

Intermediate Microeconomics (ECO 3101)

Syllabus

Joe Whitman

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Classroom: 103 Matherly Hall

Meeting Times: T&R 1:55pm - 3:50pm

Course Description and Objectives

Starting with standard assumptions about consumer preferences, we will develop the foundations for how economists model consumer behavior, demand for products, and more. The study of these topics is intended to give students a deeper understanding of microeconomic theory and economic analysis. Frequent homework assignments (graded) and exercises (ungraded) 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.

Course Information and Policies

- *Website*: This course has a website on Canvas (elearning.ufl.edu). Assignments and grades will be posted here. If you have trouble logging in, please let me know.
- *Office Hours*: I am available in my office (331 Matherly Hall) by appointment and every Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. You can email me at jwhitman89@ufl.edu to ask questions or schedule an appointment.
- *Required Textbooks*:
 - “*Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*”, 9th ed., by Hal R. Varian (ISBN: 978-0-393-12396-8)
 - “*Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*”, 9th ed., by Theodore C. Bergstrom and Hal R. Varian (ISBN: 978-0-393-92261-5)
 - There is also a bundled version (ISBN: 978-0-393-26008-3) which may be cheaper than buying each separately.
- *Prerequisites*: Principles of Microeconomics (ECO 2023 or equivalent) and Calculus I (MAC 2311 or equivalent).
- *Attendance* is **required** but not graded. You are responsible for any material you may have missed during lectures and I do not distribute lecture notes. Please show up for class on time as late arrivals are very disruptive.
- *Communication*: Other than lecture and office hours, I will communicate with you through your university email and the Canvas website. I will send important class announcements via email, so please check your email regularly.
- *Late work* of any kind will not be accepted.
- *Cellphones* and other electronic devices (including laptops and tablets) may not be used during class, and should be turned off or silenced to avoid disrupting other students.

Assignments

Your grade is split across the following assignments:

- Problem Sets (10%)
- Midterm Exam 1 (30%)
- Midterm Exam 2 (30%)
- Midterm Exam 3 (30%)

Problem Sets

Note the due dates listed in the course schedule below. Due dates will also be shown on Canvas. **Late problem sets are not accepted.** You may study the problem sets with your classmates (I encourage you to study in groups!) but every student must turn in their own work. Simply copying a classmate's work is not allowed. Your answers must be legibly written or typed and graphs drawn neatly. **All problem sets are due digitally via Canvas.** Instructions for how to submit an assignment via Canvas can be found at the following URL: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10663-421254353>.

Although you can complete your work without handwriting anything, I don't recommend it. Drawing your graphs by hand is good practice and much less hassle than generating a graph in Canvas, for example. I strongly suggest you handwrite your work, then scan it to a PDF which you may upload to Canvas. You can do this using the scanners at a library, a home scanner, or even with your phone.¹

Exercises

These are optional extra problems that you can use for practice. A list of suggested exercises will be posted on Canvas. These exercises are found in the workbook. I recommend doing the even numbered problems because the answers are at the back of the workbook. NOTE: These are not turned in or graded.

Exams

All exams are given in class and closed book. Midterms 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. **Only simple (four-function) calculators are allowed.** This means a calculator that doesn't do much more complicated than divide, multiply, add and subtract. Graphing calculators (such as the TI-83) are definitely **not** allowed. If you are unsure if your calculator is allowed, please ask. I do not bring extra materials to exams (such as calculators or pencils) so be sure to bring your own. Makeup exams are only given in extreme cases (ex. medical emergency). Makeup exams are scheduled at my discretion unless the student is hospitalized or has an otherwise excused absence on the makeup exam date. If you have an excused absence on an exam day, let me know well in advance so I can make accommodations.

Grading Policy and Scale

I do not offer incomplete grades, substitute work, or grade changes. Extra credit is only offered under special circumstances and at my discretion. If extra credit is offered, it will be offered to the entire class. Individual students will not receive extra credit assignments. The grading scale is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • (A) 92-100 | • (C+) 77-79.99 |
| • (A-) 90-91.99 | • (C) 73-76.99 |
| • (B+) 87-89.99 | • (C-) 70-72.99 |
| • (B) 83-86.99 | • (D) 60-69.99 |
| • (B-) 80-82.99 | • (E) 0-59.99 |

These letter grades correspond to your GPA according to UF's grading point guidelines.²

¹Android and Google Drive users will most likely find this method easiest: <https://support.google.com/drive/answer/3145835?co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid&hl=en>.

Apple iPhone users can use the built-in Notes app: <https://www.theverge.com/2017/9/26/16362386/apple-ios-11-notes-document-scanner-how-to-use>.

Users of virtually any smartphone can use Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/help/mobile/document-scanning>

²catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Etiquette and Professional Conduct

As university students, you are expected to observe common classroom etiquette and conduct yourself in a professional manner. **Any behavior that disrupts the learning of other students is unacceptable.** The following guidelines are given to help students who are still adjusting to a university environment or are otherwise unsure about classroom etiquette.

- Arrive on time and remain in class for the duration of the lecture. If you must leave, do so as quietly as possible so you minimize the disruption to other students.
- Bring necessary materials to class, such as a notebook and a writing instrument. Supplies will not be provided to you.
- Avoid side conversations with your classmates during lecture. This is very distracting to other students and to your instructor.
- All communication should be polite and courteous.

Online Course Evaluation

Students in this course can provide feedback on the quality of my instruction by completing evaluations online at: evaluations.ufl.edu. These evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but I will remind you of the specific times when they are open. These evaluations help me become a better instructor so I strongly encourage you to complete them.

Academic Honesty

The following is a statement from UF regarding 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 Code³ 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 or TAs in this class.”

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center⁴ 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.

³dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

⁴Phone: (352)-392-8565, Web: dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Student Wellness

Life does not stop for coursework. If you have a serious physical or mental health issue come up at any point, I strongly encourage you to seek help. Here are some resources that may help you:

The Counseling and Wellness Center

URL:counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx

Phone:(352)-392-1575

The University Police Department

(352)-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Student Healthcare Center

URL:shcc.ufl.edu/contact/

Schedule (Subject to Change)

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Aug 21st	23rd Syllabus and Introduction
28th Preferences — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 3	30th Extra Credit Assignment Due Utility — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 4
Sep 4th Taxes, Subsidies, and Budget Constraints — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 2	6th Problem Set 1 Due Choice — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 5
11th Demand — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 6	13th Problem Set 2 Due Revealed Preference — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 7
18th Slutsky Equation — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 8	20th Problem Set 3 Due Midterm Exam 1 Review
25th Midterm Exam 1	27th Buying & Selling — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 9
Oct 2nd Uncertainty — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 12	4th Problem Set 4 Due Market Demand — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 15
9th Equilibrium — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 16	11th Problem Set 5 Due Technology — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 19
16th Profit Maximization — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 20	18th Problem Set 6 Due Cost Minimization — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 21
23rd Cost Curves — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 22	25th Problem Set 7 Due Midterm Exam 2 Review
30th Midterm Exam 2	Nov 1st Supply — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 23 & 24
6th Monopoly — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 25	8th Problem Set 8 Due Monopoly Behavior — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 26
13th Oligopoly — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 28	15th Problem Set 9 Due Exchange — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 32
20th Welfare — <i>Varian</i> , Chapter 34	22nd Thanksgiving Break, No class

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
27th Problem Set 10 Due TBA	29th Final Exam Review
Dec 4th Final Exam	6th No class