

# ECO 3101: Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus

**Instructor:** Shubhi Agarwal

**Email:** shubhi.agarwal@ufl.edu

**Office Location:** Matherly Hall 339

**Phone:** 352-392-0158

**Class Meeting Times:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 5-6 period (11:45 AM - 1:40 PM)

**Room:** MAT 18

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM on Zoom using my Personal Meeting ID: 685-692-7281 or by appointment

**Academic Year:** Spring 2023

**TA:** Manoela Costa (manoelacosta@ufl.edu)

## Course Description and Objectives

This course covers all the essential topics typically required at the intermediate level, from consumer and producer theory to the market structures of perfect competition, monopoly, and oligopoly. The study of these topics is intended to give students a deeper understanding of microeconomic theory and economic analysis. The aim of the course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the core concepts and methods of microeconomics through numerical examples as well as frequent exercises. This course will help you develop the analytical tools and economic intuition needed to understand and solve the variety of economic problems we will encounter in this course.

## Prerequisites

Principles in Microeconomics (ECO 2023 or equivalent) and Survey of Calculus I (MAC 2233 or equivalent). The course will devote considerable time to solving problems. An understanding of calculus is important for your success in this course.

**Textbook:** The required textbook for this course is: “Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach”, 9th ed., by Hal R. Varian (ISBN: 978-0-393-12396-8).

Another recommended textbook for this course is: “Microeconomics” by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld (Pearson, 2013, Eighth Edition).

## Course Delivery

This course will be held face-to-face. All students are expected to attend class in person. Lectures will not be streamed or recorded. Masks are expected in all economics classes.

## Course Communications

Announcements concerning the class will typically be made in Canvas and by email. You are responsible for all information made available through both of these avenues of communication. It is assumed that you are regularly monitoring your UF email account (i.e., checking it daily).

E-mail relating to information about the class should be sent to the instructor at [shubhi.agarwal@ufl.edu](mailto:shubhi.agarwal@ufl.edu) or through the course management system. Your message will be answered within one working day, in most cases. However, please refer to this syllabus and the course website.

There are two important policies regarding email that you should keep in mind:

- 1) Check your UF email account at least once per day. I will send important class announcements and information to your UF email address.
- 2) All emails that you send must follow basic rules for professional correspondence. If you are unsure what constitutes a professional email, please do not hesitate to ask me. You must develop this skill before applying for internships, career positions, or graduate school.

## Course Resources and Hints for Success

This course has a website on Canvas ([elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu)). Assignments and grades will be posted here. If you have trouble logging in, please let me know.

The assignments and practice questions are the greatest resource you have. These problem sets provide an almost-comprehensive review of the relevant course material and solution techniques. These practice questions offer insight into the difficulty level of the actual exams, but they do not necessarily cover the same material. Lecture slides will be posted online. Superficial cramming will not lead to success; keeping up with the material is essential. After each lecture, review your notes, and test whether you understand a particular concept.

You are encouraged to attend office hours. Attempt practice question sets before you bring questions to office hours; the problem sets are substantially less beneficial if you do not attempt them on your own.

## Exams

There will be 3 exams which together account for 90% of your final grade. If you cannot attend one of the exams or quiz, or if you need special accommodation, please let me know as early as possible. Your exams will be closed book administered in class during class time. The date and time of each exam and quiz are listed below.

Exam	Date	Time
Exam 1	Monday, February 20	11:45am
Exam 2	Wednesday, March 29	11:45am
Exam 3	Wednesday, April 26	11:45am

Exams are non-cumulative but may implicitly use concepts covered on previous exams. You may not consult with others or use notes of any kind during any exams. Non-programmable, four-function and scientific calculators are allowed. Graphing calculators (such as the TI-83) are definitely not allowed. Please ask, if you are unsure whether your calculator is allowed or not.

**Exam Make-up Policy:** There are few valid reasons to miss an exam in this class. Exam dates and times are announced far enough in advance for students to clear up conflicts without my involvement. When academic or religious conflicts exist or emergencies arise, make-up exams will be provided. Make-up exams are only provided with documentation of an absence that is explicitly excused by the UF Attendance Policy.

In the case of known conflicts and all non-emergency illnesses/issues, requests for makeup exams must be made five business days before the regularly scheduled test date. Make-up requests may be sent to my email address, shubhi.agarwal@ufl.edu.

Emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Any unexcused absence from an exam (e.g., because you thought you were supposed to take an online exam) will result in a zero for that exam.

## Assignments

There will also be 10 assignments during the semester which account for 10 % of your final grade. Late problem sets are not accepted.

The assignments will be based on the lectures (based on text book chapters) covered in class which will be posted at the end of class period and will be due in a week time at the beginning of class time. I will be posting assignments as a PDF and the students should submit their work as PDF files directly into Canvas. Students can collaborate on these assignments but cannot copy each other's work and need to submit their own work. Your answers must be legibly written or typed and graphs drawn neatly.

