

ECON 3310 Syllabus

Course Information

Course title	Intermediate Microeconomics
Course number	Economics 3310
Course discipline	Economics
Course description	The theory of consumer behavior and the theory of the firm. The theory of production, the theory of cost and price determination, and resource allocation under competition, monopoly, and imperfect competition.
Location	Business Building 151
Meeting time/days	11:00 AM - 12:20 PM / Tu-Th
Prerequisites	ECON 2305 (Completion of university mathematics requirements will also be useful)

Textbooks

Required reading	<i>Intermediate Microeconomics and its Applications</i> , Nicholson & Snyder, Thompson Southwestern, 11th Ed. 2010
Recommended reading	<i>Armchair Economist</i> by Steven E. Landsburg <i>More Sex Is Safer Sex: The Unconventional Wisdom of Economics</i> by Steven E. Landsburg <i>Fair Play: What Your Child Can Teach You About Economics, Values, and the Meaning of Life</i> by Steven E. Landsburg <i>Freakonomics</i> by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner <i>SuperFreakonomics</i> by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner <i>Free to Choose</i> by Milton Friedman <i>The Economics of Life: From Baseball to Affirmative Action to Immigration, How Real-World Issues Affect Our Everyday Life</i> by Gary S. Becker & Guity Nashat Becker <i>The Undercover Economist</i> by Tim Harford

Instructor Information

Name	Dr. Michael Ward
Email	mikeward@uta.edu
Office location	330 Business Building
Office hours	4:00PM-5:00PM / Tu-Th (and most other times)

Course Goals

Course Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce students to microeconomics with an intermediate level of
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- rigor;
- Develop theory of Utility, Choice, Production, and Costs;
- Introduce Decision Modeling using Price Theory and Game Theory; and
- Apply concepts and models to: Decisions over Time and Uncertainty, Input markets, Information, Externalities, Public goods.

Course Requirements

Assignments Student progress will be assessed based on two exams and four problem sets and two writing projects.

Exam questions all require writing short answer responses to questions. Each exam will cover approximately one-half of the course, with the second during finals week. There are no multiple choice questions and no Scantron sheets are required. You are required to bring your own paper for exams. Bluebooks are acceptable but are not recommended.

Problem sets are rigorous and technical and take a long time to complete. They are great preparation for the exams. Do not wait until the day before they are due to start. Working in study groups is encouraged, but assignments must be written individually.

In the Writing Projects, you will be graded as a writer and as an editor. First, you will choose among a few microeconomics news articles provided to you and describe how a course concept applies to the article. Second, you will edit and grade a report written by a classmate. You will be awarded 0-25 points by your classmate based on their evaluation of your report (and you will award 0-25 points to a classmate). You will be awarded 0-5 points by the instructor on how well you edited and evaluated your classmate's work. I will attempt to keep all reports and evaluations "double-blind." If you feel that your evaluator was unfair, you may appeal the grade to the instructor.

Four PROBLEM SETS	30 points each
Two WRITING PROJECTS	30 points each
Two EXAMS	75 points each

Your worst problem sets score will be dropped from your point total. This grading policy provides ample opportunities for students to improve their grades at the end of the semester, as long as they have done all of the work throughout the semester.

Grading Scale Grades will be assigned using the scale that gives you the higher grade:

A = 270 points or top 20% of students
B = 240 points or next 25% of students
C = 210 points
D = 180 points
F < 180 points or bottom 10% of students

The cutoff for a grade is a hard cutoff. That is, 269.9 points will be a B, 239.9 will be a C, etc.

Some of students have earned Ds and Fs. This is unfortunate. However, I will try to insure that no student has to. Students who are struggling the most with course materials have priority over my time and office hours. Please contact me if you think you are in this situation.

Policies

Rules

- Students may raise questions about the scoring of an exam or problem set at the time they are returned and/or request that their answers be re-evaluated. Such requests will not be entertained at any later time.
- Problem sets will be due at the beginning of the class on the stated due date. Problem sets may not be turned in at any other later time.
- Make-up exams will be allowed only in the case of verified personal crisis or emergency, provided that the instructor has been notified prior to the exam. Requests for conflict final exams require instructor notification two-weeks prior to the exam.
- Pagers, cell phones, loud digital watches, laptops and other similar technological wonders that cause interruptions should be turned off or thrown away.
- Course information (including this syllabus) will be posted on the course's Blackboard page.
- Requests for incomplete grades will only be entertained if they come from the executor of your estate.

Advice

- Be forewarned - this is a difficult course. This is one of the few mandatory courses for Economics majors and features rigorous development of lots of "tools" that Economics majors should know. Non-Economics majors who do not master "Intermediate Microeconomics" have been known to enjoy happy and productive, if somewhat emptier, lives.
- Attendance is not required. If you can succeed without attending.

then use your time more wisely. However, most cannot and failure to attend is at your own risk. Experience shows that students who attend regularly and participate will do better by more than a full letter grade. They understand the material better, they will know how discussions in class proceeded, and they will get the hints that help them with assignments. More than that, students who are struggling will often stop attending for fear of embarrassing themselves. This only makes a bad situation worse. Please contact me outside of class if you fear you are falling behind.

- Class discussion is encouraged. Feel free to raise a question about how something in the news applies to what we are learning. I even welcome 'stump the professor' questions. But, please practice common courtesy regarding interruptions and disparaging remarks.
- Do not cheat, copy or plagiarize. It is really not that hard to detect and is treated harshly. It adds a little paperwork to my day but can really affect your career.

Syllabus Statements Required by UTA

UT Arlington Honor Code: I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University

regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.
