

ECON 3332: Intermediate Microeconomics

Fall 2023 Course Syllabus

Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-2:30pm (Science Building Room 119)

Instructor: **Professor Aimee Chin** (best way to contact me is by email: achin@uh.edu; some info about me here: www.uh.edu/~achin)

Office hours: Office hours Fridays 1:00-1:45pm for your questions and working on problem sets together (use the Zoom meeting link set up for our class; pop in and out as you wish); meetings at other times must be arranged in advance by email

Description

In this course, we will explore the foundations of microeconomic theory, focusing on the behavior of individuals and firms, and the interaction of these agents in the market. We will also examine the effects of government policies, market power and externalities on market efficiency.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will attain, through lectures, readings and problem sets, knowledge of the building blocks of economic analysis.
- Students will develop, through lectures, readings and problem sets, some tools to analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
- Problem sets and exams will enable students to apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving and technical proficiency in economics.

Summary Table of the Digital Tools for our Course

The digital tool	How we will use it
Canvas (see next page for details)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To access our Macmillan Learning Achieve course, which we need to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Access our textbook○ Access and submit the graded problem sets○ Download lecture slides and other class handouts
Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a face-to-face course. Our lectures are in person during the scheduled time in the scheduled classroom.• I have set up a Zoom meeting link for our class to use for our optional office hours Fridays 1:00-1:45pm: https://uh-edu-cougarnet.zoom.us/j/95667077741?pwd=QUFRZnppSTJKbjhtTzduc2ZwT3ZkZz09 Meeting ID: 956 6707 7741 Passcode: 751832•
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will send an email to the class about once a week with announcements and reminders related to our course.• I will use your email address listed in my official class roster, which would be to your UH email alias. Make sure to regularly check the email address that your UH email address points to.

Note: If you need to contact me, please send me an email (achin@uh.edu). I do not regularly monitor messages sent to me via other means, such as phone, Canvas or Teams, the fastest way to reach me is via email.

Prerequisites

To take this course, you must have either: (1) passed ECON 2302 (Principles of Microeconomics), or (2) received prior explicit permission from me. Additionally, you must have a good command of high school algebra and graphical analysis; if you do not meet this prerequisite and you choose to take this course, then it is your responsibility to work on your math skills in order to be able to follow the materials taught in this course.

Textbook and Other Course Materials

- I have set up on UH Canvas a link to our MacMillan Learning Achieve course website. **This Achieve digital product is REQUIRED for our course**, and contains our textbook (*Microeconomics*, Austan Goolsbee, Steven Levitt and Chad Syverson, Third Edition, 2020, Worth Publishers) and problem sets.
- I will also post lecture slides and other supplemental materials on our Achieve course site.
- To access, go to UH Canvas (from AccessUH click on Canvas icon, or go to <https://uh.edu/canvas/> and click on the “Log In Here: Canvas” button). Then click on our course and you will see the link to use to reach our MacMillan Learning Achieve course website.
 - The first time you click on the Achieve link, you will be prompted for your name and email address before being taken to our Achieve course site. If you have an existing Achieve account that you would like to link to your Canvas account, enter the email address of that Achieve account here. Otherwise it is recommended that you enter the email address that is associated with your Canvas account.
 - After this initial set-up (connecting your Canvas account to our Achieve course), then you will not have to enter your email again to enter Achieve. Each time you click on the Achieve link, you will be immediately directed to our Achieve course site.
 - I am not posting individual assignments or any grades on Canvas itself. We are using Canvas just for the link to Achieve, I set it up this way to enable participation in the Cougar Textbook Access Program (CTAP). If you are participating in CTAP this semester, there is no extra cost to you of this Achieve digital product. If you are not, then you will have to pay for this Achieve digital product (it is around \$100); you will be prompted to pay when you access Achieve, there is a two-week grace period of free access before payment is required.
 - Detailed instructions on connecting your Canvas account with our Achieve course are here: <https://mhe.my.site.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Students-Register-for-Achieve-courses-via-your-school-s-LMS#canvas>

Requirements and Grading

Each student’s cumulative score for this course will be based on performance on problem sets and exams with the weights given in the table below. This cumulative score will then be mapped into a letter grade at end of the course.

1) Problem Sets	11 problem sets, with the lowest 3 scores dropped	24%
2) Exam 1	Wednesday, September 27, 1:00-2:20pm	20%
3) Exam 2	Wednesday, November 1, 1:00-2:20pm	20%
4) Final Exam	Friday, December 8, 2:00-4:30pm	36%
		<hr/> <hr/> 100%

Problem Sets: Problem sets will be assigned and submitted through our Macmillan Learning Achieve course site. **Assignments labeled “Graded Problem Set” are what you must submit to receive credit for problem sets;** there are optional assignments and resources on the site but only the ones called graded problem sets are counted for the “Problem Sets” portion of your grade.

You are allowed and encouraged to work on problem sets with classmates. You may work on problem sets any time prior to the deadline, either in a single session or multiple sessions—just remember to save your answer as you do each question so that when you return to that problem set later, your answers from previous sessions will appear. Your responses must be entered before the deadline for you to receive credit. Solutions to graded problem sets are available immediately after the deadline. You should examine the solutions after the deadline to review any areas of confusion or questions marked incorrect.

You get a score of zero when you miss a graded problem set. Generally, I do not give deadline extensions for the problem sets. However I do drop your lowest 3 problem set grades, which gives you some flexibility in handling unexpected events.

