

**ECON205D Intermediate Microeconomics II**  
**Spring 2020, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:25 – 2:40**

Professor Bahar Leventoğlu  
Office: 285 Gross Hall  
Phone: 660-4314  
E-mail: bl38@duke.edu  
Office Hours: 3:30 – 5:30pm Tuesdays

Head TA: Mirjam Szillery  
E-mail: mirjam.szillery@duke.edu

### **Course Overview**

This course introduces students to economic models of individual decision-making. We start by studying consumer preferences and utility function, and then move on to consider firms and production functions. We then study the market and the strategic behavior of economic actors. The main goal is to provide the students with a solid background of the tools of microeconomic analysis as well as improving their problem solving skills. We will therefore study the basic microeconomic concepts in a rigorous way and use calculus as well as algebra.

### **Textbook**

There is one required textbook for the course.

- Walter Nicholson and Christopher Snyder, *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thomson-Southwestern.

### **Homework - Problem Sets**

Students will have a week to complete the problem sets and upload it on Sakai. We will not accept late submissions unless you have a medical emergency or equivalent documented catastrophes. We will keep a record of who handed problem sets in and provide a solution set on Sakai. At the end of the term, we will look at the problem sets of those students whose course grade (in absence of homework grade) is close to the borderline of a higher grade. If problem sets were handed in consistently and the quality of the work was good, we will then adjust grades for students who are close to a higher grade upward.

### **Discussion Sessions**

In addition to the lectures, students will also be attending a weekly discussion session taught by a teaching assistant. These sections are designed to help you understand how to apply the concepts studied in class. We will post the problems for the sections on Sakai at least a day before the first scheduled section for the week. You will benefit the most from the discussion session if you invest some time working on the problems and go prepared to

ask questions in class. Although we will provide the solutions to the section problems at the end of the week, they are no substitute to attending the section because the solutions are in no way detailed, and they might not help you gain a good understanding if you are struggling with applying a particular concept.

### **Exams**

There will be two midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. Exams will be closed book and closed note. I encourage students to use a calculator and a ruler in the exams.

### **Grading**

Midterm exams (30% each), Final exam (40%), Homework (as explained above)

### **Re-grading**

If you believe that there was an error in grading your exam, you have to write out on a piece of paper the number of the problem that you believe an error has occurred along with the reason why you believe your answer deserves more points, and then submit this to the head TA within 24 hours of when the exam is returned. *Late requests will not be accepted.* The head TA will review your re-grade request, and if she and I think that your request is legitimate, then we will adjust your grade accordingly. *Note that, because errors can go in both directions, your entire exam will be re-graded.*

### **Make-up Exams**

There is no make-up exam for midterm exams. If a student misses a midterm exam and has a dean's excused absence, then his/her final exam will count for 70% of his/her final grade. I will give a make-up final exam if a student misses the final exam and has a dean's excused absence.

### **Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

This class will use the Testing Center to provide testing accommodations to undergraduates registered with and approved by the Student Disability Access Office (SDAO). The center operates by appointment only and appointments must be made **at least 7 consecutive days in advance**, but please schedule your appointments as far in advance as possible. You will not be able to make an appointment until you have submitted a Semester Request with the SDAO and it has been approved. So, if you have not done so already, promptly submit a Semester Request to the SDAO in order to make your appointment in time. For instructions on how to register with SDAO, visit their website at <https://access.duke.edu/requests>. For instructions on how to make an appointment at the Testing Center, visit their website at <https://testingcenter.duke.edu>.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Representing someone else's work as their own or to cheat in any other manner will be pursued with disciplinary action and will result in

an “F” grade for the class. See [www.integrity.duke.edu/ugrad/student.html](http://www.integrity.duke.edu/ugrad/student.html)

### ***Tentative Class Schedule***

January 9

Welcome and Introduction

January 14

Chapter 2: Mathematics for Microeconomics

January 16, 21

Chapter 3: Preferences and Utility

January 23, 28

Chapter 4: Utility Maximization and Choice

January 30, February 4, 6

Chapter 5: Income and Substitution Effects

February 11

Chapter 6: Demand Relationship Among Goods

February 13

FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

February 18

Chapter 9: Production Functions

February 20, 25, 27

Chapter 10: Cost Functions

March 3

Chapter 11: Profit Maximization

March 5

Chapter 12: The Partial Equilibrium Competitive Model

March 10, 12

Enjoy Spring Break!

March 17

SECOND MIDTERM EXAM

March 19, 21

Chapter 12: The Partial Equilibrium Competitive Model, continued

March 26, 28, April 2

Chapter 13: General Equilibrium and Welfare

April 7, 9

Chapter 14: Monopoly

April 14, 16

Chapter 8: Games and Strategy

April 21

Chapter 15: Imperfect Competition

Should we have time to cover more topics, we can choose from

Chapter 18: Asymmetric Information

Chapter 19: Externalities and Public Goods

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM: April 30, 2019 Thursday, 9:00am – 12:00pm