
PROFESSOR:	Javier D. Donna
EMAIL:	jdonna@ufl.edu
MEETING TIME:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45AM-1:40PM (Period 5-6) via Zoom
LOCATION:	100% online class
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00PM-5:00PM via Zoom (link in webpage)
COURSE WEBPAGE:	University elearning course webpage

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is an introductory class to modern government regulation. We will combine the latest theories with empirical evidence about regulation and the organization of firms and markets. We will discuss issues that arise from the market structure and business practices-such as price discrimination and strategic behavior-, the role of information and advertisement, and the government's role in antitrust policy and regulating industries.

TEXTBOOKS

- **Required:** Carlton D. and J. Perloff, *Modern Industrial Organization*, 4th Ed., HarperColins, ISBN: 9780321180230 (CP henceforth)
- **Optional:** Pepall, L., Richards, D., and Norman, G., *Industrial Organization: Contemporary Theory and Empirical Applications*, 4th Ed., Wiley-Blackwell, ISBN: 9781405176323

PREREQUISITES

- ECO 2013 (Principles of Macroeconomics) and
- ECO 2023 (Principles of Microeconomics)

COURSE STRUCTURE

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic this course is taught fully (100%) online. All lectures and exams will be online and live (synchronous) during the assigned class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45AM-1:40PM (Period 5-6). You are expected to be available during those times. **Do not enroll in this class if you are not available during those times.** All times listed on this syllabus and announced in class are according to **Eastern Standard Time** (i.e., Gainesville time). If you are not located in the Eastern Standard Time zone, you should adjust times for all synchronous activities and due dates accordingly.

LECTURES

All lectures will be online and live (synchronous) via Zoom, and will not be recorded. Thus, it will not be possible to access the lectures at a later time. You are expected to attend the lectures during the class meeting times, to take notes, and to actively participate. I will not take attendance. However, if you miss a lecture, you will not receive class participation for that lecture, you will need to review the assigned readings/material on your own and/or obtain class notes from a classmate to prepare for the exams. For details see below under "Class Participation and Freebies." Zoom link to the lectures is in course webpage.

COMMUNICATION

All announcements will be sent via the University of Florida (UF henceforth) email or through the course web page via elearning. The links to the live lectures can be accessed through the course page. I will assign supplementary readings (from magazines or newspapers such as the *Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times* etc.) . I will post the links or articles to these required assignments through the course page. We will use your University email address. Be sure your email address registered with the University is correct, your spam filters are not set too tight, and that your inbox is not full. There are three important course policies regarding email: (1) I expect that you read your email at least once per day, (2) **emails sent to me really need to have "ECO 4934: Government and Business" at the start of the subject heading**, (3) all emails that you send must follow basic rules for professional

correspondence (if you are unsure of what constitutes professionalism, feel free to ask me or simply err on the side of caution). Below are basic **Email Guidelines**. When communicating with your **instructors** online, you should:

- Treat instructor with respect in all forms of online communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you".
- Use standard fonts such as Arial or Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 font.
- Avoid using the caps lock feature, AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like ☺
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or considered offensive.

Visit the link below for details:

<http://biostat.ufl.edu/resources/e-learning-resources/e-learning-basics/etiquette-online/>

EXCUSED ABSENCES

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

If you are unable to provide such 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 including connectivity issues discussed next.** Any unexcused absence from an exam or other graded assignment will result in a zero.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING INTERNET CONNECTIVITY ISSUES

You are responsible to ensure that you have a strong and reliable internet connection to take online exams using Honorlock. **Faulty Wifi, lack of connectivity, or any other technical issues are not valid excuses. They will be considered as an unexcused absence and will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.** I cannot verify individual connectivity or technical problems and thus I cannot accommodate them. For this reason, among others, I have the freebies policy described below. You are responsible for verifying that any online assignment submission has properly been submitted through the class website. As a best practice, after submitting any assignment, close your browser, reopen the class website, and check that your assignment properly appears. Never submit an assignment through the Canvas mobile app. When taking online exams, some general best practices are:

1. Use a hardwired ethernet connection if possible.
2. If you must use WiFi, you should ensure that you have a strong and stable internet connection. As a rule of thumb, if you have trouble streaming videos, you will not be able to take an online exam.
3. If you must use WiFi, ask others in your network to refrain from using the internet during your exam if possible.
4. Public WiFi, WiFi from public spaces or shops, and hotspots are not suitable for taking online exams.

