

# Syllabus

## Econ 301

### Intermediate Microeconomics

Lecture 1: TuTh 1:00PM - 2:15PM; BASCOM 272

Lecture 2: TuTh 2:30PM - 3:45PM; SOC SCI 6210

Professor: Marek Weretka

Office: 6442 SS

Email: [weretka@wisc.edu](mailto:weretka@wisc.edu)

**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:

Eunsun Gil, ([egil@wisc.edu](mailto:egil@wisc.edu))

Ryne Marksteiner, ([marksteiner@wisc.edu](mailto:marksteiner@wisc.edu))

Shane Auerbach, ([sauerbach@wisc.edu](mailto:sauerbach@wisc.edu))

Hsuan-Li Su (Shane) ([su24@wisc.edu](mailto:su24@wisc.edu))

**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 recommended but not required).

#### Grading:

There will be two midterm exams (February 27<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>) and a final exam (May 15<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 =  $20\% \times 2$

Final exam = 35%

Problem sets = 25%

Final exam date: 05/15/14, 7:25PM - 9:25PM

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 Produces, and Market Failures.

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

January 21 <sup>st</sup> (L1)	Budget Set (Chapter 2, also read Chapter 1)
January 23 <sup>rd</sup> (L2)	Preferences (Chapter 3)
January 28 <sup>th</sup> (L3)	Utility (Chapter 4)
January 30 <sup>th</sup> (L4)	Choice 1 (Chapter 5)
February 4 <sup>th</sup> (L5)	Choice 2 (Chapter 5)
February 6 <sup>th</sup> (L6)	Demand (Chapter 6)
February 11 <sup>th</sup> (L7)	Slutsky Decomposition (Chapter 8)
February 13 <sup>th</sup> (L8)	Buying and selling, Labor-Leisure choice (Chapter 9)
February 18 <sup>th</sup> (L9)	Intertemporal Choice 1 (elements of Chapter 10 and 11)
February 20 <sup>th</sup> (L10)	Intertemporal Choice 2 (elements of Chapter 10 and 11)

February 25<sup>th</sup> Review 1

February 27<sup>th</sup> Midterm 1

#### **2. Exchange, Producers, Market Power**

March 4 <sup>th</sup> (L11)	Uncertainty (Chapter 12)
March 6 <sup>th</sup> (L12)	General Equilibrium 1 (Chapter 31)
March 11 <sup>th</sup> (L13)	General Equilibrium 2 (Chapter 31)
March 13 <sup>th</sup> (L14)	Technology (Chapter 18)
March 25 <sup>th</sup> (L15)	Producers and Labor Market (Chapter 19)
March 27 <sup>st</sup> (L16)	Cost Minimization and Cost Curves (Chapters 20 and 21)
April 1 <sup>st</sup> (L17)	Firm Supply (Chapter 22)
April 3 <sup>th</sup> (L18)	Market Microstructure (Chapter 23)

April 8<sup>th</sup> Review 2

April 10<sup>th</sup> Midterm 2

#### **3. Market Failures**

April 15 <sup>th</sup> (L19)	Monopoly (Chapter 24)
April 17 <sup>th</sup> (L20)	Monopolistic Behavior, (Chapter 25)
April 22 <sup>nd</sup> (L21)	Factor Markets (Chapter 24-25)
April 24 <sup>th</sup> (L22)	Oligopoly (Chapter 27)
April 29 <sup>th</sup> (L23)	Externalities (Chapter 34)
May 1 <sup>st</sup> (L24)	Public good (Chapter 36)
May 6 <sup>th</sup> (L25)	Asymmetric Information (Chapter 37)

May 8<sup>th</sup> Review 3

May 15<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 beginning 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.