

Syllabus for ECON 0100

Introduction to Microeconomics

Term: Fall 2023

Lecture time: MW 8:30–9:30 (003) / 10:15–11:15 (001) / 12–1 (002)

Office Hours: TBD

Instructor: Anne Duchene

Location: MEYH B1

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1 Course Description:

Welcome to Econ 0100! This is an introductory undergraduate course that teaches the fundamentals of microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of how individuals, households, firms and governments make choices, and how these choices affect prices, the allocation of resources and the well-being of all agents. At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand consumer and firm behavior and how they interact in markets.
- Analyze different types of market structures in terms of efficiency and economic surplus.
- Explain effects of government intervention in different market settings
- Understand market failures and the policy questions they raise.

2 Course Structure:

- Two lectures (Monday and Wednesday, 60 minutes each). In lecture, we will outline the big picture and conceptual framework, and introduce the main ideas. But we won't cover technical applications of the material, due to the lack of lecture time.
- One recitation (Thursday or Friday, 60 minutes) with your teaching assistant (TA). In recitation, you will work in groups and learn how to work problems of the kind that tend to show up on exams and push beyond the surface to achieve a deeper level of understanding. Recitation serves to bridge the gap between the theory presented in lecture and problems you will see on tests. It also provides you with an opportunity to ask questions in a smaller setting to facilitate the understanding of challenging concepts/problems.
- Office hours: The Econ 0100 team (Dr Duchene and all TAs) will hold office hours every week starting week 2. Office hours are "open door": you don't need to schedule an appointment, you can just drop in and leave when you want. *All* our office hours are open to *all* Econ 0100 students (no need to attend your TA's office hours).
- Study Hall: three times a week, some former Econ 0100 students will hold study hall meetings. You can go there if you have questions about the material, but also economics, majors, class registration, clubs, campus life, etc. You should consider them as mentors, they can give you help and advice on many different things.

Attending both lectures and recitation every week is required.

3 Required Materials:

3.1 Textbook:

For reading assignments and embedded videos and questions, we will use the custom-built e-book "Principles of Economics" on Top Hat (ISBN: 978-1-77330-093-1). The Top Hat course is called "Principles of Microeconomics - Fall 2023" and the join code is 618634. I have customized and carefully crafted the e-book so that it perfectly matches the Econ 0100 content.

- Instructions on how to register to Top Hat are in the first Canvas announcement.
- If you select the one-semester subscription option, you will be charged a total of \$78.25 (before tax) by Top Hat. You can also buy access cards from the Penn bookstore, but subject to a price mark-up. If you run into any problems signing for Top Hat or gaining access to the course, please email support@tophat.com.
- If you have financial difficulties affording the textbook, or other financial hardships, please [send me an email](#).
- Embedded in this text are short lecture videos as well as multiple choice questions pertaining to the readings, which will be factored into your overall grade for the course.
- Don't worry if you don't see any content in the course right away, I will make it available to you as we progress through the semester.

3.2 Communication:

- We will use Canvas to post announcements, reminders, course material, and grades.
- We will use Zoom for some online office hours.
- If you have more personal questions, please send an email to: econ-0100@sas.upenn.edu

4 Assessments:

Semester course grades are based on the following:¹

The final average/letter grade scale is:

- A+ / A / A- range: 97% to 100% / 93% to 96.99% / 90% to 92.99%
- B+ / B / B- range: 87% to 89.99% / 83% to 86.99% / 80% to 82.99%
- C+ / C / C- range: 77% to 79.99% / 73% to 76.99% / 70% to 72.99%
- D+ / D range: 67% to 69.99% / 60% to 66.99%
- F range: 59.99% and below.

Exam grades might be curved, but **percentage course grades will not be curved nor rounded**: 89.9% is a B+, a 79.9% is a C+, etc.

¹All exact due dates are listed on the last page of the syllabus.

