

Georgia State University - Fall 2017
ECON 3910 - Microeconomics
Classroom South 101
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30am-10:45am

Instructor: Professor Michael F. Pesko

Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00pm-2:00pm, and by appointment

Course Website: A course website will be set up on iCollege

Required Text:

Microeconomics, Eight Edition. 2012. R.S. Pindyck and D.L. Rubinfeld. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0-13-285712-X
(*use of older editions will be discussed on the first day of class*)

Purpose of Course & 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. Applications of the theory will be provided. The course objectives are:

- Ensure that students are 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.
 - Ensure that students master concepts such as elasticities, taxes and subsidies, utility, costs in production, types of firms, public goods, and externalities.
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Prerequisite: ECON 2106 Principles of Microeconomics

Point Distribution – Exams, Homework, Attendance:

Exams (282 points)

There will be three examinations over the assigned material. Each exam is worth 94 points. The exams will be similar in format to the homework assignments and examples we do discuss class.

Homework (60 points)

Problems from the chapters will be assigned for each week. These homework assignments are worth a total of 60 points. Group work is encouraged, but students should NOT simply copy assignments. Completing the assignments helps your understanding of the material, and the examination questions will be VERY similar to the chapter problems. You will turn in the homework to me on a weekly basis and I will give you full credit if you attempted each problem. If you fail to attempt each homework problem, then you will only receive partial credit.

As a general rule I will NOT accept late homework unless you have a verified excuse for missing class the day the homework is due or you have received permission from me to turn in the homework late beforehand. It is your responsibility to keep track of when the homework is due and make sure you turn it in.

Quiz (18 points)

This online quiz can be taken at any time over the one week period in which the quiz first becomes available at GSU's Proctored Lab for Online Testing (Student Center East Room 315, <http://cetl.gsu.edu/services/learning-environments-teaching-equipment/proctored-lab-online-exams/>). Student must be registered for this quiz through Registerblast. There will be no walk-ins permitted. The quiz will then be administered over iCollege. You will automatically get 10 points for completing the quiz. The other 8 points will depend on the number of correct answers you give.

Attendance

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 homework assigned and collected nearly every week, so that is another important reason to attend class.

Summary:

There are a total of 360 points in the class:

Letter Grade	Number Grade	GPA Quality Points	Point Range
A+	97-100	4.3	348-360
A	93-96	4.0	333-347
A -	90-92	3.7	323-332
B +	87-89	3.3	312-322
B	83-86	3.0	297-311
B -	80-82	2.7	287-296
C +	77-79	2.3	276-286
C	73-76	2.0	265-275
C -	70-72	1.7	251-264
D	60-69	1.0	215-250
F	0-59	0.0	0-214

Grading Policy and Academic Honesty:**Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to be familiar with GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty (Section 409). Here is a link to Section 409: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/sec409.html>

Grading Policy:

To be fair to all of the students, I must state that the following exam policies be followed. 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. Anyone who must miss an exam should notify me ASAP, but at least 3 days before the scheduled exam time. The only exceptions will be a verified, serious illness or serious family emergency. Even in this case, students should notify me of the illness *prior to the exam*.

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.

AYS Career Services & Student Life Office:

I strongly urge you to visit the AYS career center online and in person if you would like to find an internship during school, a job upon graduation, and learn about other beneficial activities: <http://career.aysps.gsu.edu/> The AYS Career Services & Student Life office is located on the ground floor of the Andrew Young Building, in room G47-51.

Course Calendar:

Class Meeting	Date	Material Covered
Class 1	T, August 22	Ch 1 Introduction / Ch 2 Demand
Class 2	TR, August 24	Ch 1 Introduction / Ch 2 Demand (Aug. 24th last day to add /drop classes)
Class 3	T, August 29	Ch 2 Supply, Equilibrium, Elasticities
Class 4	TR, August 31	Ch 2 Supply, Equilibrium, Elasticities
Class 5	T, Sept. 5	Ch 2 Regulation, Ch 3 Budgets, Utility
Class 6	TR, Sept. 7	Ch 2 Regulation, Ch 3 Budgets, Utility
Class 7	T, Sept. 12	Ch 3 Preferences, Choice, Ch 4 Demand
Class 8	TR, Sept. 14	Ch 3 Preferences, Choice, Ch 4 Demand
Class 9	T, Sept. 19	Ch 3 Preferences, Choice, Ch 4 Demand
Class 10	TR, Sept. 21	TEST 1
Class 11	T, Sept. 26	Ch 4 Engle Curves
Class 12	TR, Sept. 28	Ch 4 Income & Sub. Effects, Consumer Surplus
Class 13	T, Oct. 3	Ch 4 Income & Sub. Effects, Consumer Surplus
Class 14	TR, Oct. 5	Ch 6 Prod Fcts, Prod Fcts – 1 input
Class 15	T, Oct. 10	Ch 6 Prod Fcts – 1 input (Oct. 10th last day to withdraw) QUIZ (complete sometime this week)
Class 16	TR, Oct. 12	Ch 6 Prod Fcts – 2 inputs, Returns to Scale
Class 17	T, Oct. 17	Ch 6 Prod Fcts – 2 inputs, Returns to Scale
Class 18	TR, Oct. 19	Ch 7 LR vs SR Costs, Economies of Scope
Class 19	T, Oct. 24	Ch 7 LR vs SR Costs, Economies of Scope
Class 20	TR, Oct. 26	TEST 2
Class 21	T, Oct. 31	Ch 8 Perfect Competition
Class 22	TR, Nov. 2	Ch 8 Perfect Comp, Ch 9 Analysis of Comp. Markets
Class 23	T, Nov. 7	Ch 8 Perfect Comp, Ch 9 Analysis of Comp. Markets
Class 24	TR, Nov. 9	Ch 9 Analysis of Comp. Markets, Ch 10 Monopoly
Class 25	T, Nov. 14	Ch 9 Analysis of Comp. Markets, Ch 10 Monopoly
Class 26	TR, Nov. 16	Ch 10 Monopsony, Ch 12 Monopolistic Comp.
NO CLASS – Fall Break	T, Nov. 21	
NO CLASS – Fall Break	TR, Nov. 23	
Class 27	T, Nov. 28	Ch 10 Monopsony, Ch 12 Monopolistic Comp.
Class 28	TR, Nov. 30	Ch 12 Oligopoly, Ch 18 Externalities
FINAL	TR, Dec. 7, 8:00am-10:30am	Test 3 (semi-cumulative)

- The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
- 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.
- 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. This should be done within the first few weeks of class.