



Econ 4010 - 001: Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis

Fall 2019

Tu and Th, 10:45-12:05, BUC 106

Instructor: Thomas Maloney
Email: maloney@economics.utah.edu
Phone Number: 801-581-7704
Office Hours: Monday 9-10:30, Tuesday 12:30-2:00
Office Location: Gardner Commons 4435

Course Description

[From the course catalog:] Neoclassical principles of resource allocation. Topics include choice theory, theory of the firm, introduction to general equilibrium and welfare economics, theory of market structures, policy application and formal techniques.

Prerequisites: Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (Econ 2010 and 2020), and Mathematics for Economists (Econ 3620), or equivalent.

Fulfills QI requirement and is a core requirement for the Econ major. 3 credit hours.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Develop models of supply and demand behavior arising out of concepts of technology, production cost, utility and budget constraints,
- Identify and interpret market equilibria and analyse changes in equilibria arising from shifts in underlying parameters (like technological change) or tax, trade, or other policy interventions,
- Distinguish between and discuss the implications of different kinds of market structure (perfect competition, imperfect competition, monopoly),
- Understand the operation of factor markets, especially labor markets, and connect these processes to the operation of output markets, and
- Identify instances of market failure, especially those arising from information problems and externalities, and consider potential policy remedies of these failures.

Required Materials

Our textbook is Nicholson and Snyder, *Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application* (12th Edition). I have ordered only the electronic, “inclusive access” version of the book. The cost of the book will be incorporated into your tuition and fees – you do not need to purchase anything at the bookstore. (In particular, note that Cengage materials will include numerous advertisements for a service called “Cengage Unlimited.” You do not need to purchase “Cengage Unlimited” in order to have access to all the materials you need for this class.) You should receive an e-mail from Cengage (the publisher) regarding how to access the book. The necessary links are in the course Canvas site, and I will integrate the book materials into Canvas as much as possible.

University Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162

Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

2. **University Safety Statement.** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.
3. **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Course Policies:

Attendance and Punctuality: We're a large group meeting in a small room. We'll need to be considerate of each other in order to get the most out of our class time. This means you should arrive on time, and you should plan to remain until the end of class. You should not text or otherwise use your phone during class, and you should use your laptop (if you bring one) only for class purposes.

Submitting Work on Time: Due dates and exam dates are given below. These due dates and exam dates will not change unless there's some really extraordinary disruption to our schedule. Plan on meeting them. In particular, please make note of the final exam date and arrange your holiday travel plans accordingly. Late work will incur a severe penalty, and make-up exams will not be given except in the event of medical or similar emergency (and only if documentation of the emergency is provided).

Assignments and Grading:

Practice Homework: 15 Total Points

Several times during the term, I will assign a few questions from the book's online homework. These will be assigned on Thursday, with answers due to be submitted online by the end of the following Sunday. I will then review the submitted answers before class on Tuesday, and we will spend time in class working through any typical mistakes or misunderstandings. These submissions will be graded Credit/No Credit – you get credit for complete and apparently serious answers, even if they're wrong. The purpose is to get you to think about and work with the material in an ongoing way, and to help us catch common areas of confusion before moving on.

There will be 7 assignments of this type – see due dates below. They are worth 3 points each. You can earn credit for as many as 5 assignments for a total of 15 points.

Problem Sets: 30 total points

Before each of our three exams, we will do a problem set to help you get ready for the exam. Some problems will come from the book, but some might not. These will be handed out on Thursdays before exams, to be turned in on the following Tuesday. See dates below. 10 points each.

Exams: 50 total points

We will have 3 total exams – two mid-terms and a final. The mid-terms are each worth 15 percent of the final grade, and the final exam is worth 20 percent. See dates below.

Policy/Analysis Exercise: 10 total points

Each student will identify one policy or business or other issue in the news that illustrates some of the microeconomic concepts we are investigating this term. You will

- Develop a simple microeconomic model of the issue in question,
- Determine whether the press account you have found applies these concepts sensibly (does the article arrive at the kind of conclusion that we'd come to from standard neoclassical microeconomic models?),
- Identify any additional, important concerns or principles that you think should be incorporated into the analysis (going beyond what we usually include in economic models), and
- Make a simple policy recommendation based on your work.