Assignment Type		Due Date	Percentage	
Homework	Reading Assignments	Sundays 6pm	8%	
	Canvas Homework	Fridays 6pm	16%	25%
	Tutorials	9/5 and 9/17 6pm	1%	
Participation	Group Presentations	Tuesdays 6pm	8%	
	Recitation attendance	Thursdays/ Fridays	2%	11%
	Completion of surveys	Pre and post semester	1%	
Tests	Midterm 1 ²	Wednesday 10/4 6-7pm	24%	
	Midterm 2 ³	Tuesday 10/31 6-7pm		64%
	Final Exam	TBD	40%	

4.1 Homework

All due dates are on the last page of the syllabus. No late homework will be accepted or graded. No homework scores will be dropped. No homework extensions will be granted.

- Reading Assignments (with in-chapter questions):
 - Due every Sunday at 6:00pm ET.
 - Before every new week, you will have reading assignments in the e-book on the chapters that will be covered later that week. Within each reading assignment will be embedded multiple choice questions that you will have to answer. Reading assignments will be available a week in advance.
 - Grading:
 - * You will be graded on your completion of the questions, rather than the accuracy of your answers: as long as you answer a question, you get credit, regardless of whether your answer is correct or not. There are a total of 500 questions, each worth 0.02 point. To allow for flexibility, you will get full credit as long as you accumulate at least 8 points (i.e. answer 400 questions). If you accrue fewer than 8 points (i.e. answer fewer than 400 questions), your grade will be pro-rated. For example, if you answer 350 question, your grade will be 7 out of 8. If you get more than 8 points (i.e. answer more than 400 questions), good for you! Nonetheless, the maximum credit is 8 points.
 - * Late assignments will get a grade of **zero**. We have strict deadlines, and if you miss them, nothing can be done – you'll just use the buffer points described above. Even technical problems with your computer or with your Internet connection are not acceptable excuses. You have several days to submit each reading assignment; do not wait until right before the deadline to complete it.
- Canvas Homework:
 - Due every Friday at 6:00pm ET.
 - Will be posted on the Canvas site and cover the week's topics. Each assignment includes:
 - * A set of 10 multiple-choice questions. This is a self-assessment tool that allows you to check your understanding and practice for exams with questions of a similar difficulty. You may take these multiple times.

- * A short answer question. Your answers can be typed or handwritten, and should be uploaded on Canvas. Your TA will view your submissions online and grade them directly on Canvas.
- Grading:
 - * You will be graded on completion: from 0 if you have no or a late submission, to 1 if you submitted a complete work on time. If your submission is submitted on time but incomplete, your grade will be between 0 and 1 (depending on how incomplete it is). There will be a total of 9 assignments, and each assignment will be worth 2 points (1 point for multiple choice and 1 point for the short answer). To allow for flexibility, you will get full credit as long as you accrue at least 16 points. If you accrue fewer than 16 points, your grade will be pro-rated. If you get more than 16 points, good for you! Nonetheless, the maximum credit is 16 points.
 - * Late assignments will get a grade of **zero**. Please be diligent in completing them in a timely manner. We have strict deadlines, and if you miss them, nothing can be done – you’ll just use the buffer points described above. If you get stuck on any part of the assignment you are welcome to stop by office hours. You are also welcome to work with your classmates, but we want individual submissions. We do not expect 100% correctness, but rather 100% effort.

Homework assignments are meant to help your comprehension of the concepts, not to test you – which is why they are graded on completion rather than on correctness. You can take them seriously and complete them as they are intended, or you can just fake your way through them — it’s up to you as an adult learner.

- Tutorials:

- There will be two tutorials to complete on Canvas. The first one is due on Tuesday 9/5 and the second one is due on Sunday 9/17 at 6:00pm ET.
- These tutorials are meant to prepare you for the following lectures. You will be graded on completion and will be worth 0.5 points each.

