

Georgia State University – Fall 2018
ECON 3910 –Microeconomics
Instructor: Prithvijit Mukherjee

Contact Information:

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1. Allow a reasonable amount of time to respond to your emails. That is, 24 hours for weekdays and 48 hours for weekends.
2. Please use your PantherMail @student.gsu.edu.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 AM. Any other time by appointment.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Course Objectives: Microeconomics concerns the economic behavior of individual decision-making agents such as consumers and firms. The goal of this three credit hour course is to lay an adequate theoretical foundation to study various applied fields in economics and management. At the end of this course, students should be able to answer questions about how consumers make choices when faced with various types of constraints, and how producers determine how much to produce given their constraints. Students will master concepts such as elasticities, taxes and subsidies, utility, costs in production, types of firms, public goods, and externalities. Applications of the theory will be provided throughout.

Textbook: *Microeconomics* by R.S. Pindyck and D.L. Rubinfeld (9th Edition).

Additional Textbook: *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach* by Hal R. Varian (9th Edition)
Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics, by Hal R. Varian (9th Edition).

Prerequisites: ECON 2106 Principles of Microeconomics

Class meets on **Tuesday and Thursday** from **8AM to 9:15AM** in **Classroom South106**

Methods of Instruction: Lecture, class discussion, homework assignments, short quizzes, examinations.

Study Tips: Read the assigned chapter before coming to class; Check the course website regularly for assignments and other important course information; Do the homework assignments and problem sets.

Important Dates: *Midpoint – October 9, Exam 1 – September 27, Exam 2 – November 1, Final – December 4*

Point Distribution – Exams, Homework, Attendance

Exams

There will be three examinations and one general test; two In-Class Midterm Exams, one Cumulative Final Exam and the Micro TUCE (Test of Understanding of College Economics). Each Midterm exam is worth 80 points, the Final exam is worth 120 points. If you miss an in-class exam then 75% of your final exam score will count as the missed exam. You may NOT miss the final exam. The exams

will be similar in format to the homework assignments, examples we discuss in class and problem sets I post on the course website. The Micro TUCE is worth 20 points.

Make-up Examination Policy:

There will be NO make-up exams. Special exam times will be arranged only for a student with *substantive and unavoidable reasons* for missing the regular time.

I cannot postpone exams because of deadlines or exam dates in other courses. Such actions would not be fair to other students in the class who likely also face pressure from work in other classes but take the exams at the scheduled time anyway.

Homework

Homework assignments are worth a total of 75 points. The homework assignment will be based on iCollege, you will get three attempts to do the homework. I will drop the one of the lowest HW scores. The homework will be due on Wednesdays, the week after they are assigned. Late homework will not be accepted.

Grading Policy

Letter Grade	Point Range
A+	368-375
A	347-367
A -	336-346
B +	325-335
B	310-324
B -	299-309
C +	287-298
C	272-286
C -	261-271
D	224-260
F	0-223

Attendance Policy

While I will not give out formal points for class attendance, there is a strong correlation between classroom attendance and course performance. There will be unannounced short quizzes in class (for bonus points), so that is another reason to attend class. Every five bonus points is worth 1 point toward your total points for the class.

General Policies

- **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to be familiar with Georgia State University's Policy on Academic Honesty (Section 409). Here is a link to Section 409:

<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/sec409.html>.

Excerpt: "As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The University assumes as a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only products of their own efforts. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of resources; the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly, or creative indebtedness; and the consequences of violating this responsibility"

- **Online course evaluation:** Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
 - **Disability Services:** Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.
 - **Online course website:** The Course website (on iCollege) is an integral part of the class; please check it on a regular basis.
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Course Calendar

	Topic
Week 1	Theories and Models (Ch 1: 1.1,1.4)
	Markets and Prices (Ch 1: 1.2,1.3)
Week 2	Supply and Demand (Ch 2: 2.1-2.3)
	Elasticities, Price Controls (Ch 2: 2.4 –2.5, 2.7)
Week 3	Consumer Preference, Constraint (Ch 3: 3.1-3.2)
	Consumer Choice (Ch 3: 3.3-3.5)
Week 4	Individual Demand (Ch 4: 4.1-4.2)
	Market Demand (Ch 4: 4.3-4.4)
Week 5	Technology of Production (Ch 6: 6.1-6.2)
September 27 (8 – 9:15 AM)	TEST 1
Week 6	Production, Returns to Scale (Ch 6: 6.3-6.4)
	Production Cost in Short Run (Ch 7: 7.1-7.2)
Week 7	Production Cost in Long Run (Ch 7: 7.3-7.4)
	Economies of Scope (Ch 7: 7.5, Appendix)
Week 8	Perfect Competition (Ch 8: 8.1-8.4)
	Output Choice (Ch 8: 8.5-8.8)
Week 9	Competitive Markets (Ch 9: 9.1- 9.3)
	Effects of a Tax, A Subsidy (Ch 9: 9.5- 9.6)
Week 10	Monopoly (Ch 10: 10.1-10.6)
November 1 (8 – 9:15 AM)	TEST 2
Week 11	Pricing with Market power (Ch 11: 11.1-11.2)
	Monopolistic Compt., Oligopoly (Ch 12: 12.1,12.2)
Week 12	Competition vs Collusion (Ch 12:12.4-12.5)
	Markets for Factor Inputs (Ch.14: 14.1-14.3)
Week 13	Externalities (Ch 18: 18.1-18.2,18.4)
	Common Property and Public Goods (Ch 18: 18.5-18.6)
December 4 (8 – 10:30 AM)	Final Exam