ECONOMICS 2106 GT6
PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
Fall 2026
12:30pm-1:45pm MW, Boggs B5

TIBOR BESEDEŠ

OFFICE: Old CE Building 319
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 11am-12:15pm or by appointment
E-MAIL: besedes@gatech.edu
WEB PAGE: Canvas

Course Objectives:
This course investigates the foundations of microeconomics. We will study demand and supply and market equilibriums before we proceed to examine decision making on the part of individuals and firms. We will examine how consumers make consumption relevant decisions and derive the demand curve. To derive the supply curve, we will study the behavior of firms and how they make production relevant decisions. We will discuss how various market structures operate and how efficient they are. Throughout the semester we will examine the efficiency of market outcomes, the effect of government intervention and how it relates to efficiency, and what happens when the market fails in achieving an efficient outcome.

The main goal of this course is to introduce you to microeconomics and to enable you to critically observe current events and apply what you learn.

Specific Learning Objectives:
Knowledge:

- How markets function – supply and demand, elasticity, interventions in markets
- Consumer behavior – demand
- The firm's problem – production functions, cost and profit making related decisions
- Market structures – perfect competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, monopoly
- Sources and analysis of market failure – imperfect competition, asymmetric information, public goods, externalities

Skills:

- Graphical and algebraic analysis
- Problem solving methods as applied to economic problems
- Ability to apply analytical tools to economic concepts and ideas
- Critical thinking and logic

Perspectives:

- Understanding the functioning of markets in a broad context
- Adopt a greater appreciation of firms' and consumers' decision-making
- View optimal decision-making from a marginal perspective

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

Textbook:

1. Krugman, Paul and Robin Wells, *Microeconomics*, 7th ed., Macmillan Learning, with Achieve. (*required*)
   Achieve access code (comes with ebook): ISBN 9781319481179
   Loose Leaf + Achieve: ISBN 9781319543945

You can purchase the textbook in any format you want (paper, e-book). However you decide to purchase the textbook, you ***must*** purchase access to Achieve as this is where you will be submitting homework.

Accessing Achieve:
Access Achieve ***only*** through Canvas. Warning: It is possible to access the Achieve site for the course by going straight to Achieve. However, if you do so, any grades from Achieve will not appear on Canvas.

Accessing MobLab:
We will use MobLab, a platform to play economic games and experiment. Access instructions are on the last page of the syllabus. Make sure you register using the same email address as in Canvas (your GT email address). This will make it easier to synchronize participation scores. The School of Economics is covering the full cost of MobLab for all registered students. Do not purchase access to MobLab.

Class Participation:
While participation will not be graded directly, your participation in MobLab will be graded (participation only, not how you did in games). Only participation in synchronous MobLab games

will count towards your participation score. Participation in any MobLab game assigned asynchronously will not count.

Notes on online platforms:
Achieve: All homework will be assigned and graded on Achieve.

MobLab: All in-class games and experiment will be conducted on MobLab during lectures.

Canvas: The main medium of communication will be Canvas. All course announcements, grades, exam answers, and other information will be posted there.

Prerequisites:
None

Grading:
Grades will be based on three in-term exams, a cumulative final exam, homework, and participation in Moblab. Each exam covers about a third of the material. ***There will be no make-up exams under any circumstances.*** An exam that is missed will be considered an F, unless you have been prevented from taking the exam by forces outside of your control. In such cases (illness, car accident, family emergencies, Institute functions) some form of documentation will have to be provided in order for you not to receive an F. Provided an exam is missed for a valid reason, its weight in the final grade calculation will be replaced by the final exam. The lowest in-term exam grade will be dropped.

The three in-term exams each consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. The lowest of the three in-term exam grades will be dropped. The final exam consists of 60 multiple-choice questions. Exams will all be administered in class, via Canvas and the LockDown Brower. You will need to bring your laptop (if you do not have one, you can check one out through the library) to take the exam. Exams will be taken during the regularly scheduled class meeting time. The final will be taken at the Institute scheduled time. You must be in the classroom when taking the exam.

