

# ECON 3332: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

## Spring 2009 Course Syllabus

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-4:00pm, SEC 205

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### Professor Aimee Chin

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2pm (no appointment needed during this time). Meetings at any other time must be arranged in advance via e-mail or phone.

### 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.

### Textbook and Other Course Materials

- Required online resource: [www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com) (see page attached to this syllabus for information on registering for this course on Aplia). This website contains your textbook (*Microeconomics, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam), problem sets, practice problems and solutions. The fee for this online resource is \$75. This fee INCLUDES the online textbook (which you can print out). However, if you want a physical textbook, then you can order one from Aplia for \$50+\$7.50 shipping and handling.

### Prerequisites

All students must have completed ECON 2304 or an equivalent introductory course in microeconomics. Additionally, you must have a good command of high school algebra and graphical analysis.

### Requirements and Grading

1) Problem Sets	12 problem sets (typically due on Friday at 11pm), each worth 2% with the lowest scoring two dropped	20%
2) Exam 1	Wednesday, March 4	20%
3) Exam 2	Wednesday, April 15	20%
4) Final Exam	***Monday, May 11 2-4:30pm (note revised date compared to original syllabus***	40%

Problem sets will be assigned and submitted through the Aplia website. Assignments labeled “Graded Problem Set” are what you must submit to receive credit for problem sets; assignments labeled “Practice Problem Set” and “Tutorial” are for your own personal use and do not count directly toward your grade (though they help indirectly through improving your performance on the graded problem sets and exams). 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 answers must be submitted at or before the deadline for you to receive credit. Solutions are available

immediately after the deadline. Students should examine the solutions after the deadline to review any areas of confusion or questions they got wrong. Note solutions to the practice problem sets are always available (not only after the deadline).

Exams will draw heavily from lectures and problem sets, and not rely solely on the textbook. They are not open-book. They are not multiple-choice. The final exam will cover the subject matter of the entire course. If you have any known conflicts with the above exam dates, you should tell me in advance and we can make arrangements. Generally you get a score of zero when you miss an exam, but in specific situations a make-up exam may be possible.

Though attendance is not required, note: (1) in past semesters, students who attended lecture regularly got significantly higher grades; (2) when you miss a lecture, you cannot get the handout for that missed lecture from me; (3) office hours are not for re-delivering lectures you missed.

### General Policies

- 1) Class will begin at 2:30pm and end at 3:50pm.
- 2) Adhere to the university's academic honesty policy (it is described in the Student Handbook as well as [http://www.uh.edu/provost/stu/stu\\_syllabsuppl.html](http://www.uh.edu/provost/stu/stu_syllabsuppl.html)).
- 3) If you have special learning needs, please contact me. I can make accommodations only if given advance notice.

### Course Outline/Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Corresponding Textbook Chapters</i>
1/21	Lecture 1	Introduction	1, 2.1
1/26	Lecture 2	Consumer Theory: Preferences I	3
1/28	Lecture 3	Consumer Theory: Preferences II	3
2/2	Lecture 4	Consumer Theory: Budget Constraint	4
2/4	Lecture 5	Consumer Theory: Choice I	4
2/9	Lecture 6	Consumer Theory: Choice II	4
2/11	Lecture 7	Consumer Theory: Individual Demand	5.1-5.3
2/16	Lecture 8	Consumer Theory: Market Demand	5.4, parts of 2
2/18	Lecture 9	Consumer Theory: Extensions I	Labor and Leisure Choice (5.6), Borrowing and Lending (pp. 120-122)
2/23	Lecture 10	Consumer Theory: Extensions II	Choices Involving Risk (parts of Chapter 15)
2/25	Lecture 11	Producer Theory: Technology	6
3/2	Lecture 12	Producer Theory: Costs	7, 8
<b>3/4</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
3/9	Lecture 13	Producer Theory: Cost Minimization	7, 8
3/11	Lecture 14	Producer Theory: Profit Maximization I	9
3/23	Lecture 15	Producer Theory: Profit Maximization II	9
3/25	Lecture 16	Producer Theory: Market Supply	9, parts of 2
3/30	Lecture 17	Competitive Market Equilibrium: Properties	10, parts of 16
4/1	Lecture 18	Comp. Mkt. Eqbm: Policy Interventions I	10
4/6	Lecture 19	Comp. Mkt. Eqbm: Policy Interventions II	10
4/8	Lecture 20	Imperfect Competition I	11
4/13	Lecture 21	Imperfect Competition II	11
<b>4/15</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
4/20	Lecture 22	Imperfect Competition III	12
4/22	Lecture 23	Externalities and Public Goods I	13
4/27	Lecture 24	Externalities and Public Goods II	17
4/29	Lecture 25	Externalities and Public Goods III	17
5/4	Lecture 26	Review	
<b>5/11</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> in same room as lecture from 2-4:30pm (note revised date compared to original syllabus)		