COMPUTER ACCESS

The University requires access to and on-going use of a computer. This should not be a tablet device or smartphone, but an actual desktop or laptop computer. To succeed in this course, you will also need a stable internet connection and appropriate space to take online exams using the Honorlock proctoring service. Minimum equipment specifications are available at:

<https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>

PRIVACY STATEMENT

This course requires students to be virtually present during synchronously activities (lectures and exams) with working and active webcams and microphones. Your webcam must be turned on during synchronously activities. Access to synchronously activities will be restricted by passwords to enrolled students and Teaching Assistants. If you are uncomfortable sharing a view of your home/location on the webcam, you can use a virtual background.

University Statement regarding Recorded Classes: The class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera *off* and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

If you are not willing to consent to being audio-visually recorded during class, you should contact me during the first week of class before the drop/add period has ended.

ONLINE CLASS BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to behave appropriately during synchronously activities (lectures and exams). Disruptive behavior is a violation of the Student Honor Code (Section 3D). Below are general "netiquette" guidance for the synchronously lectures/exams:

Before Zoom Class:

- **Arrival.** Arrive to the Zoom session 5 minutes early. If attendance is taken, it will be taken at the start of each class session and tardiness will be marked.
- **Dressing.** Dress appropriately for class. Even though you may be alone at home your professor and classmates can see you.
- **Quiet space.** Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room; a chair and desk/table set for school work in a quiet corner should be sufficient. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.
- **Notes.** Make sure you have space and proper material to take notes during the class.
- **Background.** Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings. Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see. You may use a virtual background if your device supports this feature. Be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.

During Zoom Class:

- **Video.** Always enable your video.
- **Audio.** Always mute yourself if your professor has not already muted you. This is to avoid noise from the background.
- **Cell phones and computer use.** It is strictly forbidden to use your cell phone, to open other computer windows, to browse or shop, or do any other activity that distracts yourself from focusing on the class.
- **Eating.** Refrain from eating during class, as you would in a face-to-face course.
- **Be respectful.** Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course. This is especially important in a remote situation, where multiple voices attempting to speak at once result in no one being heard.

UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses:

<http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to abide by the University's rules for academic honesty and UF's Honor Pledge. Any violation of these rules will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. The rules are available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

Examples of violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism, making false statements, and creating a false excuse not to take an exam.

HONORLOCK BEHAVIOR

You are expected to treat the online testing environment just as you would treat a classroom testing environment. Examples of violations of online testing environment include, but are not limited to, unauthorized bathroom breaks, moving testing rooms during the exam, talking to other individuals during the exam, and looking to any type of note or electronic device during the exam. Violations of these rules may expose students to liability under the Student Honor Code (Section 3D) and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

EXAM POLICY

All exams are closed-book, closed-notes, closed-everything. **Scientific calculators are not allowed** during exams. Only non-scientific calculators are allowed. The final exam is cumulative. **All Exams will be taken online and live through Honorlock proctoring service.**

GRADING

Midterm Examination I:	25% (Tuesday, Sep. 29, during class meeting times, via Honorlock)
Midterm Examination II:	25% (Thursday, Oct. 22, during class meeting times, via Honorlock)
Class Participation:	10%
Final Examination:	40% (Wednesday, Dec. 16, 12:30PM-2:30PM, via Honorlock)

MAKEUP EXAMS

Makeup exams will not be given in this class. Notify me **in advance** if you have a **documented excused absence** (see "Excused Absences" for details). In that case, the weight for the missed midterm exam will be reallocated to the final exam. Travel plans are not an emergency. It is your responsibility to plan around scheduled exam times. The date of the final examination is fixed and will not be changed. There will be no excuses. If you miss the final, you will not receive credit for the class. Do not register for this course if you will be unable to take the final at the scheduled date and time. If you missed the final exam due to a documented emergency, you will need to coordinate with me for a new date during the following semester and take a synchronous final oral examination.

