

ECO5114 (3H73)  
Microeconomic Analysis  
Syllabus

University of Florida

Spring 2022

**Instructor:** Cecilia Peluffo

**Email:** mpeluffo@ufl.edu

**Instructor Office:** 323 MAT; (352)-392-0160

**Course time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays: 1:55 PM- 3:50 PM

**Course location:** MAT 112

**Virtual Office Hours (Zoom):** Fridays: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**TA:** Angel Gonzalez

**Email:** angelgonzalez@ufl.edu

**TA Office Hours (Zoom):** Mondays & Wednesdays: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

## Course Objectives:

This course will cover Microeconomic Theory using calculus. We will start by analyzing the formulation of economic models and the importance of their assumptions. Then, we will cover in great detail concepts related to choice and demand, including the analysis of preferences and utility, utility maximization and choice, income and substitution effects and demand relationships among goods. Next, we will examine concepts related to the supply side of the market, with special emphasis on production functions, cost functions, and profit maximization by the firm. In the last part of the semester we will

introduce the concepts of risk and information asymmetries. The main topics of the course will be covered by the textbooks listed below, as well as additional materials discussed in class. For the midterms you are expected to be ready to answer questions on all the material covered in the course, including topics discussed in lectures and assignments (even when the material is not covered by the main textbook).

### **Main Textbook (required):**

Walter Nicholson, Christopher Snyder, *"Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, 12th Edition"*, Cengage, 2017.

### **Other Suggested Book:**

Jeffrey M. Perloff , *"Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus, 4th Edition"*, Public Affairs, 2017.

## **Midterms**

There will be two (non-cumulative) in class midterms. The exams will be closed book/closed note exams. The first midterm will take place on Tuesday February 22 at 1:55 PM (Eastern Standard Time zone) and the second midterm will take place on Tuesday, April 19 at 1:55 (Eastern Standard Time zone). In order to determine your final grade, I will place a higher weight on the exam you got the higher score. Specifically, the exam in which you got the higher score will account for 50% of your final grade, while the exam in which you received the lowest grade will account for 40% of your final grade. Both midterms will take place in our regular classroom (MAT 112).

Make-up exams will be offered only on those circumstances in which you cannot take an exam for a valid reason according to UF policy, for example, illness (see [UF policy](#) on this). In that case, you should notify me prior to the start of the exam. In addition, you will need to provide valid documentation (within a week of your absence) justifying your absence. Supporting documentation related to excuses for missed exams must include contact information for verification purposes. Failure to comply with these rules will result in a zero score in the missed exam. Providing false documentation or creating a false excuse constitutes cheating under the University guidelines. UF's policy on academic honesty will be strongly enforced.

## **Problem Sets**

Problem sets account for 10% of your final grade. There will be several problem sets over the semester. I will announce problem set due dates during the semester. All assignments are due on Canvas before the deadline on the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted and will receive zero credit. As a general advice, make sure to submit your assignment at least several hours before the due date/time. In addition, after submitting your problem set through Canvas, make sure your submission is correct and contains all pages. If necessary, you will be able to replace your initial submission with an updated version before the deadline. You are responsible for verifying that any online assignment submission has properly been submitted through Canvas. Your lowest problem set grade will be dropped.

## **Grading**

I will assign letter grades based on a curve at the end of the semester. The distribution of the grades will depend on the overall performance of the class. Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points is available [here](#).

## **Academic Honesty:**

I will strongly enforce the University of Florida's rules for academic honesty (which can be found [here](#)). Any violation of these rules will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. Examples of violations include, but are not limited to, cheating on exams or homework assignments and creating a false excuse to take a make-up exam.

## **Students with Disabilities:**

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 who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## **Course Communications:**

Announcements concerning the class will typically be made in class, UF emails, and through Canvas. You are responsible for all information made available through these avenues of communication (you are expected to check your UF email and Canvas daily).

## **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. 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 [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).

# Topics and Tentative Schedule

The following is a list of broad topics that we will be studying in this course. The list does not include additional materials that we may discuss in class, as time permits.

## 1- Introduction: Economic Models

- Theoretical Models (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 1)
- Verification of Economic Models (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 1)
- Characteristics and Structure of Economic Models (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 1)

## 2-Choice and Demand

- Preferences and Utility (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 3)
- Utility Maximization and Choice (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 4)
- Income and Substitution Effects (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 5)
- Demand Relationships among Goods (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 6)

## 3-Production and Supply

- Production Functions (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 9)
- Cost Functions (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 10)
- Profit Maximization (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 11)

## 4-Uncertainty

- Introduction to Risk (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 7)
  - Expected Utility Theory (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 7)
  - Risk Aversion and Diversification (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 7)
  - Insurance (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 7)
- Other Suggested Reading: Perloff, Chapter 16

## **5-Market Failures**

- Information Asymmetries (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 18)
  - Contracts (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 18)
  - Externalities (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 19)
- Other Suggested Reading: Perloff, Chapter 19

## Tentative Schedule

---

Date	Topics
1/6/2022	Theoretical Models
1/11/2022	Calculus Review
1/13/2022	Preferences and Utility
1/18/2022	Preferences and Utility (cont.)
1/20/2022	Preferences and Utility (cont.) - Introduction to Utility Max. and Choice
1/25/2022	Utility Maximization and Choice
1/27/2022	Utility Maximization and Choice (cont.)
2/1/2022	Income and Substitution Effects
2/3/2022	Income and Substitution Effects (cont.)
2/8/2022	Income and Substitution Effects (cont.)
2/10/2022	Demand Relationships Among Goods
2/15/2022	Applications
2/17/2022	TBA
2/22/2022	Midterm 1
2/24/2022	Production Functions
3/1/2022	Production Functions (cont.) - Introduction to Cost
3/3/2022	Cost Functions
3/15/2022	Cost Functions (cont.) - Introduction to Profit Maximization
3/17/2022	Costs & Profit Maximization
3/22/2022	Introduction to Risk
3/24/2022	Expected Utility Theory
3/29/2022	Risk Aversion & Diversification
3/31/2022	Insurance
4/5/2022	Introduction to Information Asymmetries and Contracts
4/7/2022	Information Asymmetries and Contracts (cont.)
4/12/2022	Externalities
4/14/2022	TBA
4/19/2022	Midterm 2

---