4.2 Participation

- Group Presentations:

- Due every other Tuesday at 6:00pm ET.
- You will be grouped with 2 or 3 other students to work together on group presentations throughout the semester. Group presentations will start after the course selection period ends. Every other week, your group will be assigned an old exam question: you will have to send a typed explanation on how to get the solution to your TA, and present it in recitation.
- Grading:
 - * Each group will be assigned a total of 4 presentations throughout the semester. Each presentation will worth 2 points:
 - 1 point for the submission: from 0 if not submitted / submitted late, to 1 if the submission is on time, clear and well explained.
 - 1 point for the presentation: from 0 if presentation is confusing / there is no solidarity between group members, to 1 if the presentation is clear without mistakes.

When it is your group’s turn to present, your TA will call all group members to the board and randomly pick one to present. Any student who is absent the day their group is presenting will lose 1 point. Group projects will be worth 8 points total.

- * Keep in good communication with your group members. You are not allowed to have your name on a project set to which you have not contributed. If your name is left off of your group's homework, we will assume that you didn't contribute, so you won't get any credit. Group projects do take time. They invite you to ponder, think, and debate with your group. You have two weeks to prepare, so start early!

- Recitation participation:

- Due every week.
- Recitation participation is graded based on attendance.
- Grading: your T.A. will grade your participation at the end of the term on a scale from 0 (irregular attendance) to 1 (very regular attendance). Attendance will not be taken the first week of class. You will be allowed to have 3 absences throughout the semester (out of 11 recitations) without being penalized.

- Completion of surveys:

- Due at the beginning and at the end of the semester.
- I would like you to participate in two brief online surveys (5-10 min): one at the beginning and another one at the end of the semester. These surveys are part of an education research study to help us understand your experience in Econ 0100. This research is a way for you to give specialized feedback, and impact courses at Penn and beyond. Your participation in this survey is confidential and voluntary. I will never see your individual responses, to protect your confidentiality.
- Grading: you will be graded on completion: completing each survey will give you 0.5 point, so both surveys are worth 1 point overall.

4.3 Tests:

- Midterms

- There will be two midterms of 1 hour each:
 - * MT1: Wednesday, October 4 from 6:00pm-7:00pm
 - * MT2: Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00pm-7:00pm
- The midterms are no books, no notes, no calculators, no formula sheets.
- There is no make-up midterm exam. You are forewarned well in advance to properly schedule your time and make proper arrangements for other potential conflicts. If you must miss a midterm, we will transfer the missed credit to the other midterm.
- **An exception will be made for students enrolled in a course that meets at the time of the midterms.** Those students must notify us of the conflict and request a make-up exam one week before the official midterm date.
- Grading: Each midterm exam will be worth 24 points, but we will only keep the best score out of the two midterms, and the other one will be dropped.

- Final exam:

- The final exam will be 2 hours long. The date is TBD.

- If you have a conflict, email your T.A. by email at least one week prior to the final exam date. If you have a health/family emergency, contact your T.A. ASAP. A makeup exam during finals week may be scheduled for [eligible students](#). Students who miss the final exam and are not qualified to take a makeup during finals week will have to take the postponed exam scheduled by the registrar at the beginning of the Spring 2024 term.
- The final exam is no books, no notes, no calculators, no formula sheets.
- Grading: The final exam will be worth 40 points.

