

Course Syllabus – Fall 2021

Course Information

Course Prefix, Number, Section
Course Title

ECON 3310 001 21F
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Term
Days & Times

Fall 2021
Monday & Wednesday 5:30pm - 6:45pm FN2.106
Room Locator available in: <https://map.utdallas.edu/>

Professor Contact Information

Professor
Email Address
Office Location
Office Hours
Other Information

Nan Zhang
nxz160030@utdallas.edu
GR 2.812
FTF Thu12:00-2:00pm, MS Teams Thu6:00-8:00 pm
homework is handed-in and returned in class only.

I welcome you to communicate with me outside of class via question session in our weekly quiz, office hour and virtual office hour, teams, and email about the content of the class. You can pick up your OWN homework during office hours.

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

The following guidelines and resources outline expectations for students and instructors of record during the Fall 2021 semester.

Instructor Resources

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's Executive Order [GA-38](#) prohibits us from mandating vaccines and face coverings for UT Dallas employees, students and members of the public on our campus. However, we strongly encourage all Comets to get vaccinated and wear face coverings as recommended by the CDC. The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) will continue to share more information and guidance as we get closer to the fall semester.

Classroom Safety and COVID-19 To help preserve the University's in-person learning environment, UT Dallas recommends the following:

Adhere to the University's [CDC Updated Guidelines](#) issued on July 30, 2021. All Comets are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status. Please note this represents a change in the [campus guidance](#) issued on May 20, 2021.

Accommodations for Students Who Miss Class for Reasons Unrelated to COVID-19

Individual faculty maintain their discretion on whether and how to accommodate student absences unrelated to COVID-19.

Accommodations for Students Who Must Isolate or Quarantine Due to COVID-19

To keep the UT Dallas community as safe as possible, the University requires students who test positive for COVID-19 or who are close contacts as determined by the campus contact tracing program to isolate or quarantine as applicable. Faculty will be notified by the Dean of Students' Office if a student in their class has been required to isolate (positive case) or quarantine (exposed). Faculty must make lectures available for those students during the period the students must isolate or quarantine. Faculty who need assistance with providing these students access to course content can contact the eLearning Team at elearning@utdallas.edu. Faculty have the discretion to set an attendance policy for their in-person meetings, but the absences due to COVID-19 cannot be counted against an isolated or quarantined student.

Verifying COVID-19 Isolations or Quarantines

Students need to self-report COVID-19 positive results or exposures via an [online form](#) so that university campus tracers can verify, record, and take necessary campus precautions. When faculty are notified by students rather than by the Dean of Students' Office that the students are isolating or quarantining, the faculty should remind students to self-report via the form; students should not attend class until cleared by campus tracers.

[Vaccinations are widely available](#), free and not billed to health insurance. The vaccine will help protect against the transmission of the virus to others and reduce serious symptoms in those who are vaccinated. [Get a COVID-19 vaccine](#) and register your vaccination status through the [voluntary vaccine report form](#).

Proactive Community Testing remains an important part of the university's efforts to protect our community. Tests are fast and free. The testing location is at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center (DGAC 1.135). Please check the [Comets United](#) webpage to verify hours because the hours listed below were issued on August 4, 2021 and may expand as needed:

Tuesdays: 8 am to 4:45 pm

Thursdays: 8 am to 12 pm

Fridays: 8 am to 12 pm

[Student Safety](#) remains an important part of the UT Dallas' efforts to protect our community. All students will adhere to the Comet Commitment. Unvaccinated Comets will be expected to complete the mandatory [Required Daily Health Screening](#). Those students who do not comply will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct for disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct – UTSP5003](#). All students are encouraged to read the [Recommendations for Students Returning to Campus](#) issued on August 2, 2021.

Visit [Comets United webpage](#) to obtain the latest information on the University's guidance and resources for campus health and safety.

[Previous Campus Communications](#): a list of university announcements made in 2020-2021.

[Registrar's Intranet](#): please log in with your UTD NetID and password to access this site. Information that faculty need about grading, scheduling, and other essential aspects of our responsibilities related to teaching are made available and updated regularly in the Registrar's Intranet. This source of information can only be accessed by logging in with

your UTD NetID and password. Many important faculty questions are answered here, and this is information that faculty members are expected to know and understand.

[FERPA Guidelines](#): you will be asked to log in before you access the FERPA Guidelines webpage on the Registrar's Intranet. If faculty have additional questions about FERPA guidance, please contact the Office of the Registrar at records@utdallas.edu for the proper student consent forms and further instructions.

[Honorlock](#): Online proctoring tool will be available for fully online courses and for classes with enrolled international students who are not yet in the United States.

