

Course Syllabus

Course Information

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	ECON 2302 004
<i>Course Title</i>	Principles of Microeconomics
<i>Term</i>	Fall 2016
<i>Days & Times</i>	MWF 9:00-9:50am
<i>Classroom</i>	SLC 2.303

Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Xin (Sherry) Li
<i>Website</i>	ELearning
<i>Office Phone</i>	972-883-4987
<i>Email Address</i>	sherry.xin.li@utdallas.edu
<i>Office Location</i>	GR 2.514
<i>Office Hours</i>	MW 9:50-11:00am or by appointment

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Maryam Ahmadi
<i>Office</i>	GR 2.822
<i>Office Hours</i>	Th 4-5pm, F 12-1pm
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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

You do NOT need to take principles of macroeconomics (ECON 2301) prior to taking this class.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Microeconomics which studies how individuals and firms make decisions. It is designed to help students understand the basic economic method. By the end of the semester, students should understand numerous concepts of microeconomics (opportunity cost, marginal utility and marginal productivity, supply and demand, externalities and many more). More importantly, students should have a basic grasp of the tools that are used by economists and learn how to solve basic economic problems. Students who plan to continue in economics will have a good grounding in the basic theory and will be prepared for advanced classes. Students who will never take another economics class will be able to explain pertinent economic dilemmas to any curious others.

Core Curriculum Objectives

This course satisfies the University of Texas at Dallas core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences. It satisfies the following main objectives.

- a) *Critical Thinking Skills* includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- b) *Communication Skills* includes effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- c) *Empirical and Quantitative Skills* includes the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- d) *Social Responsibility* includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Specially, by taking this course, students should be able to “think like an economist”. That is, students should be able to

- i) understand the fundamental economic problem of scarcity, its impact on decision making by consumers and producers, basic economics concepts including supply, demand, and market equilibrium;
- ii) apply the basic supply and demand models to understand and explain to others real life economic events;

- iii) understand and distinguish different market structures and their impact on efficiency of resource allocation;
- iv) understand and communicate to others the roles of government;
- v) understand and work with quantitative economics measures, for example, opportunity cost, price elasticity of supply/demand and deadweight loss, and use these measures to evaluate individual or government decision making;
- vi) understand and articulate the impact of government policies, for example, price controls, tax, and subsidy, on individual consumers and firms' decision making.

Textbooks and Materials

Required Texts

Taylor and Weerapana, *Principles of Microeconomics* (6/e or 7/e), Houghton Mifflin.

Suggested Texts

Papell, Mounts and Solow, *Principles of Microeconomics Study Guide*, 5/e.

Other Materials

Graphs and tables that you may take notes on will be posted on eLearning. You may find that colored pens, pencils or markers and a straight edge for drawing accurate graphs are helpful to take notes. A calculator will be helpful. You don't need anything fancier than a simple style of calculator that is a few dollars.

Tentative Academic Calendar

Weeks	Textbook Chapters (7/e)	Topics
1	Ch. 1, 2	Explaining the Economy, Scarcity and Choice
2-3	Ch. 3	The Supply and Demand Model
4-5	Ch. 3	Applications of Supply and Demand
5-6	Ch. 4,5	Elasticity and Its Uses; Consumer Behavior
7-8	Ch. 6	Consumer and Producer Surplus, The Supply Curve, Firm Behavior
9-10	Ch. 7,8	The Interaction of People in Markets, Costs and Applications
10-11	Ch. 9	The Rise and Fall of Industries
12-13	Ch. 10, 12	Monopoly, Competitive Policy, Regulation
13-14	Ch. 11	Product Differentiation and Strategic Behavior
14-15	Ch. 15	Public Goods, Externalities, and Government Behavior

University Closings/No Classes

Sep. 5	Labor Day
Nov. 21-23	Fall break
Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving holidays

Homework Assignments

Problem sets are posted on the elearning course website every week. Problem sets are not graded. Detailed answers will be provided on eLearning.

