



ECON 2304: Principles of Microeconomics
Course Syllabus
Rhet Smith
Fall 2024
CRN: 15472; Section 007








Class time and Location: TR, 3:00-4:20 PM, BUSN 331
Email: rasmith4@utep.edu
Office: BUSN 220, Zoom
Office Hours: MW, 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM; by appointment

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

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.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Student Learning Objective	UTEP Edge Advantages
1. Calculate opportunity costs and demonstrate how trade-offs impact economic agents' decision-making.	 Problem-Solving
2. Use the supply and demand model to predict the responses of markets to real-world events.	 Critical Thinking
3. Calculate and interpret the meaning of an elasticity coefficient as it pertains to changes in prices and income.	 Problem-Solving
4. Use marginal analysis to determine optimal choices for individuals, firms, and governments.	 Critical Thinking
5. Compare and contrast how different degrees of competition in a market affect pricing and output decisions.	 Entrepreneurship
6. Describe sources of market failures and explain how governments can intervene in the economy to address them.	 Social Responsibility
7. Apply economic principles to questions and ideas that traditionally are not viewed as economic issues.	 Confidence

Prerequisites:

Prerequisite: MATH 1320, MATH 1409 or MATH 1508 with a grade of “C” or better

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.

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.

Grading Policy:

- Your grade will be determined as follows:

-Two Midterm Exams	30%
-Cumulative Final Exam	20%
-Quizzes	35%
-Email Signature/ Attendance & Participation	15%
- Grading Scale:

▪ A = 90-100%	▪ D = 60-69.99%
▪ B = 80-89.99%	▪ F = Below 60%
▪ C = 70-79.99%	

However, I reserve the right to adjust the grading scale.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be assigned, completed, and graded via Blackboard. Each quiz will accompany the chapter or lesson covered in class and will vary by length and difficulty depending on the topic. All quizzes assigned will be due by 11:59 PM (MT) on the Sunday following chapter completion. I suggest not waiting to complete quizzes as they will directly coincide with the lectures and will only become more difficult as the work accumulates. You will have two attempts. I will drop your two lowest quiz grades. Late assignments will receive zero credit.

Attendance and Participation:

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.

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).

The email signature must be completed during the first week of the semester and requires students send me an email (rasmith4@utep.edu) with an email signature. While the internet provides plenty of examples of what your signature should include, at the least it should include your full name, contact information, and area of study/ expected graduation date. This is an easy way to advertise yourself to colleagues and potential employers and an easy way to earn points in the course.

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

Exams:

There will be two midterm exams prior to the withdrawal. The final exam is “comprehensive”. Exam dates are non-negotiable and no make-up exams will be given.

Academic Honesty Policy

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.

Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is prohibited in this course. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Students with Disabilities and other Course Resources

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) aspires to provide students with disabilities, accommodations, and support services to help them pursue their academic, graduation, and career goals. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the center to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Contact: Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Phone: (915) 747-5148. Location: Union Building East Room 106. E-mail: cass@utep.edu

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.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [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.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Syllabus Modifications Statement

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

If circumstances arise that prevent us from meeting at our regularly scheduled time and location, I will send an announcement out electronically with information and alternative instructions.

Week	Dates	Topics	Chapters	Comments
1	8/26	Syllabus; Introduction to Economics;	1, Appendix, 2	
2	9/2	Choice in a world of scarcity;	2	
3	9/9	Demand and Supply, Economic Efficiency	3	
4	9/16	Demand and Supply; Labor and Financial markets	3,4	
5	9/23	Midterm discussion; Elasticity	5	Midterm I
6	9/30	Elasticity; Consumer Choices	5,6	
7	10/7	Consumer Choice; Production, Costs, and Industry Structure	6,7	
8	10/14	Production, Costs, and Industry Structure	7	Midterm II
9	10/21	Midterm Discussion; Perfect Competition	8	
10	10/28	Perfect Competition; Monopoly	8,9	Withdrawal Date 11/1
11	11/4	Monopoly;	9	
12	11/11	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	10	
13	11/18	Negative Externalities	12	
14	11/25	Negative Externalities	12	Thanksgiving
15	12/2	Positive Externalities and Public goods	13	Last Class 12/5
16	12/12	FINAL EXAM All Chapters		4:00-6:45PM