[UT System Resources for Creating Accessible Course Content](#): designed to assist faculty with developing course content

Student Resources

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or may have been exposed should not attend class in person and should instead follow required disclosure notifications as posted on the university's website (see "[What should I do if I become sick?](#)")

COVID-19 Resources

[Comets United webpage](#): check frequently

[FAQ](#): check out the FAQs and reach out to your instructor or academic advisor if answers are not included

[Student Resources](#): a variety of resources are available to help students to obtain counseling, health care, and academic support.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

ECON 2302 and (MATH 1325 or MATH 2413 or MATH 2417) and (ENGR 3310 or EPPS 2302 or OPRE 3360 or STAT 1342 or STAT 2332 or STAT 3341 or STAT 3355 or STAT 3360 or STAT 4351 or CS 3341).

Course Description

ECON 3310 is usually the first upper-level economic class students take, the first major core course and a foundation for all the higher economic courses. We learn rigorous algebra and calculus tools to solve basic marginal cost/benefit and constrained optimization problems consumers and producers face. We also talk about interaction and strategic behaviors among them in the market. At the end of this class, the students are equipped with tools to analyze demand and supply side behaviors in more complicated circumstances in specific subdisciplines in economics.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

At the end of the course, the most important skill I hope you will obtain is to employ marginal cost-benefit analysis within the context of individual and/or producer behavior.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Microeconomics, 9th edition by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld. (e-text available)
The 8th and 7th edition are also fine.

Suggested Course Materials

For math refer to Ummer, E. K. *Basic Mathematics for Economics, Business, and Finance*. Abingdon, Oxon. ;: Routledge, 2011. Print. (available online in <https://library.utdallas.edu/>).

For Microeconomics refer to ECON 2302 Principle of Microeconomics textbook and notes.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

(I expect you to bring the class handouts, in which ever format you prefer, to every class, so we can fill it out together. It will be posted on elearning before the class.)

	Day	Date	Topics and Reading	Deadlines
Week 1	Mon	8/23/2021	Philosophy, Syllabus and Ch3: Budget Constraints: Budget line and the effect of Changes in Income and Prices in 3.2	
	Wed	8/25/2021	Math Review	Practice Question 1 (optional) bring to next class
Week 2	Mon	8/30/2021	Ch 3: Indifference Curves, Indifference Maps, The Shape of Indifference Curve, The Marginal Rate of Substitution in 3.1 The Effects of Changes in Income and Prices in 3.2 Consumer Choice in 3.3	Quiz 1 due on 08/31 5pm; Practice Question 2 (optional) bring to next class
	Wed	9/1/2021	Ch 3: Marginal Utility and Consumer Choice in 3.5	
Week 3	Mon	9/6/2021	Enjoy your Labor Day	
	Wed	9/8/2021	Ch 4: The Individual Demand Curve in 4.1 Income Change, Normal versus Inferior Goods in 4.1	Practice Question 3 (optional) bring to next class
Week 4	Mon	9/13/2021	Ch 4: Substitution Effect, Income Effect in 4.2 Elasticity of Demand in 4.3	Quiz 2 due on 09/14 5 pm
	Wed	9/15/2021	Ch 4: Consumer Surplus and Demand in 4.4 Positive and Negative Network Externalities in 4.5 Empirical Estimation of Demand Function in 4.6	HW 1 due on 09/20, hand-in in class
Week 5	Mon	9/20/2021	Review Session: Review of HW 1	Quiz 3 due on 09/21 5pm, HW 2 due on 09/29, hand-in in class
	Wed	9/22/2021	Other variations: Leontief Preferences, and labor supply (the labor-leisure choice).	
Week 6	Mon	9/27/2021	Ch 5: Expected Value and Variability and Decision Making in 5.1 Risk Aversion and	Quiz 4 due on 09/28 5pm

Income, Risk Aversion, and Indifference
Curves in 5.2 Risk and Indifference
Curves in 5.4

