

# ECON 2106 Syllabus

## Principles of Microeconomics, 3 credits

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### Instructor Information

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<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Drop-in Hours &amp; Location</b>
Rachel Behrmann, PhD	Rbehrmann3@gatech.edu	Old Civil Engineering, Office G-07F MW 11-12:15 (email the night before) And by appointment

<b>Teaching Assistant(s)</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Drop-in Hours &amp; Location</b>
TBA	TBA	TBA
	message via Canvas for in-class participation	And by appointment

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### General Course Information

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#### Description

This course is an introduction to microeconomics. Students will learn the basics of supply and demand, trade, elasticity, and market structures. Students will also learn how to analyze government policies (e.g. taxes, price controls) and approaches to solving market failures (e.g. carbon taxes on externalities).

#### Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Welcome to Principles of Microeconomics! I am excited for you to join this course and want every one of you to succeed. Please ask questions in class, and feel free to see me during office hours if you are struggling in the course (note: it is better to do this as soon as possible so that I can best advise you how to improve your grade). Everyone has the ability to succeed in this course, even if you feel that you are not good at math. If you are struggling with calculations, please come see me in office hours and I will work with you to increase your confidence in completing them.

At the end of this course, you should have a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of microeconomics that will supplement Principles of Macroeconomics and prepare you for future economics and relevant business courses and enhance your understanding of the economy and how it works. This will be achieved through the following learning goals:

1. A thorough understanding of the demand and supply curves, what shifts them, how movements affect general equilibrium, and how they are affected by government policy
2. Ability to predict price and quantity changes as a result of changes in supply and demand, and analyze potential underlying causes behind price and quantity changes
3. Ability to calculate microeconomic concepts such as marginal cost, marginal benefit, elasticity, etc.
4. Internalization of what opportunity cost is and how it affects everyday life
5. Knowledge on the differences between perfect competition, monopolies, and monopolistic competition and how this affects production and price
6. An understanding of common government regulatory tools such as price ceilings and floors, tariffs, quotas, taxes, and subsidies, and the benefits and drawbacks of each type of policy
7. An understanding of externalities, why they are important, and how the government reacts to them

## Core IMPACTS

**This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

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## Course Requirements & Grading

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Your final grade will be composed as follows:

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3:	24%
Weekly Canvas Quizzes (Homework):	20%
Take-home Final Assessment:	5%
Supply/Demand Discussion Post:	5%
Weekly In-Class Participation:	6%

## Description of Graded Components

**Weekly Canvas Quizzes:** There will be weekly Canvas quizzes. These will be due every Sunday at 11:59pm. I will drop your lowest assignment score. You have two attempts on the quizzes. Late submissions are accepted up to one day late.

**Supply/Demand Shifter Discussion Post:** After you learn about equilibrium there will be a supply/demand shifter discussion post where you will find a recent news article online describing a supply or demand shifter, state which curve is shifting, and what you expect to happen to price and quantity as a result.

**Weekly In-Class Participation:** We will have graded in-class participation activities throughout the semester, approximately one per two lecture classes. These may be submitting a two-sentence free response thought on the material this week, doing a math exercise in small groups, or some other form of engagement. Two of these will be in-class discussions on opportunity costs and externalities. I will take attendance through Canvas and you will receive full credit if you are in class that day. I will drop your lowest two scores. If you are sick or have an emergency, please message the TA in Canvas for the access code.

**Examinations:** This class will have three exams and one take-home final assessment in lieu of a final exam. The exams will all be administered on Canvas with Lockdown enabled. You may bring a standard 3x5 index card with notes that

you have written yourself to the exams. If you are running late to the exam for some legitimate reason, please email me as soon as possible, so that I know to allow you to take the exam. Make-up exams will be given with an excused absence (see make-up policy below). The dates for the exams are listed in the schedule at the end of the syllabus, but **are subject to change as necessary.**

### **Extra Credit**

Any extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and made available to the entire class. There will be no individual extra credit offered out of consideration towards fairness to the rest of the class.

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	0-59.99%

Grade cutoffs are final and grades do not round up. I do not arbitrarily raise any individual's grade at the end of the semester to bump a student above a letter grade cutoff. I consider it unethical to change a student's grade at the end of the semester; I will not respond to those emails and please do not ask. For fairness reasons, all opportunities for grade increases will be captured in extra credit assignments that are offered to the entire class. For pass/fail students, a C or higher is passing.

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## **Course Materials**

### **Course Text**

Microeconomics, Michael Parkin, Fourteenth Edition, 2022, Pearson. Students are welcome to study from an earlier edition of the same textbook if they wish.

### **Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools**

This is a face-to-face class to be taken in-person on campus. We will be using Canvas as our online learning management system. Each week will have a module containing notes and assignments associated with that module. Exams will be in-person and will take place during class on the scheduled date.