5 How to succeed in Econ 0100:

- Overall you should expect to spend about 8-10 hours per week studying for Econ 0100 (including class time). The key is regularity and practice! You should make sure you have a routine and study on a daily basis. Econ 0100 concepts can take quite some time to process, so it's better to practice a little bit (almost) everyday, than to practice a lot only once a week.
- On a typical week:
 - Sunday: complete the reading assignments for upcoming week and answer in-chapter questions. Try to get the main ideas: what are the topics, what are the issues, and what are the main questions? At this point it's totally normal to not understand everything. It's your first exposure to the concepts, and you will go over them again in lecture, in recitation, and in Canvas homework. But you should still get the gist: what is the main message, how do the graphs look like, what the equations look like.?
 - Monday: attend lecture, review your notes, try to practice old exam questions. Work on your group presentation.
 - Tuesday: Keep working on your group presentation. Start working on the weekly Canvas homework. Submit your group presentation to your T.A.
 - Wednesday: attend lecture, review your notes, practice old exam questions. I also strongly encourage you to go over at least a couple of recitation questions on your own ahead of time. The purpose is not so much to answer correctly, but to be exposed to the questions before going over them again in recitation, in order to benefit more from your T.A.'s explanations.
 - Thursday / Friday: attend recitation, clarify any question you may have. Go back to the textbook readings if you need, to understand the concepts in depth (but do not try to memorize the concepts!).
 - Friday: Submit your Canvas homework.
 - Saturday / Sunday: work on the next reading assignment and practice old exam questions.
- Throughout the semester:
 - When going over your notes or a reading assignment, write down what seems unclear and bring it to office hours. Don't be afraid to ask us questions in class or in office hours. We will never judge your questions. If you face struggles or challenges, please reach out as soon as possible: the sooner you tell us, the easier it is for us to help you, and find the best strategy moving forward.
 - Take advantage of group presentations to form a study group and make it a habit to meet at the same time each week. You will learn a lot more if you are forced to explain things to classmates in your own words. But always make sure that you try to answer the questions before you meet your group partners. That way you will honestly know what you do and don't understand.

- **Practice!** There is nothing like solving more and more questions to get the hang of this stuff. Use the link to old Econ 0100 old exams on Canvas. Make sure you work them and fully understand them. Do not memorize answers, it will be useless! When you practice, you must think of what you are doing and why. We ask for analysis and critical thinking on exams, not just memorization. You cannot succeed in Econ 0100 if you are on auto-pilot.
- If you find that you are doing all of the required work and you are still having difficulty with any of the material in this course, please get help immediately. Do not let it build up! How can you get help? Visit any of the Econ 0100 team’s office hours; contact your group mates; go to the [Penn tutoring center](#) or contact an [Econ graduate student for paid tutoring](#). Finally, maybe you are not studying correctly. In that case, you need to meet with me or your T.A. to find a more efficient studying strategy.

6 Class Policy:

This syllabus is a contract. Deviation from these policies is not allowed.

6.1 Attendance

- Regular attendance is expected. Students who are not willing to attend class regularly should drop the course.
- In the event that you must miss or anticipate missing up to 5 days or less for legitimate reasons (e.g., sickness on the day of class), you should notify us with a Course Action Notice (CAN) through [Path@Penn](#). If the absence is more than five days, you should contact your home school advising office for assistance and to discuss the academic implications of a longer absence. Excessive or unexplained absences may result in a reduction in your course participation grade. There are no “excused absences” – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material covered.
- It is expected that you will respect your peers and the instructor with appropriate behavior while in class and that you will arrive to class on time.
- If you miss expect to miss recitation the day your group is scheduled to present, we expect you to inform your T.A. ahead of time. Not doing so will make you lose points on your group presentation grade.

6.2 Laptop / Phone Use During Class

Please do not text, tweet, email, browse, shop, etc., during class. It wastes your class time—since you won’t learn anything during lecture if you’re distracted. And it’s frequently distracting to your classmates. I encourage you to print out the lecture slides the night before class, and to write your notes directly on them. Check out [this New York Times article](#) if you’re not convinced.

6.3 Homework

- No late homework will be accepted or graded. No homework extensions will be granted. You have several days to submit each assignment; do not leave the submission to the last hour of the last day that it is due.
- Keep in good communication with your group members. If your name is left off of your group’s project, we will assume that you didn’t contribute, so you won’t get any credit.
- Extra credit: **there is no extra credit in this course** and I will make no exception because I make every attempt to avoid treating students differently.

