ECO5114 (3H73)
Microeconomic Analysis
Syllabus

University of Florida

Spring 2025

Instructor: Cecilia Peluffo
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Instructor Office: 323 MAT; (352)-392-0160
Course time: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:35 AM - 11:30 AM
Course location: MAT 018
Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 8:30 AM- 9:30AM; and by appointment

TA: Lu, Chenhui
Email: ch.lu@ufl.edu
TA Office Hours: Fridays 12:00pm - 2:00pm

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 market's supply side, 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).

Class Modality and Course Communication:

Microeconomic Analysis will be taught in a face-to-face modality. Lectures will be fully in-person. Lectures will not be streamed (no video lectures will be available for this class). You can find the schedule for the course in the weekly class schedule (at the end of the syllabus). Exams will take place in-person in class during our assigned class time. Announcements concerning the class will typically be made in class, UF emails, and through Canvas. You are responsible for all information made available through all of these avenues of communication.

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 March 4 at 9:35 AM (in class), and the second midterm will take place on Tuesday, April 22, at 1:55 in class. Each midterm will account for 45% of your final grade. Both midterms will take place in our regular classroom (MAT 018).

Make-up exams will be offered only in 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.[1] 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. UFs 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 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 Scale:

The following scale will be used to determine your final letter grade:

A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92.99
B+	87 - 89.99
B	83 - 86.99
B-	80 - 82.99
C+	77 - 79.99
C	73 - 76.99
C-	70 - 72.99
D+	67 - 69.99
D	60 - 66.99
E	0 - 59.99

You can find information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points here.

[1] Absences related to religious holidays do not require documentation.

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 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/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

The Department of Economics faculty assume that all work that is submitted for grading is written by the student whose name it bears, and that it represents their ideas and work. Accordingly, students are not permitted to use generative AI when completing assignments, quizzes, exams, or other graded work unless their instructor has expressly granted that permission. Unauthorized use of generative AI may constitute cheating and/or plagiarism. Such violations of the UF Student Honor Code will be reported to the UF Dean of Students Office and will be subject to severe sanctions.

Topics:

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)
- Labor Supply (Nicholson & Snyder, Chapter 16)

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

Course Schedule

Date	Topic
1/14/2025	Theoretical Models
1/16/2025	Calculus Review
1/21/2025	Preferences and Utility
1/23/2025	Preferences and Utility (cont.)
1/28/2025	Preferences and Utility (cont.) - Introduction to Utility Max. and Choice
1/30/2025	Utility Maximization and Choice
2/4/2025	Utility Maximization and Choice (cont.)
2/6/2025	Income and Substitution Effects
*Assignment 1 due on 2/7/2025 at 6 pm - Canvas submission	
2/11/2025	Income and Substitution Effects (cont.)
2/13/2025	Income and Substitution Effects (cont.)
2/18/2025	Demand Relationships Among Goods
2/20/2025	Applications
*Assignment 2 due on 2/21/2025 at 6 pm - Canvas submission	
2/25/2025	Review
2/27/2025	TBA
3/4/2025	Midterm 1
3/6/2025	Production Functions
3/11/2025	Production Functions (cont.) - Introduction to Cost
3/13/2025	Cost Functions
3/18/2025	No class (Spring Break)
3/20/2025	No class (Spring Break)
3/25/2025	Cost Functions (cont.) - Introduction to Profit Maximization
3/27/2025	Costs & Profit Maximization
*Assignment 4 due on 3/28/2025 at 6 pm - Canvas submission	
4/1/2025	Introduction to Risk
4/3/2025	Expected Utility Theory
*Assignment 5 due on 4/4/2025 at 6 pm - Canvas submission	
4/8/2025	Risk Aversion & Diversification
4/10/2025	Insurance
*Assignment 6 due on 4/11/2025 at 6 pm - Canvas submission	
4/15/2025	Market Failures
4/17/2025	Review
4/22/2025	Midterm 2

*Assignment due dates are tentative and subject to change depending upon class progress. Students will be informed of any changes made to the schedule. Assignment 3 will be solved by the instructor during class (it will not require submission).