

# Econ 3010: Intermediate Microeconomics

**Lecture:** MTWRF, 10:30-12:45, Nau Hall 211

**Discussion:** MTWR, 3:30-4:30, Nau Hall 241

Instructor: Max Schnidman

TA: Chunru Zheng

mes7jw@virginia.edu

cz8yb@virginia.edu

Office: Nau Hall 242

Office: NA

Office Hours: MTWR 1:45-3:15

Office Hours: By Appointment

Last updated July 22, 2023

**Course Description:** We study the theory of markets and prices, focusing on modeling consumer and producer decisions, and how those decisions generate market outcomes (prices, quantities, welfare, etc.). We also study how different market structures (e.g., oligopoly) affect these outcomes.

**Prerequisite(s):** Econ 2010 and Math 1220. We use calculus, particularly partial differentiation, extensively. We also apply constrained optimization.

**Credit Hours:** 4

**Text:** *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

**Author(s):** Hal R Varian; **ISBN-13:** 978-0-393-69135-1

Note: Recent editions of Varian's *Intermediate Microeconomics* are also acceptable, but be sure to read the calculus appendices at the end of each chapter. Additionally, if you are using the 8<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> edition, subtract 1 from the chapter numbers over 16 in the course outline.

## Course Policies:

- **Readings**

- The course outline specifies the readings for each class. I highly recommend that you read the material before class, as we will be covering a lot of material in a short amount of time.
- The chapters are relatively short, and I have structured the course such that you should only need to read 30-40 pages per day. Nonetheless, I recommend that you read the chapters carefully.

- **Exams**

- There will be four exams. They are cumulative, but with emphasis on more recent material.
- The first three exams will be 90 minutes, during our Friday classes, and the final will be 135 minutes, during our final class session.
- **There are no makeup exams.** If you need to miss for an exam, you must inform me **before** the exam, with a doctor's note if necessary. I will re-weight your remaining exams proportionally. If you miss an exam without informing me, you will receive a zero on that exam.

- **Assignments**

- I will provide **ungraded** assignments daily. I strongly encourage you to complete them. I will provide solutions to the assignments the following day.
- I also encourage you to **work together** on these assignments. We're moving at a very fast pace, so it is unlikely you will learn everything yourself. By working with your classmates, you can fill in each other's gaps in knowledge.
- I am open to putting you into study groups on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please let me know if you are interested within the first week of class.

- **Participation and Lecture Quizzes**

- I encourage you all to participate in lectures, as they will be an opportunity to engage with, ask questions about, and get clarification on the material.
- I will give a short, 5-10 minute lecture quiz at the end of each lecture. These will be graded on effort, and will be based on the material covered in that day's lecture. I will drop the lowest four lecture quiz grades.

- **Discussion Sections**

- Chunru will have discussion sections in the afternoon. These will be a great opportunity to ask questions and get clarification on the material.

- **Grades**

- I will post grades for quizzes and exams on Canvas. I will also announce the grade distribution for each exam.
- Below are the grade weights. I will determine how numerical grades map to letter grades at the end of the course.

## Grade Distribution:

Lecture Quizzes (Participation): Daily	5%
Exam 1: July 21	10%
Exam 2: July 28	15%
Exam 3: August 4	25%
Final Exam: August 11	45%

## College Policies:

- **Honor:**

- I trust every student in this course to fully comply with all the provisions of the University's Honor Code. By enrolling in this course, you have agreed to abide by and uphold the Honor System of the University of Virginia, as well as the following policies specific to this course.
  - \* All exams must be pledged.
  - \* Exams will be closed book, closed notes.
  - \* Students will not work together on exams.
- All suspected violations will be forwarded to the Honor Committee, and you may, at my discretion, receive an immediate zero on that exam regardless of any action taken by the Honor Committee. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the course Honor policy. If you believe you may have committed an Honor Offense, you may wish to file a Conscientious Retraction by calling the Honor Offices at (434) 924-7602. For your retraction to be considered valid, it must, among other things, be filed with the Honor Committee before you are aware that the act in question has come under suspicion by anyone. More information can be found at <http://honor.virginia.edu>. Your Honor representatives can be found at: <http://honor.virginia.edu/representatives>.

- **Accessibility:**

- UVA is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, you may also want to meet with the Student Disability Access Center (SDAC), to request an official accommodation. You can find more information about SDAC, including how to apply online, through their website. If you have already been approved for accommodations through SDAC, please make sure to send me your accommodation letter and meet with me, so we can develop an implementation plan together.

## Course Outline:

This outline is subject to change. I will post any changes on Canvas, alongside an updated outline.

Day	Content	Varian Reading
July 17	Economic Models and Budget Sets	1 & 2
July 18	Preferences and Utility	3 & 4
July 19	Utility and Choice	4 & 5
July 20	Demand and the Slutsky Equation	6 & 8
<b>July 21</b>	<b>First Exam</b>	<b>1-6, 8</b>
July 24	Consumer Surplus and Market Demand	14 & 15
July 25	Market Demand and Equilibrium	15 & 16
July 26	Technology and Profit Maximization	19 & 20
July 27	Cost Minimization and Cost Curves	21 & 22
<b>July 28</b>	<b>Second Exam</b>	<b>14-16, 19-22</b>
July 31	Firm Supply and Industry Supply	23 & 24
August 1	Monopoly and Monopoly Behavior	25 & 26
August 2	Monopoly Behavior and Factor Markets	26 & 27
August 3	Oligopoly	28
<b>August 4</b>	<b>Third Exam</b>	<b>23-28</b>
August 7	Exchange	32
August 8	Externalities and Public Goods	35 & 37
August 9	Information Technology	36
August 10	Buffer Class/Review	
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>1-6, 8, 14-16, 19-28, 32, 35-37</b>

Table 1: Course Outline