to do so will result in no grade.

Getting Help: Please feel free to connect with me during my office hours to ask questions or discuss the course material in more detail. If you are unable to come during these times or you really feel like you need to visit me, send me an email, give me a call, or just stop by. ***If you are struggling, please do not wait until it is too late to get help!!!!*** Also, if at any time you have a suggestion as to how the class could be improved, please feel free to discuss this with me. Such feedback would be appreciated by me and possibly other members of the class.

That said, I will not attend to any emails, visits, or phone calls begging for grade changes. Nothing short of legitimate appeals with regard to grading will be honored. I will give a maximum of one week to contest the results of an exam after which the grade will stand.

Academic Integrity: The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all faculty insist on adherence to these standards. Violators will be reported to the dean of students.

Students with disabilities: If you are or think you might be a person with a documented learning disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please register with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services in Room 106 of the East Union Building.