	Wed	9/29/2021	Review Session: Review of HW 2 and More Practice Questions in Class	Hand-in HW 2
Week 7	Mon	10/4/2021	Exam 1	
	Wed	10/6/2021	The Isocost Line, Choosing Inputs in 7.3	Quiz 5 due on 10/07 5pm
Week 8	Mon	10/11/2021	Production with Two Variable Inputs in 6.3, Return to Scale in 6.4, Cost minimization in Appendix to chapter 7 The Cobb-Douglas Cost and Production Functions in Appendix to Ch7	
	Wed	10/13/2021	Measuring Cost: Which Costs Matter? In 7.1 Perfectly Competitive Markets in 8.1 Marginal Revenue, Marginal Cost, and Profit Maximization in 8.3	Quiz 6 due on 10/14 5pm
Week 9	Mon	10/18/2021	Ch 8: Short Run Profit Maximization by a Competitive Firm in 8.4, Long-run Profit Maximization, Long-Run Competitive Equilibrium in 8.7 Elasticity of Market Supply in 8.6	HW 3 due on 10/20, hand-in in class
	Wed	10/20/2021	Review Session: Review of HW 3	Quiz 7 due on 10/21 5pm
Week 10	Mon	10/25/2021	Example Questions and Other Variations	HW 4 due on 10/27, hand-in in class
	Wed	10/27/2021	Review session: review of HW 4	
Week 11	Mon	11/1/2021	Exam 2 (not cumulative)	
	Wed	11/3/2021	Ch 9: Review of Consumer and Producer Surplus, Application of Consumer and Producer Surplus in 9.1 Ch 10: Measuring Monopoly Power, The Rule of Thumb for Pricing in 10.2	Quiz 8 due on 11/04 5pm
Week 12	Mon	11/8/2021	Ch 11: First, Second and Third-Degree Price Discrimination in 11.2, Intertemporal Price Discrimination and Peak-Load Pricing in 11.3	Quiz 9 due on 11/11 5pm
	Wed	11/10/2021	Ch 11: Single Consumer in 11.4, Relative Valuations in 11.5	Optional Practice Question 4
Week 13	Mon	11/15/2021	Review of Optional Practice Question 4 Ch 11: Why Vertically Integrate? In Appendix to Chapter 11	Quiz 10 due on 11/16 5pm.

	Wed	11/17/2021	Ch 12: The Prisoners' Dilemma in 12.4 Ch 13: The Nash Equilibrium Revisited- The Prisoners' Dilemma in 13.3	
Week 14	Mon	11/22/2021	Enjoy your Fall Break	
	Wed	11/24/2021	Enjoy your Fall Break	
Week 15	Mon	11/29/2021	Ch 12: Competition versus Collusion: The Prisoner's Dilemma in 12.4, and more application	Final Quiz due on 11/30 5pm, Optional Practice Question 5
	Wed	12/1/2021	Ch 13: Tit-for-tat strategy in 13.4. Review Session: review of the Practice Question 5	
Week 16	Mon	12/6/2021	Ch 13: Threats, Commitments, and Credibility in 13.6	Exam 3 is not cumulative

Grading Policy

Homework (4 in total, lowest drop)	15%
Quiz (11 in total, lowest drop)	10%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%

Grading scale: A+ (4.0) :95-100, A (4.0) :92-94, A- (3.67) :90-91; B+ (3.33) : 88-89, B (3.0) : 82-87, B- (2.67) : 80-81; C+ (2.33) : 78-79, C (2.00) :72-77, C- (1.67) : 70-71; D+ (1.33) : 68-69, D (1.00) : 62-67, D- (0.67): 60-61; F:0-59.

Course Policies

Make-up exams are not offered under any circumstances. If a student fails to hand in an assignment or exam before the deadline without a legitimate and documented excuse, the student will receive a zero on that assignment or exam. If a student fails to hand in an assignment or an exam before the deadline with a legitimate and documented excuse (e.g., documented illness or family emergency), the weight on that problem set or exam will be shifted to the remaining assignments.

Extra credit: extra credit may be available for some of the assignments in the form of pop-up knowledge check, assignment reflection journal or resubmission. All the available extra credit opportunities will be determined during the semester by the professor and will be communicated in class.

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Classroom Conduct Requirements Related to Public Health Measures

UT Dallas will follow the public health and safety guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and local public health agencies that are in effect at that time during the Fall 2021 semester to the extent allowed by state governance. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's Executive Order [GA-38](#) prohibits us from mandating vaccines and face coverings for UT Dallas employees, students, and members of the public on campus. However, we strongly encourage all Comets to get vaccinated and wear face coverings as recommended by the CDC. Check the [Comets United: Latest Updates webpage](#) for the latest guidance on the University's public health measures. Comets are expected to carry out [Student Safety](#) protocols in adherence to the Comet Commitment. Unvaccinated Comets will be expected

to complete the [Required Daily Health Screening](#). Those students who do not comply will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Conduct for disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct – UTSP5003](#).

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

You should attend every class, but extenuating circumstances arise that can make this difficult. If you cannot attend a class, please let me know.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

All of us in the class, you, me, your peers have a responsibility to create an environment in which we can all learn from each other. I expect everyone to participate in class so that we can all benefit from the insights and experiences that each person brings.

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Classroom Citizenship

Discussion and Collaboration are encouraged with homework, while direct copying receives a zero. I believe in the power of learning from peer students. Either by walking

your friends through the steps of solving a question or by debating different answers, you accelerate your own learning speed.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.