### **Additional Materials/Resources**

An optional supplementary textbook is Principles of Microeconomics by Dr. Emma Hutchinson, **free and open source** at <https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/uvicecon103/>. Any additional readings will be posted and available on the course Canvas in the appropriate week's module.

Please view Modules on Canvas to see course materials such as lectures, notes, assignments, and more. It will all be organized by week and very user-friendly.

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## **Course Policies, Expectations, & Guidelines**

### **Emails**

I want to hear from my students, so please feel free to message me. All messages should be sent through Canvas; I will not answer grade questions through email. I try to respond to students within 72 business hours. If you do not hear from me by then, please send a follow-up. I may not see emails sent over the weekend until Monday.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

### **Attendance and/or Participation**

Attendance in class is expected and will help you better learn the material. This is, in part, enforced through the weekly in-class participation (message the TA on Canvas with any questions about this). However, I do not want students coming to class sick and I realize that circumstances may arise that prevent a student from attending class on a certain day. For that reason, please message me on Canvas if you have any additional questions or concerns.

### **Announcements**

It is the expectation of this course that the student will check Canvas daily for course announcements. Any announcements posted are important, and the instructor will conduct the course assuming any posted announcements have been read.

### **Contesting Grades**

If a student thinks an error has been made in grading, it is the responsibility of the student to see the instructor during office hours to discuss this within two weeks of the grade being posted. Adjustments to a given grade may be denied after this time period.

### **Collaboration & Group Work**

You are expected to complete and submit your own work for all assignments. You may collaborate on homework and the graphing assignment. Any outside assistance on exams and the take-home assessment is prohibited.

### **Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams**

Students may request extensions on deadlines if they experience circumstances that make them physically or mentally unwell enough to submit them on time. Students should notify the instructor promptly of any difficulties they are having; the instructor may choose to deny extensions on assignments that are open for a significant period of time or if students wait to ask for them until after the deadline has passed. Students are expected to employ basic time management skills and stress caused from normal school/work responsibilities is not included in this generally.

There will be no make-up exams allowed unless they are approved by the instructor. I allow makeup exams for students who have unforeseen negative circumstances that prevent students from physically being in the class or mentally being prepared for the exam that day. Approved absences include: 1) an illness or injury 2) death or serious illness of an immediate family member, 3) a religious observance, 4) jury duty, 5) a university sanctioned or approved activity, 6) an academic conference or job interview and 7) a military-related absence. It is your responsibility to notify me of this absence beforehand if you know about the situation ahead of time, or as soon as possible if it is an emergency (i.e. within 48 hours of the exam), and I may require documentation as proof. Make-up exams will not be provided because you chose to be on vacation during the exam date.

### **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

### **Religious Holy Days**

Every student has the right to observe religious holy days. If your need to observe a religious holy day conflicts with class requirements, please inform me two weeks ahead of time and I will make reasonable accommodations.

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## Course Schedule

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This is a tentative schedule of the upcoming semester by chapter of the assigned textbook, but is subject to change as necessary based on school closures, individual class pacing, or other situations. I rarely change exam dates so please put these in your calendar now.

**Note: Weekly economics quizzes are due every Sunday at 11:59pm starting 1/25/2026.**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic /Exam Dates</i>
1	8/24	Syllabus, Intro to Econ
	8/26	PPF
2	8/31	PPF
	9/2	Demand & Supply
3	9/7	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>
	9/9	Equilibrium
4	9/14	More Equilibrium, Graphing, and News Applications
	9/16	Elasticity
5	9/21	Elasticity <b>Supply/Demand Shifter Post at 11:59pm</b>
	9/23	Efficiency and Equity
6	9/28	<b>Exam 1</b>
	9/30	Price Ceilings and Floors
7	10/5	<b>Fall Break</b>
	10/7	Taxes and Subsidies
8	10/12	Global Markets
	10/14	Global Markets and Public Goods
9	10/19	Negative Externalities
	10/21	Positive Externalities
10	10/26	Finishing up and Review
	10/28	<b>Exam 2</b>
11	11/2	Firms and Production
	11/4	Perfect Competition
12	11/9	Perfect Competition (Cont.)
	11/11	Monopolies
13	11/16	Price-discriminating monopolies
	11/18	Monopolistic competition and oligopolies
14	11/23	Consumer Theory
	11/25	Finishing up Firms and Review
15	11/30	Game Theory
	12/2	<b>Exam 3</b>
16	12/7	Applied Economics Talk
17		<b>Take-home Assessment due according to university final exam matrix: Thursday, April 30, 5:30 PM</b>

For the final exam date and time, please see the university's final exam matrix: <https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/final-exam-matrices>