

ECON 3110
Advanced Microeconomic Analysis
Fall 2026

Georgia Institute of Technology
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
School of Economics

Class Meeting Time and Location: TBA
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NOTE: All participants in this course—students, instructor, and TA—are expected to abide by the values enumerated in the [Statement of Diversity and Inclusion](#) of the Ivan Allen College. Please take a moment to read and reflect upon this statement.

Course Description: Thanks in part to politicians and major news media outlets, these days when most people think of “economics” they’re probably thinking of *macroeconomics*. In reality, however, most issues and problems in economics would be categorized under *microeconomics*. Fundamentally, microeconomics is the study of how individuals and firms make decisions about how to allocate scarce resources, given all relevant benefits, costs, and constraints. For example, households consume a variety of goods and services, which provide them with benefits while incurring costs, and each household’s income constrains the total amount of goods and services it can afford to consume. Firms, on the other hand, combine inputs (*e.g.*, labor, raw materials, and machinery) to produce goods and services, seeking simultaneously to minimize costs and maximize profit. A **market** emerges when consumers (households) seeking to purchase a given good or service interact with producers (firms) seeking to sell it. Broadly, microeconomics can be thought of as the study of the market behavior of consumers and producers.

Course Objective: This course reinforces and expands on the concepts and tools learned in ECON 2106 (Principles of Microeconomics) by incorporating a greater degree of mathematical rigor.

Course Prerequisites: ECON 2106 or ECON 2100 or ECON 2101

Text (physical copy not required): *Microeconomics*, by Austan Goolsbee, Steven Levitt, & Chad Syverson, 4th ed., Worth Publishers, N.Y.

Required Supplement: Access to the *Achieve* course site (details at back of syllabus), which includes an e-copy of the textbook.

Grading Scale: We will follow a standard grading scale for this course:

90%-100%	A
80%-90%	B
70%-80%	C
60%-70%	D
< 60%	F

Course Grade: Your grade for this course will be comprised of four components:

1. **Online Homework Assignments** (15%) – Much of your homework will be administered through the Macmillan *Achieve* website. For most chapters, the homework assignment will be to complete the End of Chapter (EOC) problems in *Achieve*. Please note the following:
 - The due dates for EOC problems will be set as we go through the material. Please note that I will not be integrating the Achieve course with the Canvas course site (because it's a total pain). However, as we progress through the material, **I will send out regular announcements about the Achieve assignments and their due dates.** It is your responsibility to (i) not ignore those announcements when they arrive in your email inbox, and (ii) log into the *Achieve* website regularly to keep track of the assignment due dates. This is important, because...
 - If you do not complete a given EOC assignment by the specified due date/time, your grade for that assignment will be a zero. If you miss an EOC assignment *for any reason*, I will not give you an extension, so don't ask. However, acknowledging that sometimes things happen that are outside of one's control that might cause you to miss an assignment, **at the end of the semester I will drop your two lowest EOC assignment grades**, meaning you can miss up to two of them for no penalty.
2. **Written Homework Assignments** (10%) – For some chapters, I will supplement the online assignments with written problems that you will submit via Canvas by the specified due date.
 - Written homework assignments will be posted on the Canvas course site, in the *Written Homework Assignments* module.
 - For these assignments, there are no drops. However, late submissions will be accepted for up to one week after the due date, for a penalty of 5 points (out of 100) per working day (M-F). After one week, late submissions will not be accepted and will be counted as a zero.
3. **Midterm Exams** (20% each) – There will be two midterm exams. The first will be on **[date TBA]**. The second will be on **[date TBA]**. These dates are non-negotiable. For those with GT-approved absences only, a make-up exam will be scheduled accordingly.
4. **Final Exam** (35%) – The final exam will be comprehensive. The date and time will be in accordance with the GT Final Exam Schedule. For those with GT-approved absences only, a make-up final exam will be scheduled accordingly.

The percentages next to each component above indicate the weight that each component carries in your final grade. Thus, your final grade will be calculated as a *weighted average*. So, for example, if at the end of the semester your Online Homework average is a 94, your Written Homework average is a 92, you got an 88 the first midterm exam, an 80 on the second midterm, and a 90 on the final exam, your grade for the class will be:

$$(0.15 \times 94) + (0.1 \times 92) + (0.2 \times 88) + (0.2 \times 80) + (0.35 \times 90) = 88.4 \rightarrow B$$

Rounding Policy: I have a hard rule about rounding, which is that there is none. Your final score is what it is down to the last decimal. An 89.999 is a B (just as a 79.999 is a C, and so on). You might think that's harsh, but here's the rationale. You already get two dropped EOC assignments, plus there will be various opportunities for bonus points and extra credit throughout the semester. If that still isn't enough to get you over the hump to a 90.0 or better, that's too bad; you deserve the B.

