

PRICE THEORY (INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS)

ECON 3301-003 (2481)

MWF 9am-9:50 am, Umphrey Lee Center 0243

Spring 2018

Instructor:

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Umphrey Lee 301E

Office hours: Monday 1-2pm, Tuesday 4-5pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an intermediate course in microeconomics. The main goal of the course is to build the ability to think about questions like an economist. In doing this, we will learn

- how consumers make economic choices
- how firms make pricing and output decisions
- the interaction of consumers and firms in markets
- market structures and some market failures

The course is designed to provide a strong foundation in the tools that underlie economic analysis, including tools used in many upper-level courses you will take. We will analyze economic situations using graphs, mathematics, and intuitive approaches. The material can be difficult and time-consuming, and a good way to succeed is to *PRACTICE*.

COURSE GOALS

Students will be able to

- Discuss and explain economic concepts using graphical and mathematical representations
- Solve consumer theory problems and understand how they apply to real-world scenarios
- Apply producer theory to explain firm behavior
- Use analytical tools to predict pricing and production outcomes under different market structures
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of specific disciplinary or professional subject matter(s) by applying research outcomes or theory about how individuals, institutions, and/or cultures shape economic, political and social experiences.
- Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze complex mathematical problems that arise in a particular discipline or area
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of and apply theories of microeconomics

PREREQUISITES

ECO 1311, ECO 1312 and MATH 1309 or 1337. **We will be using calculus extensively.**

COURSE WEB PAGE

The course webpage can be accessed through Canvas. Please check it regularly. Grades, announcements, and other course related material will be posted there.

TEXTS AND SOFTWARE

- MyEconLab Access code
- (Suggested, but not required) Perloff, Jeffrey M. *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus*, 4 ed. Pearson 2017.

MYECONLAB

MyEconLab is an online resource with hundreds of practice problems. Since seeing and solving different types of problems is essential, it will be very helpful in learning the concepts of the course. It can be purchased with the textbook or purchased separately. Part of your course grade is based on assignments that will be completed on MyEconLab. **You must purchase an access code, which you can do online.** You can access the MyEconLab course and assignments at <http://www.myeconlab.com> and then use the CourseID: pattison25463.

COURSE GRADE

The following weights are the basis for your final grade, but the grade can also be affected by attendance and in-class participation.

Assignments	20%
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Final Exam	30%
Bonus: Core Exam	2%

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

There will be (approximately) weekly homework assignments through MyEconLab. You will get three chances at each problem, so if you get it wrong the first or second time, you will have another chance. These assignments will count for 10% of your grade.

There will also be roughly 8 written homework assignments that will be due (mostly) on Fridays in class. The lowest written assignment grade will also be dropped. These written assignments will count 10% of your grade and will be graded on a 5-point scale (0,25,50,75,100). You are allowed (and encouraged) to work on these assignments in groups, but each individual must submit their own handwritten assignment.

EXAMS

There will be two non-cumulative midterms, each worth 25% of your final grade. There is also a final exam, worth 30%, which is cumulative but will be focus more heavily on the most recent material.

LATE SUBMISSIONS/MAKE-UP EXAMS

Late submissions of homework assignments will not be accepted. Schedule conflicts regarding midterms or the final exam should be reported to me immediately. There will be no make-up exams unless the circumstances are

truly exceptional and can be substantiated (for example, a note signed by your doctor indicating that the student is medically incapable at the time of the exam). If advanced notice is possible and not given, I will refuse the request.

ATTENDANCE AND EXPECTATIONS

Attending class is and taking notes is essential. We will cover material and examples in class that is not available in the text. I will sometimes take attendance and attendance will impact your final grade.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR UNIVERSITY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)

CAVEAT

This syllabus is subject to change; students who miss class are responsible for learning about any changes to the syllabus.

HONOR CODE

All work undertaken in this course is governed by the University's honor code - <https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentLife/StudentHandbook/HonorCode>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic
	Logistics, intro, math review, supply and demand (Ch. 1-2)
	Supply and demand (Ch. 2)
	Consumer preferences, utility functions, indifference curves (Ch. 3)
	Demand curves, comparative statics of demand, income and substitution effects, exam review (Ch. 4)
Feb. 21	Midterm 1
	Producer theory, production functions, and cost curves (Ch.6-7)
	Profit maximization, supply curves (Ch. 8)
	Competition and analysis of competitive markets (Ch. 8-9)
	Analysis of competitive markets and monopoly, exam review (Ch. 9,11)
Mar. 28	Midterm 2
	Price discrimination (Ch.12)
	Game theory (Ch. 13, Ch.14)
Apr. 20	3301 Core Exam
	Externalities and public goods (Ch. 17)
	Asymmetric Information (Ch. 18)
May 11	Final Exam, 8am-11am