

ECON 6106 Syllabus

Microeconomic Analysis, 3 credits

Instructor Information

Instructor Rachel Behrmann, PhD	Email Rbehrmann3@gatech.edu	Drop-in Hours & Location Old Civil Engineering, Office G-07F MW 11-12:15 (email the night before) And by appointment
Teaching Assistant(s) TBA	Email TBA	Drop-in Hours & Location TBA

General Course Information

Description

Welcome to Microeconomic Analysis! Students will learn the building blocks of economic theory, optimization methods, and mathematical techniques to conduct economic analysis. We will use these techniques to analyze topics such as consumer theory, optimal decision making, market behavior, and social welfare. We will also read published papers from peer-reviewed academic journals (American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, etc.).

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). 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.

Course Text and Materials

I will pull my notes from the following reference texts:

1. Intermediate Microeconomics: A Tool-Building Approach, 2e, Samiran Banerjee, Routledge
2. Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach, 2e, Varian and Melitz, W. W. Norton & Company
3. Advanced Microeconomic Theory, 3e, Jehle and Reny, Pearson

Additionally, we will read several published research articles so that you can become critical consumers of economic literature. These articles will come from top economic journals such as American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, etc. I will link these in Canvas and post a pdf for students.

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.

Course Requirements & Grading

Your final grade will be composed as follows:

Top 3 of Exams (3) and Final (1): 72% (24*3)

Homework: 20%

Weekly In-Class Participation: 8%

Description of Graded Components

Homework: There will be homework assignments posted on Canvas for each chapter. Due dates for these will be posted with each homework assignment and will be due in class on that day. I will drop your lowest assignment score. You are welcome to work with your classmates, but everyone should turn in their own homework submission.

Weekly In-Class Participation: We will have graded in-class participation activities throughout the semester, approximately one per two lecture classes. 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 final exam. I will drop your lowest score so that your top three scores make up 72% of your final grade. 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. Students are expected to arrive on time for exams, especially for the final exam. The instructor reserves the right to deny students the ability to take the final exam if they are over an hour late arriving to the final.**

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.

Final Grades and 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.

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 may collaborate on homework. Any outside assistance or collaboration on exams 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.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list of wellness related resources](#) has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being (<https://students.gatech.edu/student-resource-guide>).

Course Schedule

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.

Note: I have given more time than needed for many subjects because we will also be reading and discussing several published research articles so that you can become critical consumers of economic literature.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic /Exam Dates</i>
1	8/24	Syllabus, Intro to Econ
	8/26	Budgets
2	8/31	Preferences
	9/2	Utility
3	9/7	Labor Day Holiday
	9/9	Indifference Curves
4	9/14	Optimal Choice (Optimization)
	9/16	Optimal Choice
5	9/21	Optimality Review
	9/23	Quick Review of Terms (Normal vs Inferior, Ordinary vs Giffen)
6	9/28	Exam 1
	9/30	Substitution/Income Effects, Slutsky/Hicks
7	10/5	Fall Break
	10/7	Substitution/Income Effects, Slutsky/Hicks
8	10/12	Utility Max vs Expenditure Min, Duality
	10/14	Uncertainty, Risk Aversion, Insurance
9	10/19	Uncertainty, Risk Aversion, Insurance, Prospect Theory
	10/21	Social Welfare
10	10/26	Game Theory
	10/28	Catch-up/Review
11	11/2	Exam 2
	11/4	Monopolies, Price Discrimination
12	11/9	Monopolies, Price Discrimination
	11/11	Production, Cost Minimization, Profit Maximization
13	11/16	Oligopolies (Bertrand, Cournot, Stackelberg)
	11/18	Oligopolies (Bertrand, Cournot, Stackelberg)
14	11/23	Edgeworth Boxes, Welfare Theorems
	11/25	Edgeworth Boxes, Welfare Theorems
15	11/30	Catch-up/Review
	12/2	Exam 3
16	12/7	Review
17		Final exam based on university final exam matrix

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