

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Fall 2025 Course Syllabus

Last updated: August 18, 2025

Course Number: ECON 3310.501

Course Title: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Course Term: Fall 2025

Meeting Times and Location: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. in GR 3.302 unless otherwise noted in eLearning

Professor's Contact Information

Name: Anne M. Burton (you can call me Professor Burton)

Email: anne.burton@utdallas.edu

Office Phone (send me an email—I'll respond much quicker): 972-883-4935

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays Time TBD, will be on eLearning.

Teaching Assistant's Contact Information

Name: Yuan Ma

Email: yuan.ma@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: TBD, will be on eLearning.

General Course Information

Course Prerequisites

ECON 2302 (Principles of Microeconomics)

MATH 1325 or MATH 2413 or MATH 2417

STAT 1342 or EPPS 2302 or EPPS 2303 or OPRE 3360

You are expected to be familiar with basic concepts in microeconomics and to have a working knowledge of algebra and basic calculus (derivatives/optimization)

Course Description

This course examines theories of how consumers and producers behave and interact in markets. Topics include consumer preferences, budget constraints, utility maximization, cost minimization, profit maximization, perfect competition, and market power. This course uses calculus to solve consumer and producer optimization problems. In doing so students will gain a better understanding of how markets and market participants work, as well as a foundational toolkit for understanding microeconomics.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. Solve and understand consumer optimization problems
2. Solve and understand firm optimization problems
3. Understand how market structure affects pricing, profit maximization, and equilibrium

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required textbook: *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, 9th edition, by Hal Varian, Norton, ISBN 978-0-393-689986-0

Supplemental Class Materials

I may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience (e.g., the slides from class). These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Grading Policies

Determinants of Course Grade

Item	% of Grade
Exams	75%
Lowest exam score	20%
Median exam score	25%
Highest exam score	30%
Problem Sets	20%
Attendance	5%

100 > A >= 93, 93 > A- >= 90, 90 > B+ >= 87, 87 > B >= 83
83 > B- >= 80, 80 > C+ >= 77, 77 > C >= 73, 73 > C- >= 70, 70 > D >= 65, 65 > F. I may award A+'s at my discretion for outstanding mastery of the material.

I will not round up (e.g., 89.9 is a B+, not an A-)

Components of your "midterm grade"

- Problem sets #1, 2, and 3
- Exam #1

Attendance

Regular attendance in class is expected. You may miss up to five (5) classes for whatever reason without incurring a grade penalty for attendance. If you miss class on a day a problem set is due or an exam is given, see below for potential grade penalties. Note that there are no “excused absences”: if you miss class early on in the semester because you didn’t feel like going and use up all 5 days, you will not get an “excused absence” for illness, job interviews, etc. if you miss 6 or more days, so plan ahead accordingly and budget your skip days.

Problem Sets

There are 6 problem sets but I will only count 5 toward your final grade (drop the lowest one). They will be posted to eLearning and **due at the start of class** on the date indicated in the course schedule. Hard copies are strongly preferred but a **legible** pdf file will be accepted via email if you aren’t able to make it to class that day. Solutions to the problem sets will be posted to eLearning immediately after the deadline, which means that **late problem sets will not be accepted under any circumstances**.

Exams

All exams are in person, closed book, and closed notes (unless otherwise necessitated by extraordinary circumstances).

There will be no make-up work allowed for any problem set or exam. If you are unable to turn in a problem set before the deadline or take an exam due to a **legitimate, documented excuse** (e.g., documented illness or family emergency), the weight on the missing problem set or exam will be shifted to the other assignments. You must report your issue in a timely manner and before the problem set/exam is due if possible. No accommodations will be made for trips or other personal business.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance and Participation

To succeed in this course and learn the material, you'll need to be actively engaging in the course. The easiest way to do so is by reading the textbook, doing the problem sets, and showing up to class. **Students who show up to class regularly, take notes and ask questions, and ask for help on the problem sets routinely do much better on the exams and in the course than students who do not do these things.**

That being said, there are a lot of reasons why it may not be privately or socially optimal for you to show up to class on a particular day (for example, you are sick, you are caregiving for somebody who is sick, you have a job interview, or your work schedule was changed at the last minute and now you have work during class time). **I realize this class is not the only thing going on in your life, and I don't expect it to be.**

Active participation in class is encouraged and may positively affect your grade. I hope this doesn't need saying, but just in case, disrespectful and disparaging remarks will not be tolerated and will negatively affect your grade.

Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

I reserve the right to modify this policy as needed. Any changes will be posted on eLearning and will NOT apply retroactively; they will only apply after I have posted the updated policy.

Feeling Unwell

If we have class but you don't feel well, please do not come to class! Your health is very important, and not creating negative externalities by showing up to class possibly infectious and infecting others is also very important.

You're all adults and I don't need a doctor's note unless you will be missing a problem set or exam as outlined above.

Email

I will respond to emails within 1 business day. I define business days as Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dallas time (central time), not including federal or university holidays. That means if you send me an email after 5 p.m. on a generic Friday, do not expect an email response from me until a generic Tuesday. If you send me an email at 11 p.m. on a Tuesday, I will respond by 5 p.m. Thursday. And if you send me an email at 4:59 p.m. on a Thursday, I will respond by 5 p.m. on Friday. If I have not replied to your email within 2 business days, please send a follow-up email because that probably means your original email got lost (went to my spam folder or I otherwise missed it in a barrage of emails).

If you have any questions about the email policy, just ask. **If you want tips on how to write emails to your professors, see the email tips handout** "email_tips.pdf" that's posted on eLearning.

Office Hours

Office hours are designated times when I am available to answer questions about the course material, course structure, and other course-related topics. I am also available to discuss broader academic/career topics. **You are welcome and encouraged to come to office hours!** Office hours will be on Mondays and Wednesdays, time TBD. Details will be posted on eLearning once available.

Class Recordings

I do not record lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Academic Honesty

from the UT Dallas syllabus policies and procedures page

(<https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>):

The faculty expects from its students a high-level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. See <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/integrity>

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment.

Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/dishonesty>

My Policy: You are welcome to work on the problem sets with other students in the class, and you are welcome to study for exams with other students. What's not okay are things like copying somebody else's answers to the problem set or on an exam. You are expected to turn in your own original work for the problem sets and exams.

“Copying somebody else’s answers” includes using ChatGPT or other similar AI to do the problem sets for you. I do not care what ChatGPT knows; I care about what you know.

If you have questions about where the line is between collaborating with other students (allowed) and copying from other students (not allowed), please ask!

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Resources

I want all of you to succeed in this class and learn the material, and I believe you are all capable of doing so given the right opportunities and resources (and of course some hard work on your part). To that end, here are some resources that may be relevant for you.

Title IX and Lauren's Promise - I will listen and believe you if somebody is threatening you

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete at the University of Utah, was murdered on October 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated, on the University of Utah campus. **We must all take actions to ensure crimes like this one never happen again.**

If you are in immediate danger, **call 911 or the UT Dallas police: 972-883-2222.**

If you are experiencing or have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking, you can report it to me and I will connect you to resources. You can also call confidential resources that are listed below.

Please be aware that as a faculty member at UT Dallas, I am a considered a “responsible employee” under UT Dallas's sexual misconduct policy, which means that per UTD policy and Texas state law **I am required to report a potential Title IX incident that you disclose to me to the university's Title IX coordinator.** I am revealing this information to you because I care and want to help keep you safe, but I cannot (per university policy/state law) keep a potential Title IX violation confidential and I don't want you to feel like I betrayed your confidence.

