

ECO F304K

Introduction to Microeconomics

University of Texas at Austin

Summer 2021

YOUR TEACHING FACULTY

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A NOTE FROM PROFESSOR G. DIRK MATEER,

By signing up for this course, you have accepted the responsibility of being an active learner. More importantly, you need to be committed to learning the subject matter. If you are not open to new ideas, or are not committed, expect your grade to reflect this. Moreover, your continued enrollment in this course means that you accept these responsibilities and are aware of the guidelines set forth in the syllabus.

I want everyone to do well. Anyone can get an A in this course – apply yourself and take advantage of the opportunities to improve your grade. It is my goal to help you understand the topics and to do well on the exams. I realize that you have a busy schedule and often face difficulty in getting enough time to study. So for your sake put in the time that you need to really know the material.

Be well,



ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

The University of Texas provides on request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. At the beginning of the semester, students who need special accommodations should notify the TA by email with a letter prepared by the Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office attached. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities via e-mail atssd@austin.utexas.edu, or <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

One of the things I remember as an undergraduate (and then graduate) student is the frustration I often felt at the hands of professors. When I decided to go into college teaching, I decided to try to make the learning environment a place where I would be happy if I was sitting in the class. Each of the principles that follow is the direct result of me asking how I would want to be treated as a student. The rules give you a lot of leeway.

- (1) We endeavor to post the exam scores within two days.
- (2) For your convenience, we offer 24-hour e-mail turnaround M-F.
- (3) You have the right to question the instructor at any time and expect that if I am wrong that I will admit it and correct any mistakes made.
- (4) You are not required to believe what I believe, only to learn the material presented.
- (5) You have the right to learn passively. I am not suggesting that this is the best way to learn, far from it. Students who do choose to interact by asking questions and getting involved invariably do better than those who just take it all in!

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THESE POLICIES WILL
MAKE YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE AND
CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE FOR
LEARNING.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TEXT

Principles of Microeconomics by Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock, ebook with InQuizitive, Third edition.

NOTE: As a textbook author, Prof Mateer (supervising faculty of the course) revert his royalty share to the Department of Economics to support undergraduate scholarships.

DO I REALLY NEED TO BUY THE TEXTBOOK?

The textbook is a great resource, and when you pair it with InQuizitive (the learning platform for homework), this provides the page number corresponding the answers in IQ you miss. Also, you can gain additional insights from the textbook that we do not have time to cover in class.

COURSE MATERIALS

The link to purchase the course materials is posted on CANVAS.

GOT QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS

onlineeco304k@austin.utexas.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Check the pinned announcement on CANVAS.

CLASS TIMINGS

See Modules on CANVAS for all information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ECO 304K is an introductory level class in microeconomics. In this course students learn about the economic behavior of consumers, firms, and workers with special attention given to the influence of markets.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Equip students to take intermediate courses, be knowledgeable decision makers, and able to discern good economic policy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful course completion, you will be able to apply economic analysis to individual, social, business, and government decision making; explain and demonstrate the importance of markets; and Interpret basic microeconomic statistics.

PREREQUISITES

No. We assume that you have a baseline of knowledge of mathematics, such as basic algebra and how to read graphs.

DISPUTING GRADES

you earn your grade throughout the term. we are here throughout the term to help you get the grade you want, but we will not make an adjustment after the course grades are posted unless there is a discrepancy between your returned work and posted grade on canvas. We try hard to record your scores correctly, errors may occur.

Verify your graded consistently and please submit a "Grade Dispute Form" along with the exam copy. You have **2 days** after receiving your graded assignment to dispute your grade. There is no exception to this rule. In addition, failure to meet the deadline will prevent your grade from being reviewed; however, meeting the deadline does not guarantee that your grade will be changed.

MISSING EXAMS?

Every student is expected to take all three exams. No exams may be taken early or made up. No exam scores are dropped. If you miss exam 1 (with a University-approved excused absence) then exam 2 will be reweighted to include the missed exam. If you miss any exam without a University-approved excuse you automatically receive a 0. The TAs must be notified about any University-approved absence **prior** to the missed exam or you automatically receive a 0.

IF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IS VIOLATED?

The penalties for academic dishonesty in this course will begin at suspension from class and can be as severe as suspension or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SCALE

A	93+
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	<60

To help you achieve the highest possible grade remember to:

Maximize your Kahoot! participation and complete the required number of InQuizitive assignments. IQ gives you unlimited time to earn 100% on every assignment.

If you do not understand something, please attend our Zoom office hours – we are here to help!

So, You Want an A?

It's easy, here is your chance.

In this class, you earn your grade:

InQuizitive	15 %
Kahoot!	10 %
Exam 1	25 %
Exam 2	25 %
Exam 3	25 %

See next page for all the details.

