

Syllabus for EC 308, Section 004
Intermediate Microeconomics
Fall 2007

Course:

Lecture: TR 3:30–4:45pm, Bidgood Hall 115

Instructor: Razvan Pascalau

Office: Bidgood Hall 345B
Phone: 205-348-7592
Email: pasca001@bama.ua.edu
Course Website: <http://www.cba.ua.edu/~rpascala/classes.php>
Office Hours: TR 9:30–11:00am, and by appointment

Prerequisites: (Undergraduate level MATH 121 Minimum Grade of C- or Undergraduate level MATH 125 Minimum Grade of C-) and Undergraduate level EC 110 Minimum Grade of C- and Undergraduate level EC 111 Minimum Grade of C-.

Text: *Microeconomics*, Robert S. Pindyck and Daniel L. Rubinfeld, 6th Edition, ISBN 0-13-008461-1.

Course Description: Examination of the theory of competitive markets, market structure, and the role of Government. Topics include demand theory, production and cost functions, pricing and output under competitive and uncompetitive conditions, externalities and public goods.

Course Objective: Students will master the basic tools of microeconomic analysis in order to understand real world consumer behavior and production/pricing decisions under different market structures.

Material to be Covered: Chapters 1 through 6, 7.1-7.4, 8 through 10, 11.1-11.3, 12, 14, 15.1-15.5, 18.1-18.2, 18.5.

Homework: Homework will be assigned on a regular schedule. Late homework will not be accepted (unless it is the result of an officially excused absence). There will be 7 homeworks in total, where each homework corresponds roughly to 2 chapters. Each homework will be due after two class periods. For instance, if we finish a chapter on a Thursday, the homework will be due at the beginning of class next Thursday.

Exams: There will be three exams and a final. Exam 1 will cover chapters 1 through 5, Exam 2 will cover selected material from 6 through 10, and Exam 3 will cover selected material from chapters 11 through 15. The final exam will be cumulative.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 12, 7:00–9:30 pm, BD 115.

Grading:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Homework ($7 \times 2\%$ each) | 14% |
| Three Exams (20% each) | 60% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Total | 104 points |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| A | 90–100 points |
| B | 80–89 |
| C | 70–79 |
| D | 60–69 |
| F | 0–59 |

I will be using the +/- scale in assigning final grades. Note that the list above details a guaranteed range, but grading ranges are likely to be flexible downward.

Working Together: It is ok to work together on homework. However, when it comes time for you to write up the solutions, I expect you to do this on your own, and it would be best for your own understanding if you put aside your notes from the discussions with your classmates and wrote up the solutions entirely from scratch. Working together on exams, of course, is expressly forbidden.

Calculator: Students may use a graphing calculator on exams and homework. Students may not use a machine with symbolic manipulation capabilities on exams. Thus, no TI-89's, TI-92's, HP-48's or laptop computers may be used on exams. Please see me if you have any questions.

Absences: You are expected to attend every class. If you are not able to turn in a homework assignment, or take an exam because of an unexcused absence, you will not be able to turn the homework in late or take the exam. A University excuse from a scheduled class activity such as an exam must be presented in writing no later than two weeks prior to the date of the absence. An absence due to illness or family emergency may be excused, provided that you can supply acceptable written evidence if required, and that you notify the instructor *as soon as possible*. Notification is almost always possible immediately upon occurrence of an emergency. If you're too sick to telephone, you can get a friend to do it. Failure to make such timely notification may result in denial of your request.

Cheating: The University's *minimum penalty* for cheating or plagiarism is *a failure in the course*. Cheating or plagiarism can lead to expulsion from the university. It's not worth it, so don't do it.

Expectations: I expect that everyone will maintain a classroom conducive to learning. I like an informal atmosphere, but it must be orderly. Thus, everyone is expected to behave with basic politeness, civility, and respect for others. In particular, talking in class is ok if it's part of a class discussion or with me. Private communications are not, especially during tests. Neither are reading extraneous materials, using electronic equipment, or sleeping.

Suggestions: Suggestions for improvement are welcome at any time. Any concern about the course should be brought to my attention.