Grading Policy

Your course grade is determined as follows:

12%	Attendance Quizzes (best 12 out of 16 count)
8%	Three pre-announced quizzes (Sep. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11; best 2 count)
25%	Examination 1 (Sep. 23)
25%	Examination 2 (Oct. 28)
30%	Examination 3 (Dec. 7)

Grading Scale

98+ A+	85-89 B+	70-74 C+	57-59 D+	0-49 Fail
93-97 A	80-84 B	65-69 C	53-56 D	
90-92 A-	75-79 B-	60-64 C-	50-52 D-	

Note this scale is guaranteed, but is flexible downward.

Attendance Quizzes

Over the course of the semester sixteen attendance quizzes will be given in lectures. Each attendance quiz will include one question from the assigned homework in the previous week or one question related to the materials that will have been covered in that lecture. Correct answer gains 1% to your grade. Incorrect or blank answer gains 0.5% to your grade. Students who are absent get zero for that attendance quiz. To take into consideration unexpected illness or absence we will drop four of the attendance quizzes, that is, the best twelve attendance quizzes count.

Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes are given during the last 25 minutes of the class on the days noted above. Some quiz questions are closely based on the homework assignments and other questions are more challenging. The best two out of the three quizzes scores count, i.e., everybody has the chance to miss one quiz for personal or family emergency, travel, sports and etc. Each quiz that counts is worth 4% of your total points.

If you miss a quiz or an exam without a documented (that means a verifiable document from the authorities responsible for your absence) pre-approved (that means before the test or exam) excuse (clear and convincing proof of “emergency” circumstances is mandatory and the right to excuse is in my sole discretion) you will receive a zero.

Please be aware that there will be no makeup for quizzes or exams under any circumstances. The quizzes and exams will be given at the times stated above and at no others, for any reason. If you are late for a quiz or an exam you will be allowed whatever remaining time there is in that quiz/exam session and no more, for any reason.

If an absence of the kind contemplated in the preceding paragraphs does occur, it is your responsibility to contact the appropriate University authorities to verify the emergency nature of your absence.

It is your responsibility to contact the professor during the first two weeks of class, i.e. by September 2, 2016, if there’s anything that I should know about for special accommodation for any of the exams. I will try to work out a suitable arrangement, but I must know about it during the first two weeks of class. Except for documented illnesses and emergencies, no special arrangements for examinations will be made after the first two weeks of class. It is also your responsibility to bring to the professor the required documentations or have the responsible parties contact me in a timely manner for any kind of special accommodation for any of the quizzes or exams.

You must bring a picture ID to all examinations/quizzes.

Please be aware that your grade is not negotiable under any circumstances and any efforts to the contrary will not be recognized.

Some Suggestions

- 1) Come to class on time and prepared. Please try to do all your readings as scheduled. Take notes in class. It is old-fashioned common sense that those who attend class and participate typically have higher grade averages than those who do not. In this class, materials are cumulative. Each new section will build upon the concepts learned in the earlier sections. You wouldn’t be able to understand the current lectures unless you understood the previous ones. Don’t let work pile up. If you have to miss a class get lecture notes and assignments from another student.

- 2) Do the homework as scheduled. We will post assignments and suggested answers on the course web page so be sure to check the web site at least once a week. You will find it helpful to do the homework yourself before looking at the suggested answers. You are encouraged to form study groups and go over the lectures, homework, notes and etc. However, you are not allowed to cooperate on the quizzes and exams.
- 3) Ask questions in class or during office hours. If you have questions or get confused let us know and get help in time. It would hurt you if you took the doubt with you at quiz or exam time. Make the best use of the office hours that we have posted. Suggestions are welcome and we will do our best to accommodate your suggestions.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and

staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. ([http://www.utdallas.edu/Business Affairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/Business%20Affairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.