

Course: EC 308 Intermediate Microeconomics
Semester: Fall 2003
Instructor: Gary A. Hoover
Location: BID 215
Times: Section 004-TTh 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Course Description:

This course is designed to give you the tools for understanding how people with unlimited wants but limited resources reach decisions concerning the allocation of goods and services which are equitable and efficient. Using this information, we will solve problems that economists face everyday.

Required Text and Course Layout:

The required text for this class is *Microeconomics* (3rd ed.) by Michael Katz and Harvey Rosen. The course will be divided into three sections. Section 1 will cover chapters 1-5. After we cover these chapters there will be an exam of the material. Section 2 will cover sections 7.1, 7.2, and chapters 8-11. After we cover these chapters there will be an exam of the material. Section 3 will cover chapter 13, section 6.4 and selected materials, chapters 16 and 18. After we cover these chapters there will be an exam of the material. The date of the first two exams will be determined by the speed at which we can cover the material. I will inform you of the exam date once I can estimate how long it will take for us to cover the material. The third exam will be Tuesday November 25th. Note that this is the *Tuesday before Thanksgiving*. The final exam for EC 308-004 is scheduled for Wednesday December 10th from 7-9:30pm. Please note this because there will be no changes from this schedule.

Grading, Make-up, and Attendance Policy:

As you can see, there will be (3) three exams given during the course of the semester. In addition there will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the term. Your final grade will consist of 40% for the final exam, 10% for homework, and 25% each for (2) exams. I plan to throw out your lowest exam score. Because you can drop your lowest exam, some students think that they don't need to try hard throughout the semester. This would be a serious mistake on your part. You should see each exam as a chance to improve upon your overall class grade and not a chance to goof off. This system can only help you and not hurt if you take advantage of it. Since you are all adults, I think you can see how catastrophic to your grade a missed or half-hearted effort on an exam will be.

Since you do get to throw out (1) one exam there will not be any make-ups. Okay, maybe, but you had better have a good reason and a lot of evidence to convince me.

Exams and homework are graded carefully and original grades are rarely changed. If you believe that a grading mistake was made on your work, you can submit a request for a regrade to me within one week of its return. Your entire paper will be regraded and the score may go up or down.

You will receive all of the homework for each section at the beginning of that section. Each chapters homework will be due after two class periods. For example: if we finish a chapter on a Thursday, the homework for that chapter will be due at the BEGINNING of class the next Thursday. The TA will prepare answer keys **but be warned that TA's tend to make lots of errors**. Check your work carefully. I WILL put at least one of these homework questions on every exam. So by at least knowing how to do the homework questions, you will be a long way towards doing well in the course. If you ask, I might be persuaded to go over a couple questions in class but I would encourage you to work on them until you feel confident about the answer.

Not coming to class regularly will hinder your ability to do well in this class. The material is not always easy (and most times rather confusing) to understand. Exams will have material only discussed in class. You need to attend every class and get the lecture notes for the classes that you might miss.

Grading Scale

A+	97↑	B+	87-89.9	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9	F	59.9↓
A	93-96.9	B	83-86.9	C	73-76.9	D	63-66.9		
A-	90-92.9	B-	80-82.9	C-	70-72.9	D-	60-62.9		

Students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services, 348-4285. Thereafter, you are invited to schedule appointments to see me during office hours to discuss accommodations and other special needs.

Office Hours and Office:

My office is in Alston Hall room 267. My office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:00am. The TA will have office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The times will be announced at a later date. You can also schedule appointments with me. The easiest way to reach me will be through email. Contact me at: ghoover@cba.ua.edu.

My teaching style is **not for every one**. I strongly encourage you to review the comments of students who have taken this class in the past to see if you want to take this section. To get additional information about the class you should visit my website. It contains old homework assignments, old exams, and comments of other students who have taken this course. Go to <http://www.cba.ua.edu/~ghoover>.

Prerequisites and Math:

The prerequisite for this course is Math 121 or Math 125. A working knowledge of calculus is needed. Math normally causes a lot of problems in this course. If you know you have trouble with math, start reviewing it immediately!!! Simple algebra and partial derivatives catch a lot of students by surprise. We won't have time to learn math so I'll assume that you already know how to manipulate functions so we can use them to learn economic principles.

Classroom Behavior:

I expect you behave as adults while in this class and treat me and your fellow students with respect. There are two things that you can do to ensure that I thoroughly embarrass you in class 1) walk in late. I will be on time and I expect you to do the same 2) have your cell phone, pager, PDA, etc.. go off during class. Be sure to turn them off before entering the classroom.

Tutors:

If there are concepts that you are having difficulty with you should feel free to use my office hours. The TA will also have office hours. I've found that one of the most effective ways to understand the material is to ask for help from your classmates. They are probably your best option for learning. If you feel that you need further assistance, the Department of Economics, Finance, and Legal Studies has a list of tutors that might be of help. There is a small cost for this service. For more information go to Alston Hall room 200.

Drop Dates:

The last day to drop the course is Wednesday, October 29th. If you are planning to drop, it would be best to do it early so that you can have plenty of time to find a suitable class replacement .

Final thoughts:

If you concentrate and work hard you should have little problem with this course. I would encourage you to ask questions as soon as you feel that you are lacking understanding. This course will have a "snowball" effect. If you let things slide expecting to go back and pick them up later, things will only get worse. Try to keep up with all of the assigned reading and homework and get help if you're feeling lost.