GRADE DISPUTES

Grade disputes impose a significant cost in terms time and energy. The best way to avoid them is to answer questions clearly and concisely. Vague or ambiguous answers will typically lead to a low grade. For simple matters, such as asking how a question was graded or pointing out an arithmetic error in the calculation of your score, simply inform me of your question or problem. If you have a substantial concern, you may ask me for a regrade of your exam. Regrade requests will be considered if they are **submitted (a) in writing, and (b) after discussing the issues with me.** I would like to discourage you from doing a regrade. My policy is that you may ask to have your **entire exam regraded (not just one particular question)**, which could ultimately result in either a higher or lower total score. In the past, on average, regrading exams led to an overall lower score. The reason is that almost all of the appeals resulted from lack of clarity in formulating answers and re-reading these answers did not make them clearer. Concise and clear writing is your best course of action.

PROBLEM SETS

Homework assignments will be given periodically as indicated in the schedule. **Problem sets will not be graded.** Nevertheless, I urge you to solve all the exercises in the problem set. This is the best way to study for the exam and master the material.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND FREEBIES

Class participation will be graded during each live (synchronous) lecture. I will take note of each student who "participates." Participation is defined as speaking at least once about the topic in the case discussion. **Class participation is not graded based on correctness.** As it names states it, class participation is graded exclusively based on participation. It is a relatively easy form to obtain part of the grade for the class (see "Grading" for details). Full participation grade is obtained by participating in 12 (twelve) or more different lectures.

There will be four (4) "freebies" for class participation. A freebie means that a student will receive full credit (for class participation) in a given lecture without participating in that lecture; that is, the student may miss the lecture or may simply not participate and still receive full credit for that lecture. With four (4) freebies, this means that each student will receive full participation grade in four (4) different lectures in which they do not participate. Freebies cannot increase the class participation grade above the maximum 10 percent. (For example, consider three students A, B, and C. Student A participates in all lectures. Student B participates in all lectures except in 4. Student C participates in 8 lectures. Then, all three students receive the exact same class participation grade, 10%, which corresponds to the maximum grade participation.) Freebies are intended to accommodate for legitimate absence for which appropriate documentation would be difficult or impossible to secure. **You do not need to send me an email or a documented excused absence to receive the freebie, even if you cannot attend the class. All students will receive the freebies automatically at the end of the semester.** However, you should handle your freebies using sound judgement. After you exhaust the maximum of four (4) freebies, you will not receive class participation in a given lecture if you do not participate in it. There will be no excuses given the freebies leniency considered.

I hope you enjoy the course. Good luck.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF (Mental Health Statement)

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The University of Florida offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **UF Crisis & Emergency Resource Center**. Please visit the links below for details.

UF Mental Health Services:

<https://wellness.med.ufl.edu/resources/in-person-mental-health-services/>

UF Counseling & Wellness Center: 352-392-1575

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/about/location-hours-contact/>

UF Suicide Prevention Resources

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/suicide/>

SUICIDE CAN BE PREVENTED

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24-hour emergency help is also available through the Phone Numbers Below or at:

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Phone Numbers

Unless noted, these phone numbers are available 24/7.

- **UF Counseling & Wellness Center:** 352-392-1575
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**
 - English: 1-800-273-8255
 - Spanish: 1-888-628-9454
 - Deaf/hard of hearing: 1-800-799-4889
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** 1-800-273-8255
- **LGBTQ Youth Crisis Hotline (Trevor Project):** 1-866-488-7386
- **Translifeline (Available everyday, 11am-Sam):** 877-565-8860

Text & Chat

Don't want to talk? You can also get support through text and chat, available 24/7.

- **Suicide Prevention Lifeline Chat** - Available 24/7.
<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>
- **Veterans Live Chat** - Available 24/7
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ChatTermsOfService.aspx?account=Veterans%20Chat>
- **LGBTQ Youth Crisis Chat/Text (TrevorChat/TrevorText)** - Follow link for chat or text START to 678-678
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/>

DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Once registered, the DRC will provide documentation to the student. Then the student must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Please visit the DRC website for details:

<https://disability.ufl.edu>

Note that the DRC will **remain operational during the COVID-19 pandemic**. The DRC may hold Zoom and phone appointments with students.

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

The syllabus and schedule are **subject to change/revision**.