



ECON 4010 – Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis
Summer Semester 2018
Online Course

Instructor: Gabriel Pleités
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Office Hours: Virtually and by appointment only.

Preferred Methods of Communication: Messages through CANVAS. However, ANY method of communication is fine as long as it allows the instructor to be reached by the student.

Optional Material:

The instructor has made strong and substantial efforts so you don't have to purchase a textbook for this course. However, it is suggested to check the following textbooks for your reference. The instructor has used them to plan this course.

1. Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application. You may use either:
 - the 9th edition, by Walter Nicholson, ISBN 0324171633; or
 - the 10th edition, by Walter Nicholson and Christopher M. Snyder, ISBN 0324319681;
 - the 11th edition, by Walter Nicholson and Christopher M. Snyder, ISBN 143904404X.
2. Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, by Nicholson and Snyder.
3. Intermediate Microeconomics, by Hal Varian.

Older editions of the latter two textbooks should be good enough.

Course Description

Microeconomics is the study of individual economic agents (firm, consumer, government and others) as they seek to improve their welfare through the gathering/consumption of scarce resources. Through the course, you will be asked to read several articles or papers that will complement the mainstream economic approach in an effort to cultivate your critical thinking capabilities even in the context of an **extremely quantitative course**.

Course Requirements

College Algebra.

Econ 2010 - Principles of Microeconomics.
Econ 2020 - Principles of Macroeconomics.
Econ 3620 - Mathematics for Economists.

Or, instructor's consent.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand standard microeconomic theory at an undergraduate level.
- Know about several shortcomings of the standard microeconomic theory.
- Apply microeconomic theory to daily situations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The course will rely on video-lectures prepared by Professor Gabriel Lozada. You are expected to study and listen to these lectures several times. The instructor implores that if you have any question, you post your inquiry as a Discussion through CANVAS, or, if that fails, send him a message through CANVAS or an e-mail. DO NOT communicate with Professor Lozada to inquire him about contents of the video-lectures or about anything related to this course as his exclusive role is designer, not teacher.

University Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.
2. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

The instructor will not tolerate sexual misconduct from the students towards other students.

3. ***Tolerance for Political and Economic Viewpoints.*** The values held most strongly by the University of Utah community are those of academic freedom and integrity as they are expressed collectively by the colleges and departments as well as

individually through research and teaching and as they exist within the wider context of advanced study as commonly understood by all universities. The community also values diversity and respect, without which there can be no collegiality among faculty and students. In addition, the University community values individual rights and freedoms, including the right of each community member to adhere to individual systems of conscience, religion, and ethics. Finally, the University recognizes that with all rights come responsibilities. The University works to uphold its collective values by fostering free speech, broadening fields of inquiry, and encouraging generation of new knowledge that challenges, shapes, and enriches our collective and individual understandings. Check: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

4. Students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities found here:
 - a. Student Code: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
 - b. Please notice this:
 - i. "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.
 - ii. The key is to cite your source or sources that you rely on when you write or present something. This includes written posts in Canvas
 - c. Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>
 - i. Please notice: The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first class meeting. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and satisfying the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as defined by the instructor.
 - d. Wellness Statement.
 - i. I recognize that university education takes place within the broader world of a student's life. The instructor will arrange each class so you can watch and listen to them in the course of a week. With some responsibility on your behalf, this should very well complement your needs. See this link for University resources as well: <http://wellness.utah.edu>
 - e. Veterans Center.
 - i. Coming from the military to the university can sometimes be challenging. The University provides resources that can be found at this link below. <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>
 - f. LGBT Resource Center.

- i. I hope to provide a safe and welcoming environment to all students. In this spirit, any who wish, may consider the resources at the LGBT Resource Center found here: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/>
- g. Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language.
 - i. If English is an additional language and you're struggling with it, here are also University resources that you may wish to consider: <https://continue.utah.edu/eli> and <http://linguistics.utah.edu/eas-program/>

Course Policies

Attendance & Punctuality: Since this is an online course, the instructor has no way to check whether you are devoting your time to the class in an efficient way. However, it is expected to see directly proportional effects between time dedicated to the course and grades.

*All forms of evaluation need to be submitted at the due date and time. Failure to do so will entail a grade of zero for the corresponding evaluation. Plan accordingly as exceptions will not be tolerated unless **proof** of extreme circumstances is provided. These do not include birthdays, holidays, family celebrations, vacations, travel, internet or electronic malfunctions, conflicts with other courses. In order to request a make-up exam you need to make a request **and obtain my permission** before being able to have a make-up exam.*

*Canvas: Canvas will be the method of communication for this course. Having an updated profile on Canvas and notifications turned on is **required**.*

Assignments

All evaluations are paper-based and will be proctored. The University of Utah offers proctored exam services at the UOnline Center Examination Lab in the Marriott Library on campus and at service site in Sandy, Bountiful and St. George, Utah. Students living far from these places can select from several remote exam proctoring options.

