

# Intermediate Microeconomics Economics 3332

University of Houston  
(asynchronous)

Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Willa Friedman (she/her/hers)

Office hours: Thursday 10:30-11am on teams, 8:30-9pm on Zoom with a link posted on Teams (send me an email by 4pm if you plan to join at 8:30pm), or by appointment

Email: whfriedman@uh.edu

Email is the best way to contact me.

## 1 Summary

Intermediate Microeconomics builds on the Principles of Economics, teaching the fundamentals of microeconomic theory. The focus of the course will be the behavior of consumers and firms and how they interact in markets. This theory will help us think about government policies and how these can change behaviors and ultimate outcomes. Through this course - including readings, lectures, and extensive practice - you will learn and learn to apply a set of tools for conducting economic analysis. Problem sets and exams serve as an immediate incentive for you to learn this material during this semester.

## 2 Readings and Course Materials

We will use an online textbook (*Microeconomics*, Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson, Third Edition, 2020, Worth Publishers), which is REQUIRED. You will submit problem sets through this platform. The cost is \$99.99 plus tax. To begin using this book:

1. **Create account** Go to [www.saplinglearning.com/login](http://www.saplinglearning.com/login) and create an account. If you already have an account (Macmillan Learning), you can log in to this account. Create your password. For the Primary School or Institution, select University of Houston. Complete the rest of the questions. You will get an email with a confirmation link to complete your registration.
2. **Enroll in this course:** Under Enroll in a New Course, click to expand Courses at University of Houston. Within Economics, click on Intermediate Microeconomics, and then Semester 1. Our course will be textbfUniversity of Houston - ECON 3332 - Spring21 - FRIEDMAN, and I am the instructor (Willa Friedman).
3. **Explore** You can find the eTextbook in the right sidebar (the image is a link). Assignments will be posted in the center panel as we go.

## 3 Communication

We will use Microsoft Teams for communication. There, I will post links to recorded lectures, exams, any additional resources, and any announcements. I will also sound any urgent information via email. Please make sure you have access to and are regularly checking your UH email account.

## 4 Prerequisites

You should have already taken ECON 2304, and be able to use the tools of high school algebra and graphical analysis.

## 5 Requirements and Grades

## 6 Grading

- 35% 11 short assignments
- 15% First Midterm
- 15% Second Midterm
- 30% Final
- 5% - participation

## 6.1 Problem Sets

There is solid evidence that students learn more with lots of small assignments. Procrastination can be really hard to fight! To make things easy on you, I'll put in place some barriers to procrastination. In particular, there will be assignments due nearly every week. All problem sets will be assigned and submitted through SaplingPlus. They will be labeled "Problem Set." They will be graded very generously. For each question that you get wrong, you will immediately be given feedback, access to more explanation, and a chance to try again. For each wrong attempt, you will lose 5% of the value of that question. Some may be graded with 100% credit as long as you complete a full set of questions. If you work on them in multiple sessions, remember to save your progress. Late work will not be accepted.

## 6.2 Exams

: There will be two midterms and a final. All three will be conducted online. You will have a set window in which to complete them. Within that, you will have 1.5-3 hours to finish them once you begin (depending on the exam).

Notes on regrade requests All regrade requests must be made in writing. There is sufficient evidence that suggests that irrelevant factors about your identity or how you look or how you present yourself could influence my feelings of generosity when speaking to you and my decisions about whether to award you more points, or to remove points. I do not want these factors to change your grade. To reduce the influence of such factors, I will only consider regrade requests submitted in writing, and I will consult with other faculty members when there is uncertainty.

## 6.3 Attendance and Participation

This class will be entirely asynchronous. Throughout the semester, there will be occasional opportunities to participate in online surveys, discussions, and other activities. I expect you to participate.

# 7 General Policies

- Please follow the university's academic honesty policy. I will take violations very seriously. The policy can be found in the Student Handbook and online (<http://www.uh.edu/provost/academic-affairs/policy-guidelines/honesty-policy/academic-honesty-policy.pdf>).
- If you need special accommodations, please let me know/provide documentation as soon as possible. See below for more details.

## 8 Services Available

**Counseling and Psychological Services:** Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

**Students with Disabilities:** The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, the University of Houston strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. Students seeking accommodation in this course should contact the instructor after obtaining the appropriate documentation through the UH Center for Students with Disabilities.

**Interim Undergraduate Grading Policy - NO LONGER IN PLACE** The interim grading policy that was in place the past two semesters in response to COVID is no longer in place. Under this policy, students had the option of converting final assigned letter grades to S or NCR on their transcripts. This will no longer be possible in Spring 2021.

## 9 Policies from the Provost

**Excused Absence Policy** Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy and Graduate Excused Absence Policy for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

**Recording class** Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Center for Students with DisABILITIES. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor’s recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor’s recordings are not authorized to be

shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

**Changing Syllabus:** Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email.

**Asynchronous Online Courses (or asynchronous exam in another course format):** This course is taught asynchronously, which means there is no designated day or time assigned to the course (although optional synchronous sessions are possible, such as virtual office hours or discussion groups). Asynchronous instruction generally involves accessing content, such as recorded video lectures, readings, discussion prompts, assignments, and assessments during a flexible time frame, with due dates as specified. This course will have a final exam at the course conclusion. The exam will be asynchronous, and the date and time that it will be released and due will be announced during the course. Prior to the exam, descriptive information, such as the number and types of exam questions, resources and collaborations that are allowed and disallowed in the process of completing the exam, and procedures to follow if connectivity or other resource obstacles are encountered during the exam period, may be provided.

## 10 Calendar

		Exams and Problem Sets	Chapter	TOPIC
Jan 19-22	WEEK 1		1,2	Introduction, Supply and Demand Model
Jan 25-29	WEEK 2	Pset 1	4	Consumer Theory: Preferences and Budget Constraints
Feb 1-5	WEEK 3	Pset 2	4,5	Consumer Theory: Optimal Choice and Individual Demand
Feb 8-12	WEEK 4	Pset 3	5	Consumer Theory: Market Demand
Feb 15-19	WEEK 5	Pset 4	13,14	Consumer Theory: Extensions
Feb 22-26	WEEK 6	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 2</b>	13,14	Producer Theory: Technology and Costs
Mar 1-5	WEEK 7	Pset 5	6	Producer Theory: Cost Minimization
Mar 8-12	WEEK 8	Pset 6	6,7	Producer Theory: Profit Maximization
Mar 15-19		<b>Spring Break</b>		
Mar 23-27	WEEK 9	Pset 7	7,8	Competitive Market Equilibrium: Properties and Policies
Mar 29-Apr 2	WEEK 10	Pset 8	3	Imperfect Competition
Apr 5-9	WEEK 11	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 1</b>	3	Imperfect Competition
Apr 12-16	WEEK 12	Pset 9	9,10,11	Asymmetric Information
Apr 19-23	WEEK 13	Pset 10	16	Externalities
Apr 26-30	WEEK 14	Pset 11	17	Behavioral Economics
		<b>FINAL</b>		