<https://institutional-initiatives.utdallas.edu/title-ix/faq/>{<https://institutional-initiatives.utdallas.edu/title-ix/faq/>

Here is a list of resources for survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and other prohibited conduct:

<https://institutional-initiatives.utdallas.edu/title-ix/resources/>{<https://institutional-initiatives.utdallas.edu/title-ix/resources/>

Here is a link to the UT Dallas sexual misconduct policy (UTDBP3102):

<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdbp3102>

Here are some confidential resources if you prefer confidentiality:

- Student Counseling Center, SSB 4.600
 - phone number: 972-883-2575, or after hours helpline 972-UTD-TALK (972-883-8255)
 - website: <https://counseling.utdallas.edu/>
- healthcare professionals at the Student Health Center, SSB 4.700
 - phone number: 972-883-2747, after hours nurse line same number
 - website: <https://studenthealthcenter.utdallas.edu/>
- Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, Dallas, TX
 - phone number: 972-641-7273 (24-hour crisis hotline)
 - website: <https://www.darcc.org/>
- The Turning Point, Plano, TX
 - phone number: 800-886-7273 (24-hour crisis hotline)
 - website: <https://www.theturningpoint.org/>

Mental Health

Mental health is health too! College and life can be stressful. If you are not feeling okay, you are not alone in feeling that way. **Please reach out and get help.** Here are some resources that you may find helpful.

- **if you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911**
- if you are experiencing a crisis and need to speak to a mental health professional, call UTD TALK: 972-883-8255
- Student Counseling Center
 - <https://counseling.utdallas.edu/>
- if you are concerned about a friend, check out this page from the counseling center on how to help a friend who may be in distress:
 - <https://counseling.utdallas.edu/distress/>

Other Resources

- AccessAbility Resource Center (ARC)
 - if you need academic accommodations for this class for a documented physical, psychiatric, or sensory disability (their words, not mine), get a form from ARC and send it to me
 - link to website:
 - <https://accessability.utdallas.edu/arc-services-portal/>
- Graduation Help Desk in the Office of Undergraduate Education
 - resources to help students with academic and non-academic obstacles to graduation

- faculty can refer students or students can reach out to the help desk directly
- link to graduation help desk website (scroll down to student resources):
 - <https://oue.utdallas.edu/special-programs/graduation-help-desk>
- link to office of undergraduate education website:
 - <https://oue.utdallas.edu/>
- Comet Cupboard
 - need food or personal care items?
 - all students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible to use the Comet Cupboard, and it's free!
 - see the website for info on hours and policies:
 - <https://oue.utdallas.edu/cupboard>
- Student Success Center
 - want tips for time management, note taking, or effective study strategies? check out academic success coaching at the student success center
 - they have other resources available too that might be relevant for other Econ classes
 - link to website:
 - <https://studentsuccess.utdallas.edu/>
- Student Outreach and Academic Retention (SOAR)
 - if you want additional academic advising support, SOAR may be able to help (faculty can also refer students)
 - link to website
 - <https://oue.utdallas.edu/undergraduate-advising/student-outreach-and-academic-retention>

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)

Class Date	Topic	Readings/Activities
8/25	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus review • Math review • Fill out the pre-semester survey by 12 p.m. on 8/27
8/27	Consumer Theory: Preferences/Utility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 3 • Varian chapter 4
9/1	No Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Day!
9/3	Consumer Theory: Budget Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 2 • Problem set #1 due
9/8	Consumer Theory: Utility Maximization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 5
9/10	Consumer Theory: Demand Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 6
9/15	Consumer Theory: Demand Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 8

9/17		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem set #2 due
9/22	Consumer Theory: Demand Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 14 • Varian chapter 15
9/24	Consumer Theory: Choice Under Uncertainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 12
9/29	Consumer Theory: Intertemporal Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 10
10/1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem set #3 due
10/6	Review Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the practice exam • Come to class with questions
10/8	Exam #1	
10/13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review exam #1
10/15	Production: Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 19
10/20	Production: Profit Maximization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 20
10/22	Production: Cost Minimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 21 • Varian chapter 22 • Problem set #4 due
10/27	Production: Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 23 • Varian chapter 24
10/29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem set #5 due
11/3	Review Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the practice exam • Come to class with questions
11/5	Exam #2	
11/10	Competitive Equilibrium Market Power: Monopoly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 16 • Varian chapter 25
11/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review exam #2
11/17	Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 32
11/19	Game Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 29 • Problem set #6 due
11/24	No Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Break!
11/26	No Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Break!
12/1	Review Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the practice exam • Come to class with questions
12/3	Exam #3	
12/8	Price Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varian chapter 26 • Last day of class!

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.