

ECON 2020: Principles of Microeconomics

Spring 2024 Syllabus

Basic Course Information

Instructor: Chris Vickers / czvickers@auburn.edu / Office: 133 Miller Hall

Meeting time: TuTh 9:30AM-10:45AM

Location: Haley Center 3220

Office hours: Wednesday 3:00PM-4:30PM,
Thursday 1:00PM-2:00PM,
and by appointment

Textbook: *Modern Principles: Microeconomics 6e* by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok

Website: Canvas

Description

From the course catalog: “Economic principles emphasizing scarcity and choice, consumer behavior, supply and demand, markets, production and cost, globalization of markets, role of government, and market and government failure.”

Prerequisites

None

Expectations

- Check your Auburn email and the course website regularly. I will post announcements, additional readings, assignments, etc., throughout the semester. I will assume you are aware of everything I send via email and post on the website.
- You are expected to write legibly for any handwritten assignments or exams; if I cannot read your response, you will not receive any credit for the problem.

Evaluation & Grades

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Homework Weekly homework will be assigned. My goal will be to assign problem sets on Friday and have them due the following Friday. These will be completed through Canvas using Macmillan's "Achieve" system.

I will assign a *brief* assignment due before the second class meeting, so we can work out any issues with the software.

Midterm Exam There will be two midterm examinations. They will be closed note, closed book, etc. A basic calculator will be allowed if necessary.

Final Exam: There will be a *comprehensive final exam*. It will have the same rules as the midterms.

Computing Final Grades: I will compute an average weighted based on:

- 40% Midterm exams
- 35% Final exam
- 25% Homework

In general, a ten point scale guarantees a letter grade. That is, if you receive 90%, you will receive an A for sure, above 80% a B, etc. If necessary, I will curve grades upward (but never downward), depending on class performance.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. People who do not attend class with some regularly forfeit the right to use my office hours. (That is, I will not act as a personal tutor for students who are regularly absent.) You are responsible for any material covered and for any changes to the course that may be announced in class. Should you miss a lecture for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to get the material from someone in the class. You are required to put your mobile devices away when you attend lecture.

Regrade Policy

If you believe that I have made a mistake in grading your exam, I ask you to return it and submit a written request describing the nature of the mistake within a week. I will regrade the *entire* exam once I have granted the request. Please note that because everyone in the class is subject to the same scoring rubric, I will not accept requests based entirely on your disagreement with it.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Consult the *Auburn University Academic Honesty Code* for more details. I will assume that you have been abiding by the code unless you show me evidence otherwise, at which point I will seek out the maximum allowable penalty for any academic dishonesty that occurs in this course. If you have questions about which behaviors are acceptable, please ask me.

Other Policies

Office hours: You are welcome to come to my office hours without making an appointment. If those times do not work for you, email me to set up an appointment.

Email policy: Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns about the course. I will attempt to answer them promptly. Sometimes emails do get lost in my inbox so I encourage you to follow up if you do not hear from me within two business days. If you have a *substantive* question (e.g., “Can you explain X from class?”), it is usually best to come address that in person with me. If you have a purely *administrative* question, email is fine (but check the syllabus first).

Make-up exams: If you are unable to take an exam, notify me and give me a written notice from your doctor or, if it is not health-related, a clear written statement of the reason which is subject to my approval. A list of university-approved reasons for missing an examination is available at: <http://bulletin.auburn.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/classattendance/>
PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE regarding excused absences.

Other accommodations: If you require any additional accommodations, please come speak with me in person or email me. You are welcome to come to my office hours or set up an appointment. Please do so as soon as possible.

Calendar

This is an rough outline of the schedule I hope to keep. Note also that the final exam will be given:
Wednesday, May 1: 8:00am-10:00am

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	
Jan 9th		11th	1
		§1 Big Ideas	
16th	2	18th	3
§2 Comparative advantage		§3 Supply and demand	
23rd	4	25th	5
§4 Equilibrium		§4 Equilibrium	
30th	6	Feb 1st	7
§5 Elasticity		§5 Elasticity	
6th	8	8th	9
§6 Taxes and subsidies		§6 Taxes and subsidies	
13th	10	15th	11
EXAM 1		§7 Price system	
20th	12	22nd	13
§8 Price ceilings and floors		§8 Price ceilings and floors	
27th	14	29th	15
§9 International trade		§10 Externalities	
Mar 5th		7th	
No Class: Spring Break		No Class: Spring Break	
12th	16	14th	17
§11 Competitive markets		§11 Competitive markets	
19th	18	21st	19
§13 Monopoly		§13 Monopoly	
26th	20	28th	21
EXAM 2		§14 Price discrimination	

TUESDAY		THURSDAY	
Apr 2nd §14 Price discrimination	22	4th No Class	
9th §15 Oligopoly	23	11th §15 Oligopoly	24
16th §17 Monopolistic competition	25	18th §18 Labor markets	26
23rd §19 Public goods	27	25th §23 Stock markets and personal finance	28