

# Syllabus

## Econ 301

### Intermediate Microeconomics

Lecture 1: TuTh 1:00PM - 2:15PM; SOC SCI 5206

Lecture 2: TuTh 2:30PM - 3:45PM; SOC SCI 5208

Professor: Marek Weretka

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**Course Website:** <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~mweretka/home/teaching>

**Course Description:** This is an *intensive* course in Intermediate Microeconomics. The goal of the course is to give you a better understanding of the tools used in microeconomics and, more importantly, to help you to see the insights one gains when such tools are applied to everyday problems. It will build your skills in describing economic situations with graphs and algebra.

**Office Hours:** Monday 4:00-6:00

**TAs:** Matt Friedman (L1), Mike Batty (L1), Gultekin Gollu (L2), Jorge Vasquez (L2)

**Prerequisites:** Any two introductory economic courses and one semester of calculus.

**Textbook:**

I will follow *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach* (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> edition) by H. Varian. You can purchase it in the university bookstore. The central source of learning: lecture slides and problem sets. (Textbook is strongly recommended but not necessary).

**Grading:**

There will be two midterm exams (February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>) and a final exam (May 13<sup>th</sup>). Review sections will be given in class before all three exams. Every week, you will be assigned a problem set that you are expected to solve and hand in one week later, in the *beginning* of the class on Thursday. The following weights will be used to determine your final grade:

Midterm exams = 20%×2

Final exam = 35%

Problem sets = 25%

Final exam date: 05.13.10, 5:05PM - 7:05PM

Problem sets and slides will be posted on the course website prior the class.

### **Course outline:**

Following is the list of topics I am going to cover. The material is divided into three blocks: Consumer Choice, Market Equilibrium with Producers, and Market Failures.

#### **1. Consumers and Equilibrium**

January 24 <sup>th</sup> (L1)	Budget Set (Chapter 2, also read Chapter 1)
January 26 <sup>th</sup> (L2)	Preferences (Chapter 3)
January 31 <sup>st</sup> (L3)	Utility (Chapter 4)
February 2 <sup>nd</sup> (L4)	Choice 1 (Chapter 5)
February 7 <sup>th</sup> (L5)	Choice 2 (Chapter 5)
February 9 <sup>th</sup> (L6)	Demand (Chapter 6)
February 14 <sup>th</sup> (L7)	Slutsky Decomposition (Chapter 8)
February 16 <sup>th</sup> (L8)	Buying and selling, Labor-Leisure choice (Chapter 9)
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Review 1
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Midterm 1

#### **2. Exchange and Producers**

February 28 <sup>th</sup> (L9)	Intertemporal Choice 1 (elements of Chapter 10 and 11)
March 1 <sup>st</sup> (L10)	Intertemporal Choice 2 (elements of Chapter 10 and 11)
March 6 <sup>st</sup> (L11)	Uncertainty (Chapter 12)
March 8 <sup>th</sup> (L12)	General Equilibrium 1 (Chapter 31)
March 13 <sup>th</sup> (L13)	General Equilibrium 2 (Chapter 31)
March 15 <sup>th</sup> (L14)	Technology (Chapter 18)
March 20 <sup>th</sup> (L15)	Producers and Labor Market (Chapter 19)
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> (L16)	Cost Minimization and Cost Curves (Chapters 20 and 21)
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Review 2
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Midterm 2

#### **3. Market Microstructure and Market Failure**

April 10 <sup>th</sup> (L17)	Firm Supply (Chapter 22)
April 12 <sup>th</sup> (L18)	Market Microstructure (Chapter 23)
April 17 <sup>th</sup> (L19)	Monopoly (Chapter 24)
April 19 <sup>th</sup> (L20)	Monopolistic Behavior, (Chapter 25)
April 24 <sup>th</sup> (L21)	Factor Markets (Chapter 24-25)
April 26 <sup>st</sup> (L22)	Oligopoly (Chapter 27)
May 1 <sup>st</sup> (L23)	Externalities (Chapter 34)
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> (L24)	Public good (Chapter 36)
May 8 <sup>th</sup> (L25)	Asymmetric Information (Chapter 37)
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Review 3
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam

### **Basic rules (This is a large class and therefore I will be strict about them)**

1. Problem sets submitted after the deadline **are not** accepted (the deadline = the begging of the class on Thursday).

2. You are **strongly** encouraged to collaborate with other students on Problem Sets, but you should submit your own answers (two identical copies will not be accepted).
3. No midterm or final will be rescheduled for any student and for any reason.
4. If unhappy with your midterm grade, you will have one week to write down a formal complaint, explaining carefully why your grade should be changed. In such a case, your midterm will be reevaluated (your grade can go up or down).
5. With any questions regarding problem sets, please contact your TA.

**Mc Burney Students:** Please talk to me in person or send me an e-mail in the beginning of the course.