

## Economics 202: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Class Meeting: MWF 2:30 – Chambers 2187  
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### Course Objectives

Intermediate Microeconomics Theory, in conjunction with Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, forms the foundation of the economics major. This course will focus on expanding and refining the microeconomics toolkit that you developed in Economics 101.

### Textbook

Besanko, David and Ronald Braetigaum. Microeconomics. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

### Course Requirements

#### Assignments

9	Quizzes	10%
1	Modeling Paper	10%
2	Reviews	45%
1	Final Review	35%

#### Quizzes

Ten quizzes will be given during the semester. They will be given as take home exercises, and the quiz due dates are listed on the Topic List – Reading Assignment Handout. The quizzes will help you become accustomed to completing complicated problems while facing a time constraint. I will only count your top nine quiz scores in calculating your end of the semester grade.

#### Modeling Paper

Towards the end of the semester I will be asking you to put your microeconomics toolkit to use. Specifically, I will be asking you to pose a question that you think can be answered/explained using microeconomic theory. I will then ask you to propose a model that will aid you in providing an answer to your question. You will receive detailed instructions on how to complete the assignment half way through the semester.

#### Reviews

Two take home reviews will be given during the semester. Your lowest review score will count for 20% of your final grade, and your higher score will count for 25% of your final grade. They must be completed with a closed book and without the aid of your notes, and you must work on the reviews by yourself. The final review will be **cumulative**.

#### Class Participation/Attendance

I do not take attendance. However, most students find it very difficult to succeed in intermediate microeconomics when they skip class. You are responsible for all of the material that is presented in class, and I will use examples that differ from those used in your textbook. You are also responsible for learning

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about any announcements that are made on days when you have missed class. I urge you to complete the reading assignments in a timely fashion. If you read each assignment before the designated date, then you will typically find it much easier to follow what I am covering in class. I have created a list of reading assignments for each week of class, and these assignments are listed on the course web page.

### **Problem Sets**

I will be placing problem sets on the course web page, and the answers to these problems will also be posted on the course web page. If you want to succeed in this course, then you must do the problem sets. I will not be collecting the problem sets, but it will very difficult to succeed in the course if you do not do the problem sets.

### **"Rules and Regulations"**

The Honor System is one of Davidson's most cherished institutions. It makes this college extraordinary. I have full confidence that everyone in the class will uphold this wonderful Davidson tradition. If you have any question about the Honor System, then please be sure to speak with me.

Late papers will be marked down a third of a letter grade per day that they are late. (For example, an "A" paper that is turned in one day late would receive an "A-".) I am willing to grant short extensions on the paper, but you must discuss an extension with me before the due date.

All quizzes are due by 5 PM on the due date marked on the reading list. I do not accept late quizzes.

I do not give make up reviews for any reason. If you have to miss a review, *for any reason*, then the credit for that exam (20%) will be added to the final. Students who have added additional weight to the final exam have typically found that they earn a C (or worse) in the course. Thus, I urge you to try to avoid missing a review.

You may not consult your classmates during a quiz or a review!

### **Accommodations for Students**

*Students With Disabilities:* Full accommodations are the legal right of every student with a disability. I am happy to accommodate a student's needs. If you have a documented disability, then please contact me within the first week of class so that we may make the necessary arrangements to accommodate you. Also, please know that I will make every effort to preserve and respect your privacy. Any discussions we have will remain confidential unless you decide otherwise.

*Religion:* Please look carefully at the syllabus during the first week of class. If any of the assignments conflict with a major religious holiday for your faith, then please let me know. I will make every effort to make the necessary accommodations.

### **Getting Help**

Economics 202 is a difficult course, and I strongly encourage you to ask for help when you need it. Although my official office hours are listed on my webpage, I maintain an open door policy. You are encouraged to stop by at any time of the day. If I am unable to meet with you when you drop by, then we will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet later that day. Please feel free to schedule appointments for additional help. Finally, do not be bashful about calling me at home if you are worried about something.