Final Grade Policy: Final grades are final. Please do not contact me after the term is over to ask if there is anything you can do to improve your grade. There isn't. This is not because I'm mean or I don't like you. It's simply a hard rule designed to maintain fairness. It would not be ethical to extend a special favor to any one person that I do not also extend to everyone. The only reason I would change your grade after the fact is if you

can show me incontrovertible evidence that I have made a mistake in calculating it (for example, because I had one of your homework or exam scores recorded incorrectly).

Exam Schedule Policy: If you do not have a GT-approved excused absence (*e.g.*, for athletics or if you have a disability waiver), DO NOT ask me if you can take an exam at some other time for any reason. The answer, preemptively, is no (verifiable minority religious holidays are the *only* exception). Here also, this is a rule to maintain fairness. This is simply too big of a class to accommodate those requests, and if I do it for one person, I have to do it for everyone, which would be way too much to deal with. If, on an exam date, you come down with a legitimate serious illness or have an automobile accident or something like that, I will send you to the Office of the Dean of Students to plead your case to them. Only after I receive confirmation from ODS that your excuse is legitimate will I allow you to reschedule the exam.

Canvas Grade Posting Policy: Throughout the session/semester, either I or my TA will post your written homework and exam grades in the Canvas course site Grades tab for you to keep track of your grade. If you find any discrepancy between what you actually made on a homework/exam and the grade that is posted on Canvas, please notify me immediately so that I can correct it.

Other Course Policies: Please make every effort *not* to arrive late to class or leave early. Please set cell phones to 'silent' and *do not* answer your phone while in class (do not get up and leave the classroom to answer your phone either). If it is a genuine emergency, you will be permitted to exit the classroom to address the issue. Texting during class is not permitted. Any other rude or disruptive behavior will be dealt with appropriately. You may bring your laptop computer or other device to class, but only if you are using it for course-related activities (not for playing games or watching YouTube, among other things). *During exams, you may not use your cell phone calculator (so bring an actual calculator), and if you need to go to the restroom, you must leave your cell phone with me while you go.*

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any violation of the Institute's Honor Code will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Group Work: You are encouraged to interact with other students outside the classroom to discuss the homework and study for exams, but no formal group assignments are assigned.

Disclaimer: If anything should change with respect to this syllabus, I will let you know immediately.

Tentative Course Outline:

1. Introduction: Chapter 1
2. The Supply & Demand Model: Review, Analysis, & Applications: Chapters 2, 3

MIDTERM EXAM 1 (*date TBA, over Chapters 1-3*)

3. Consumer Behavior: Chapters 4, 5
4. Producer Behavior: Chapters 6-8

MIDTERM EXAM 2 (*date TBA, over Chapters 4-8*)

5. Monopoly: Chapter 9
6. Oligopoly & Game Theory: Chapters 11, 12
7. Special Topics: Chapters 14, 16, 17

FINAL EXAM (*comprehensive*)

Instructions for Accessing the Macmillan *Achieve* Course Site

The online supplement to our course is **open** for student registration

To register, click on the following link: <https://achieve.macmillanlearning.com/courses/r8qgr9>

Alternatively, you can go to <https://achieve.macmillanlearning.com/start>, click on “I Need to Enroll in a Course,” and enter the Course ID: **TBA**

You will then be prompted to purchase access for \$109.99 (or you may enter an *Access Code* if you already purchased one elsewhere).

- You also have the option of registering for the *Achieve* course on a two-week trial basis, but please note that if you plan to stay in the course for the full semester you will need to pay the access fee before the two-week trial ends.

From there, follow the prompts to enter your information to get signed up. ***Please be sure to enter your name as it appears in the Georgia Tech system.***

For more information, please visit the **Achieve Getting Started Guide for Students:**

<https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Achieve-Getting-Started-Guide-for-Students>

NOTE: If you have any trouble accessing *Achieve*, or once you have access if you have any technical difficulties, please contact Achieve Customer Support. I will not be able to help you fix the issue. To contact Achieve Customer Support, click on “Show Help” in the top right corner of the screen, which will take you to a link to contact Customer Support, or you can follow this link directly:

<https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/contactsupport>