## Grading

I do not offer incomplete grades, substitute work, or grade changes. Your grade is split across the following:

Assignments	10%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Exam 3	30%
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Total	100%

Grading scheme will be according to the following:

Percent	Grade
92-100	A
90-91.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
83-86.99	B
80-82.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
73-76.99	C
70-72.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
60-66.99	D
0-59.99	E

Grades will be changed only when an error has been made; negotiation is not appropriate. Grades will be posted on the e-Learning course page at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. The current UF grading policies for assigning grade points is available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

If you are concerned about your ability to obtain a certain grade that you aim for, you should contact the instructor as early as possible during the semester. (Not at the end of the semester.)

## Course Policies

### Safety Precautions

**Please be aware of UF’s Covid-19 policy:** In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit [one.ufl.edu](http://one.ufl.edu) for screening/testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

### Recording

**Please be aware of UF’s Recording policy:** *Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.*

*A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and*

*delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture **does not** include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.*

*Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.*

## **Attendance Policy and Behavior**

Irregular attendance or inattentiveness will most likely result in a substantial reduction in course performance. While I will not be taking attendance, it is necessary (but not sufficient) to attend class (on time), participate, and take good notes if you wish to earn a high grade. If you miss a lecture, please get the lecture notes from one of your classmates and come to my office hours if you want to go over what you missed. Also note that if you miss an assignment due to an unexcused absence, you will not receive credit for completing it. For an absence to be excused, you must notify me of the absence with a valid reason ahead of time. As for an electronic device policy, I allow the use of laptops and other devices as long as it does not distract the class. For this reason, I ask those using a laptop to sit in the furthest row in order to minimize distractions.

## **Excused Absence**

Absences are considered excused only after you have provided documentation of a conflict that is explicitly covered in the UF Attendance Policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). If you are unable to provide documentation, you may be able to have your absence excused by the Dean of Students Office in extenuating circumstances. All other absences are considered unexcused. Any unexcused absence from an exam, quiz, or other graded assignment will result in a zero.

## **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via (<https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>).

## **Privacy Policies**

Student records are confidential. Only information designated “UF directory information” may be released without your written consent. UF views each student as the primary contact for all communication. If your parents contact me about your grade, attendance or other information that is not “UF directory information”, they will be directed to contact you. More information can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/student-ferpa-rights.aspx>

## **Instructor’s Honor Code**

We the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

## **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor. The complete UF Student Honor Code is available at: (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>)

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students who require special accommodations in class or during exams should first register with the Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## **Student Athletes**

Student athletes are responsible for reporting any days they are unable to attend class due to conflicts with their athletic schedule by the second week of class. If this is not possible (tournaments, other unforeseen athletic schedule changes) please notify me as soon as possible so I have time to make appropriate accommodations.

## Tentative Course Schedule

#	Date	Topic
1	M, Jan 9	Syllabus & Introduction Review of Important Mathematical Concepts
2	W, Jan 11	Preferences Varian, Chapter 3
-	M, Jan 16	<b>No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
3	W, Jan 18	Utility Varian, Chapter 4 <b>Extra Credit Assignment Due</b>
4	M, Jan 23	Taxes, Subsidies & Budget Constraints Varian, Chapter 2
5	W, Jan 25	Choice Varian, Chapter 5 <b>Problem Set 1 Due</b>
6	M, Jan 30	Choice Continued Varian, Chapters 5
7	W, Feb 1	Demand Varian, Chapter 6
8	M, Feb 6	Revealed Preference Varian, Chapter 7 <b>Problem Set 2 Due</b>
9	W, Feb 8	Slutsky Equation: Income and Substitution Effects Varian, Chapter 8
10	M, Feb 13	Slutsky Equation: Income and Substitution Effects Varian, Chapter 8
11	W, Feb 15	<b>Exam 1 Review</b> <b>Problem Set 3 Due</b>
12	M, Feb 20	<b>Exam 1</b>
13	W, Feb 22	Buying and Selling Varian, Chapter 9
14	M, Feb 27	Choice under Uncertainty Varian, Chapter 12

#	Date	Topic
15	W, Mar 1	Market Demand & Equilibrium Varian, Chapters 15 & 16 <b>Problem Set 4 Due</b>
16	M, Mar 6	Technology Varian, Chapter 19
17	W, Mar 8	Profit Maximization Varian, Chapter 20 <b>Problem Set 5 Due</b>
-	M, Mar 13	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>
-	W, Mar 15	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>
18	M, Mar 20	Cost Minimization Varian, Chapter 21 <b>Problem Set 6 Due</b>
19	W, Mar 22	Cost Curves Varian, Chapter 22
20	M, Mar 27	<b>Exam 2 review</b> <b>Problem Set 7 Due</b>
21	W, Mar 29	<b>Exam 2</b>
22	M, Apr 3	Firm Supply and Industry Supply Varian, Chapters 23 & 24
23	W, Apr 5	Monopoly Varian, Chapter 25
24	M, Apr 10	Pricing with Market Power Varian, Chapter 26 <b>Problem Set 8 Due</b>
25	W, Apr 12	Oligopoly Varian, Chapter 28
26	M, Apr 17	Oligopoly continued Varian, Chapter 28 <b>Problem Set 9 Due</b>
27	W, Apr 19	General Equilibrium Analysis Varian, Chapter 32



#	Date	Topic
28	M, Apr 24	<b>Exam 3 review</b> <b>Problem Set 10 Due</b>

29 W, Apr 26 **Exam 3**

The syllabus is subject to change. You will be notified if there is a change.