

AgEcon 9040: Advanced Microeconomics: Theory and Applications I

Fall 2017

Instructor: Matthew Sveum, Ph.D.

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Class: TR 9:30-10:45am

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: 135E Mumford Hall

Course Description

This class is designed to be an introduction to PhD-level microeconomic analysis. This course will use advanced mathematics to explore microeconomic theory, which will prepare you for your own economic research. A thorough understanding of intermediate-level economics, as well as calculus, is presumed.

Requirements

Textbook

The main textbook for this class is *Microeconomic Analysis*, third edition, by Hal Varian. Copies can be purchased from the Mizzou Store, or from Amazon.

You are expected to read the relevant chapters before coming to class. This will help you to better understand the material being taught and to ask better questions.

Technology

I will post homework, as well as announcements on Canvas. You are required to check Canvas regularly, and all announcements on Canvas will be assumed to have been read. I will also post grades on Canvas. You have one week from the date that a grade is posted to alert me of any mistakes I made. After that time, grade changes can not be guaranteed.

Taking notes on a laptop, while not banned, is probably not a good idea. If you want to use a tablet, that is fine. I reserve the right to ban laptop use if they prove to be distracting. Phones should be turned to vibrate and put away. You **may not** use them during class.

Course Elements

Exams (25% each for two midterms + 30% for one final = 80%)

There will be two midterm exams and one final. The midterms will be during week 5 and week 10 in class. The final exam time will be determined as a group later in the semester. The final will be cumulative; the midterms will not be. All exams are closed book. You will be allowed to use a calculator, but you may not use a cell phone or iPod Touch-type device as a calculator. So make sure that you have a calculator by the first exam. Exams have a strict no-cheating policy. If you are caught using a cell phone, notes, etc during the exams, you will receive a zero for the exam. Make-up exams will not be given, except in a pre-planned, university-sponsored, event (athletic event, band concert, etc.). In the event that you miss a midterm for any other reason, I will re-weight your final to include the missed points. Missing the final will result in a failing course grade.

Homework (20%)

There will be occasional homework assignments of the problem-solving variety. You are encouraged to work together. However, you should never turn in an assignment that you are not fully comfortable explaining by yourself. In other words, use groups to help your understanding, not to get answers. The homework assignments will prepare you for the exams.

Classroom Expectations

I expect that students are respectful of their classmates. This means that opinions are treated with respect and that you pay attention to lecture and conversations. I expect that you keep cell phones put away, as well. I reserve the right to determine attendance points based on how attentive you are in class. Texting is considered inattentive.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center (disabilitycenter.missouri.edu, S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696), and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, visit ada.missouri.edu.

Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the MU Equity Office (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Recording

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio

recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters. Video recordings are not allowed.