Policy questions currently in the news that might be good candidates for this assignment include subsidies for alternative energy sources; the provision of “universal basic income;” the level of legal immigration to the US, or the “selection criteria” in immigration policy; the provision of a “free college education;” and student debt forgiveness. (There are surely many other possibilities.)

This assignment will involve both a “proposal” (worth 3 points), and a final report (worth 7 points), for 10 points total. See due dates below. (More detailed instructions will be provided later in the term.)

Due Dates:

Practice Homework:

- Practice 1: Assigned Thursday 8/22, due online SUNDAY, 8/26
- Practice 2: Assigned Thursday 8/29, due online SUNDAY 9/1
- Practice 3: Assigned Thursday 9/5, due online SUNDAY 9/8
- Practice 4: Assigned Thursday 10/3, due online SUNDAY 10/6
- Practice 5: Assigned Thursday 10/17, due online SUNDAY 10/20
- Practice 6: Assigned Thursday 11/14, due online SUNDAY 11/17
- Practice 7: Assigned Thursday 11/21, due online SUNDAY 11/24

Problem Sets:

- PS1: Assigned Thursday 9/12, due Tuesday 9/17
- PS 2: Assigned Thursday 10/24, due Tuesday 10/29
- PS 3: Assigned Tuesday 11/26, due Tuesday 12/3

Exams:

- Mid-Term 1: Tuesday 9/24
- Mid-Term 2: Tuesday 11/5
- Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:30-12:30

Policy/Analysis Project:

Proposal due Tuesday, 11/12
Final project due Thursday 12/5

Other Important Dates:

Fall Break (class does not meet): Tuesday 10/8, Thursday 10/10
Thanksgiving (class does not meet): Thursday 11/28
Last day of regular class (excluding final exam): Thursday, 12/5

Grade Scale:

Grade	Percentage Score
A	92 and above
A-	90 to < 92
B+	88 to < 90
B	82 to < 88
B-	80 to < 82
C+	75 to < 80
C	70 to < 75
C-	65 to < 70
D+	63 to < 65
D	57 to < 63
D-	55 to < 57
E	< 55

Topic Schedule

I plan to cover the following chapters from Nicholson and Snyder. I expect we will take about a week for each chapter, and I've listed tentative dates for each chapter here, but shifts in pace are possible (again, though, exam dates and assignment due dates will not change). I will post frequent schedule updates on Canvas and will also note our progress in class.

Demand:

8/22: Chapter 2 – Utility and Choice
8/27: Chapter 2 Continued
8/29: Chapter 3 - Demand Curves
9/3: Chapter 3 Continued

Production, Costs and Supply

9/5: Chapter 6 - Production
9/10: Chapter 6 Continued
9/12: Chapter 7 - Costs
9/17: Chapter 7 Continued
9/19: Review for first mid-term
9/24: First mid-term
9/26: Chapter 8 – Profit Maximization and Supply
10/1: Chapter Continued

Perfect Competition

- 10/3: Chapter 9 – Perfect Competition in a Single Market
- 10/8: *FALL BREAK, NO CLASS*
- 10/10: *FALL BREAK, NO CLASS*
- 10/15: Chapter 9 Continued
- 10/17: Chapter 10 – General Equilibrium and Welfare
- 10/22: Chapter 10 Continued

Market Power

- 10/24: Chapter 11 - Monopoly
- 10/29: Chapter 11 Continued
- 10/31: Review second mid-term
- 11/5: Second mid-term
- 11/7: Chapter 12 – Imperfect Competition
- 11/12: Chapter 12 Continued

Input Markets

- 11/14: Chapter 13: Pricing in Input Markets
- 11/19: Chapter 13 Continued

Market Failure

- 11/21: Chapter 15: Asymmetric Information
- 11/26: Chapter 15 Continued
- 11/28: *THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS*
- 12/3: Chapter 16: Externalities and Public Goods
- 12/5: Finish Chapter 16, Review for Exam

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, 12/11, 10:30-12:30

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under “Announcements.”

Emergency Evacuation:

Should there be a need to evacuate the building during class, we will assemble at Assembly Point A5 (in the center of the map below) and await further information there.



BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call **801-585-2677**. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