6.4 Tests

- All tests are given under the rules of Penn's Honor system (see below) – **we expect independent work.**
- NO STUDENT is to make travel or other plans before the end of final exams week. This will NOT constitute for a makeup in the Spring. Sudden emergencies will be discussed and determined by the undergraduate chair.
- **Regrade Requests:** Any grade related issues have to be settled within 2 weeks after the graded exam is posted by submitting a regrade request form to your TA or econ-0100@sas.upenn.edu. There are no exceptions to this rule. For instance, if you find that your midterm exam grade is incorrect and notify us 2 weeks after it was posted, the grade will not be changed

6.5 Academic Integrity

- You are expected to be familiar with and comply with Penn's Code of Academic Integrity: [Code of Academic Integrity](#). It's your responsibility to follow it to the letter. In particular, you are expected to maintain a professional, respectful environment; be courteous to your TA and your classmates; show up on time to meetings; Never present work that is not your own.
- Please refer to the [Economics department policies](#).
- You may use generative AI programs (e.g., tools like ChatGPT) as a support for homework and group work. However, none of those assignments is graded on correctness, because they are meant to help you practice and prepare for exams – where you have no access to such programs. So there isn't much point to use them. Moreover, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic.

6.6 Masking Policy

Penn no longer requires students to wear masks, so no one in this class has to wear a mask. However, if you want to wear a mask – for any reason – we support you 100% in that decision. We expect everyone to be kind and respectful to those who choose to wear a mask. We will reserve seating in lecture and in recitation for students who want to sit with other masked students. Finally, we ask you to please wear a mask if you feel unwell and / or are experiencing potential COVID-19 or flu symptoms.

Tentative course outline (all deadlines are at 6:00pm ET):

Can be subject to change.

Week	Dates	Reading Assisngment Due Sunday 6pm	Monday lecture	Wednesday lecture	Recitation Thursday / Friday	Canvas HW Due Friday 6pm
1	8/28-9/3	8/29 (Tuesday)	<i>No class</i>	Intro and Core Principles	R1	
2	9/4-9/10	9/5 (Tuesday) + Tutorial 1	<i>No class (Labor Day)</i>	Consumer choice	R2	
3	9/11-9/17	9/10	Consumer choice	Consumer choice	R3	HW1: 9/15
4	9/18-9/24	9/17 + Tutorial 2	Seller choice	Seller choice	R4	HW2: 9/22
5	9/25-10/1	9/24	Seller choice	Seller choice	R5	HW3: 9/29
6	10/2-10/8		Catch-up	MT1 Review (exam on Wednesday night)	<i>No class (Midterm 1 week)</i>	
7	10/9-10/15	10/8	Price controls	TBD	<i>No class (Fall break)</i>	
8	10/16-10/22	10/15	Taxes and Subsidies	Taxes and Subsidies	R6	HW4: 10/20
9	10/23-10/29	10/22	Trade	Trade	R7	HW5: 10/27
10	10/30-11/5		MT2 Review (exam on Tuesday night)	TBD	<i>No class (Midterm 2 week)</i>	
11	11/6-11/12	11/5	Externalities	Externalities	R8	HW6: 11/10
12	11/13-11/19	11/12	Monopoly	Monopoly	R9	HW7: 11/17
13	11/20-11/26	11/19	Oligopoly	TBD	<i>No class (Thanksgiving week)</i>	
14	11/27-12/3	11/26	Public goods	Labor markets	R10	HW8: 12/1
15	12/4-12/10	12/3	Labor markets	Catch-up	R11	HW9: 12/8
16	12/11-12/17		Final review	<i>Reading days</i>		

Group presentation will start around week 4. Deadlines will be published on Canvas the week before.

Tutorial topics:

- Tutorial 1 (9/5): Consumer choice part I
- Tutorial 2 (9/17): Seller choice part I

Canvas Homework topics:

- HW1 (9/15): Core Principles, Consumer choice
- HW2 (9/22): Seller choice
- HW3 (9/29): Seller choice
- HW4 (10/20): Price controls, Taxes and Subsidies
- HW5 (10/27): Trade
- HW6 (11/10): Externalities
- HW7 (11/17): Monopoly
- HW8 (12/1): Oligopoly, Public Goods
- HW9 (12/8): Labor Markets