At least one week before each exam, you must register online in order to take it. You can schedule the exam and location through Canvas following the instructions at:

<https://utahtacc.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/208104916--Student-Scheduling-of-Exams-Involving-Face-to-Face-Proctors>

You have a window of time during which you can take the exams. Schedule any time within those dates that is convenient for you. Note that not all hours within those dates will be necessarily available; register early in order to increase your odds to find the most convenient time for you.

If you decide to take your exams at the UOnline Center Examination Lab, you need to visit the web page:

<https://utahtacc.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/205684836>

and read at least its sections entitled “Location of the UOnline Center”, “UOnline Center Hours of Operation”, and “UOnline Center Policies and Procedures”. One of their policies is that if you are more than a few minutes late, you may have to reschedule. Another of their policies is that if you forget your University Utah identification card, you will not be allowed to take the exam. The Center has other policies posted on the web page just given.

You should bring a blue book (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Examination_book) to exams, although it is also acceptable to bring blank sheets of paper. You should bring sufficient writing instruments so that if they suffer some malfunctions you can still complete the exam. You may use a calculator, but only a simple one; it should not be able to graph or store text.

No other material besides that described in the preceding paragraph may be used during an exam. After you have taken the exam, do not give any information about it to any other student in the class until the exam testing window has closed. After the exam testing window has opened but before you have taken the exam, do not receive any information about the exam. The penalties for violating any of the rules in this paragraph are considered to be a form of cheating.

Cheating and any other form of academic dishonesty is penalized and may lead to expulsion from the class, failure of the course and other more severe forms of disciplinary action. In accordance with University regulations (University Policy 6-400, Section V, B, 4), if you are caught cheating, I must send a letter to your dean, and the letter will be put in your permanent University file. I warn you that I’m very strict about this and that I reward students who take proactive action in detecting dishonest students.

Your grades will depend on the following:

2 Exams (25% each):

The first two exams will not be cumulative, you will have to hand-write your answers in an examination book (preferably although blank sheets of paper will also work). You will also have to schedule the time where you will take both exams at least one week before you actually take the exams, (May 28 to June 1 for the First Exam and June 25 to June 29) in accordance with the detailed calendar at the end of this syllabus.

Final (50%):

Instructions are the same as the exams, but the final will encompass the contents of the **whole course**.

Grading Policy (Evaluation Methods & Criteria)

The instructor believes that exams do not express a student’s knowledge of the course but rather reflect some of the student’s understanding. Unfortunately, technological limitations make it impossible for the instructor to grade your knowledge so archaic methods with the following scale will be used:

A	≥	80	;	A-	≥	75	;	B+	≥	70
B	≥	65	;	B-	≥	60	;	C+	≥	55
C	≥	50	;	C-	≥	45	;	D+	≥	40
D	≥	35	;	D-	≥	30	;	E	<	30

Course Schedule

Book chapters are a reference to “Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application”. Text in braces { } references the 11th Edition; text in brackets [] references the 10th Edition while text without brackets or braces references the 9th Edition. Advanced Topics will consist on topics based on “Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions” that will be made available through Canvas.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Discussion</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
Week 1: Mon May 14	Mathematics I The Theory of Choice	Appendix Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 2: Mon May 21	Changes in Income and Prices	Chapter 3
Week 3: Mon May 28	Market Demand and Elasticity The Technology of Production	Chapter 4 {3} Chapter 5 [7] {6}
Week 4: Mon June 4 to Fri June 8	Exam 1	Week 1-3 contents.
Week 5: Mon Jun 11	Cost Functions	Chapter 6 [8] {7}
Week 6: Mon Jun 18	Profit	Chapter 7 [9] {8} (flat MR)
Week 7: Mon Jun 25	Competitive Equilibrium Tax Incidence	Chapter 8 (253-267 only) [10, 297-309] {9, 303-316}. Chapter 9 (293-297) [11, (333-339)]

Week 8: Mon Jul 2 to Fri Jul 6	Exam 2	Chapters 5,6,7 [7,8,9]{6,7,8} F/G/H Old Exams package
Week 9: Mon Jul 9	Monopoly	Chapter 10 (not 351 ff.) [13 (not 398 ff.)] {11 (not 397 ff.)}
	Consumer and Producer Surplus	rest of Chapter 7 [9] {8} Chapter 9 [11] {9} 284-291 [325-331] {324-330}
	Input Markets	Chapter 13 [15] {13}
	Dynamic Economics	Chapter 14 [16] {14} & corresponding appendix.
	The Edgeworth Box.	Pp. 324-328 [Pp. 363-367] {Pp. 360-364}
Week 10: Mon Jul 16	Advanced Topics.	
Week 11: Mon Jul 23	Advanced Topics.	
Final: Jul 30 to Aug 3	Cumulative. All topics developed in the course.	

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.