7 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Watch the *online lectures* and take *good notes*.

Participate in the *Kahoot! Challenges*.

Do the *InQuizitive Assignments*.

Read the textbook with purpose.

Go to office hours if you have questions.

Do not wait to *get help* until it is too late.

Make sure you *study the practice exam questions and answers*.

Be proactive, because once the course is over there's nothing you can do to boost your grade.

The Kahoot! Challenge

Is a semester-long competition designed to help prepare you for the exams and earn 10% of your course grade. If you excel in the Challenge your exemplary performance can boost your course grade.

WHY DO THIS?

The Challenge gives you the opportunity to see how much you know in a low-stakes environment that is exhilarating and fun. If you generally do well (miss a small number of questions) each week, expect to do well on the exams. If you struggle in the Challenge, make sure you are maximizing what you learn from the InQuizitive assignments, re-read the eBook, review your notes from the online lectures, and study the practice exam questions).

WHAT IF I CANNOT MAKE THE CHALLENGE EVERY TIME?

- A total of **150 Kahoot Questions** would be offered throughout the term, you have to **correctly answer 125 questions to earn full participation credit.**
- Do not fret; things come up. Play as often as you can.
- Kahoot! glitches and internet connectivity issues sometimes occur. There are ***no makeup opportunities.***

HOW TO ACCESS IT?

On each Lecture day, a link with all details would be provided to you. ***Regularly check announcements of the course.***

WHEN IS THIS?

Every Lecture day; Use your ***UT EID as your Kahoot! name;*** needs to be done ASYNCHRONOUSLY!!!

Check CANVAS for further information.

InQuizitive

Is a formative, adaptive quizzing tool with gaming elements (such as confidence sliders, levels, bonus points, visual graphics, bonus questions, taking a break) that will assist in improving your understanding of the course material.

Can be used effectively to study and review for in-class discussions, quizzes, and exams.

There will be **11 IQs assignments posted throughout the course, out of which your best 9 would be counted.** IQs carry 15% of total grade.

WHEN IS IT?

Every lecture day, one for each chapter.

See CANVAS on "How to register or InQuizitive?" and other related information.

EXAMS

There will be three non-cumulative exams, each carrying 25% of total grade.

All the exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions. They be administered in Quizzes on Canvas and are timed for 75 minutes.

The first exam covers 3 chapters and the remaining two exams covers 4 chapters each.

Each exam is at 9 am CT on the date provided. Unless you have a University-approved conflict. The use of any outside help or information during any exam is a violation of the UT Honor Code.

ALL exams are CLOSED book and CLOSED notes. Each exam can be completed in the required time limit *IF* you know your stuff. Taking time to look through your notes/book is a violation of the Honor Code and it is inefficient, since the time you lose trying to find the information you are seeking will cause you to NOT be able to finish.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Reading	Topic/Activity	Due Dates
Thursday 6/3/21		Classes Begin	
Friday 6/4/21	Chp 1	The Five Foundations	
Saturday 6/5/21		IQ #1 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Monday 6/7/21	Chp 2	Opportunity Cost and Model Building	
Tuesday 6/8/21		IQ #2 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Wednesday 6/9/21	Chp 3	Supply and Demand	
Thursday 6/10/21		IQ #3 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Friday 6/11/21	Chp 1, 2, 3	Exam 1	9am or 9pm
Monday 6/14/21		Flag Day - No Lecture	
Tuesday 6/15/21	Chp 4	Elasticity	
Wednesday 6/16/21		IQ #4 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Thursday 6/17/21	Chp 5	Market Outcomes and Tax Incidence	
Friday 6/18/21		IQ #5 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Monday 6/21/21	Chp 7	Market Inefficiencies	
Tuesday 6/22/21		IQ #7 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Wednesday 6/23/21	Chp 16	Consumer Choice	
Thursday 6/24/21		IQ #16 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Friday 6/25/21	Chp 4, 5, 7, 16	Exam 2	9am or 9pm
Monday 6/28/21	Chp 8	Business Costs and Production	
Tuesday 6/29/21		IQ #8 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Wednesday 6/30/21	Chp 9	Firms in a Competitive Market	
Thursday 7/1/21		IQ #9 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Friday 7/2/21	Chp 10	Understanding Monopoly	
Monday 7/5/21		IQ #10 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM
Tuesday 7/6/21	Chp 13	Oligopoly and Strategic Behavior	
Wednesday 7/7/21		IQ #13 and asynchronous Kahoot!	By 12 PM

Thursday 7/8/21		No Lecture	
Friday 07/09/21	Chp 8, 9, 10, 13	Exam 3	9am or 9pm