Exams: Exams will draw on material from lectures, problem sets and the textbook. They will be closed-book exams; you may not consult your notes, the textbook or any other resources—online or offline—during the exam. Your exam responses must be your own individual work; you are not allowed to work on exams with others in any way, and this includes but is not limited to helping others, receiving help from others, working together and sharing responses.

Generally, you get a score of zero when you miss an exam, but in certain situations a make-up exam is possible. Email me immediately if you expect to miss an exam or have missed an exam and a reason for missing it, and I will respond.

Class Participation: I expect you to attend every class and participate in class activities, subject to the Excused Absence Policy described below. If you miss a lecture, regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused, it is your responsibility to review the lecture slides and readings associated with the missed lecture. Note that the lectures contain the material you are expected to know, and the textbook is not a perfect substitute for the lectures. Though attendance is not listed in the above grading table, be aware that: (1) in past years, students who attended lecture regularly got significantly higher grades; (2) office hours are not for re-delivering lectures you missed; and (3) pop quizzes will be administered during certain lectures and counted as **EXTRA CREDIT** (these pop quizzes collectively will be worth 4 percentage points; this is over and on top of the 100 maximum percentage points for regular course work described in the grading table above).

General Policies

- Our Class Meetings
Lectures will begin at 1:00pm and end at 2:20pm. We will meet every Monday and Wednesday between August 21 and November 29, except for Monday September 4 (Labor Day) and Wednesday November 22 (Thanksgiving break).
- Academic Honesty Policy
High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees. All UH community members are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. The UH **Academic**

Honesty Policy (<https://uh.edu/provost/policies-resources/honesty/>) is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

- **Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids**
The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.
- **Excused Absence Policy**
Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston **Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy** (<http://catalog.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=49&navoid=18675>) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to **military service** (<http://publications.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=49&navoid=18634>), religious holy days (<http://publications.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=15699>), **pregnancy and related conditions** (<https://www.uh.edu/equal-opportunity/anti-discrimination/policies/>), and **disability** (<https://uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/docs/sam/01/1d9.pdf>).
- **Recording of Class**
Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the **Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center** (<https://uh.edu/accessibility/>). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

- Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE (<https://uh.edu/coogs-care/>) and the UH Go App (<https://uh.edu/go/>). UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (<https://uh.edu/caps/>) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit <https://uh.edu/caps/>, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk (<https://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets-talk/>) location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students (<https://uh.edu/healthcenter/services/medical-services/psychiatry-clinic/>). Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being (<https://www.uh.edu/adbruce/>).

Need Support Now?

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (<https://988lifeline.org/>): call or text [988](https://988lifeline.org/), or chat 988lifeline.org.

- Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

- Resources for Online Learning

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our Power-On website (<https://uh.edu/power-on/learning/>). Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH and Canvas; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

Course Outline and Schedule *(subject to minor changes)*

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Corresponding Textbook Chapters</i>	<i>Problem Set Due End of Week (Sat. pm)?</i>
1	8/21	Lecture 1	Introduction	1 & 2	
	8/23	Lecture 2	Overview of the Supply and Demand Model	2	No
2	8/28	Lecture 3	Consumer Theory: Preferences	4	
	8/30	Lecture 4	Consumer Theory: Budget Constraint	4	PS1 due 9/2
3	9/4	No class	Labor Day		
	9/6	Lecture 5	Consumer Theory: Optimal Choice	4	PS2 due 9/9
4	9/11	Lecture 6	Consumer Theory: Individual Demand	5	
	9/13	Lecture 7	Consumer Theory: Market Demand	5	PS3 due 9/16
5	9/18	Lecture 8	Consumer Theory: Consumer Surplus	5, parts of 3	
	9/20	Lecture 9	Consumer Theory: Extensions 1	Parts of 14, 13.2	PS4 due 9/23
6	9/25	Lecture 10	Consumer Theory: Extensions 2	Parts of 14, 13.2	
	9/27	EXAM 1			No
7	10/2	Lecture 11	Producer Theory: Technology	6	
	10/4	Lecture 12	Producer Theory: Costs	6	PS5 due 10/7
8	10/9	Lecture 13	Producer Theory: Cost Minimization	6, 7	
	10/11	Lecture 14	Producer Theory: Profit Maximization 1	7, 8	PS6 due 10/14
9	10/16	Lecture 15	Producer Theory: Profit Maximization 2	8	
	10/18	Lecture 16	Competitive Market Equilibrium: Properties	3, 15	PS7 due 10/21
10	10/23	Lecture 17	Comp Mkt Eqbm: Policy Interventions 1	3	
	10/25	Lecture 18	Comp Mkt Eqbm: Policy Interventions 2	3	PS8 due 10/28
11	10/30	Lecture 19	Imperfect Competition 1	9	
	11/1	EXAM 2			No
12	11/6	Lecture 20	Imperfect Competition 2	9	
	11/8	Lecture 21	Imperfect Competition 3	Parts of 10	PS9 due 11/11
13	11/13	Lecture 22	Externalities 1	17	
	11/15	Lecture 23	Externalities 2	17	PS10 due 11/18
14	11/20	Lecture 24	Public Goods	17	
	11/23	No class	Thanksgiving break		No
15	11/27	Lecture 25	Asymmetric Information	Parts of 16	
	11/29	Lecture 26	Review		PS11 due 12/2
16	12/8	FINAL EXAM on Friday Dec 8 from 2:00-4:30pm			
		Our time slot for the final exam is assigned by the University of Houston.			