Each homework assignment consists of up to 20 questions, usually of the multiple-choice type. All homework will be announced, assigned, and completed through Achieve. It is ***your responsibility to check Achieve or Canvas for new homework assignments*** and to complete them by the due date. You can ask questions about homework in class, during office hours, via email at any point before it is due. The four lowest homework grades will be dropped.

MobLab is graded for participation only, not based on how you did in each game. MobLab games will be played during lectures and there is no prespecified schedule for them. The lowest MobLab grade will be dropped.

There will be no special extra credit or extra work of any kind for the purpose of raising a grade during or after the course. This is to ensure that everybody has equal opportunities to earn their grade and that grades are based on work during the course.

The final grade is calculated as follows:

MobLab participation	**15%**	
Homework	**20%**	
Exam #1	**20%**	} lowest grade is dropped
Exam #2	**20%**	
Exam #3	**20%**	
Final Exam	**25%**	

Each exam is graded on a curve with a C average if needed. If the average on the exam is less then a C, a curve will be applied. If the average on an exam is better than a C no curve will be applied.

Given that the final exam is cumulative, you will be rewarded if your grade on the final exam improves relative to the two in-term exams. Specifically, you will receive 10% of the relative improvement added to the final grade. As an example, suppose your best two in-term exam grades are a 70 and a 90 and you earn a 90 on the final exam. Suppose your homework average is 80 and your MobLab participation grade is a 90. In that case, your final grade would be 90*0.15+80*0.15 + 70*0.20 + 90*0.20 + 90*0.25 = 80. Given you received a higher grade on the final relative to the first in-term exam, the bonus points you would receive would be (90-70)*0.1=2. These two points would make your final grade an 82. Note that in this scenario there are no bonus points relative to the second midterm as that grade is the same as the final exam grade. In case your grade on the final exam is lower than either midterm exam grade, **no** points will be deducted. An excel spreadsheet with the formula to calculate your grade will be made available towards the end of the semester.

Final grades are determined using the standard scale:

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

Final grades are **not** rounded up. Hence, 89.89 is a B **not** an A.

If you are taking this class pass or fail, a grade of C or higher is a passing grade. If you earn a D or an F, you will be given a failing grade for the course.

Exam dates are as follows:

Exam 1 – Wednesday, October 7
Exam 2 – Monday, November 9
Exam 3 – Wednesday, December 2
Final Exam – To Be Announced by the Registrar's Office

Attendance:
Attendance is graded indirectly via participation in MobLab activities. Your attendance will be the percentage of MobLab games in which you have participated, with one absence excluded.

Course Rules:

- It is considered common courtesy to include your name when sending me an email. Especially when your email contains a question.
- Please come to class on time. It is disrespectful and disruptive to me and everyone else if somebody strolls into class late.
- If you need to leave early, please inform me before the class begins.
- Please **silence** all electronic devices such as **cell phones, pagers, and beeping watches**.

Students with disabilities:
Georgia Tech offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you need a classroom accommodation, please make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services office (https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/). If you have an accommodation letter from ODS and require accommodation, please see me.

Academic Honesty:
Cheating is **unacceptable**. You are hereby reminded that you have pledged to uphold the honor code as follows:

Having read the Georgia Institute of Technology Academic Honor code, I understand and accept my responsibility as a member of the Georgia Tech community to uphold the Honor Code at all times. In addition, I understand my options for reporting honor violations as detailed in the code.

Should you be caught cheating in this class you will be prosecuted according to the honor code and policies and procedures established by the Honor Advisory Council. Should you have any questions about this do not hesitate to contact me.

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.

Collaboration policy:
Homework – Since homework is a learning tool you are allowed and encouraged to work together with other students. Given all homework is completed digitally, everyone must submit their own assignment.

Exams – Exams are given to evaluate your understanding and command of the material. They are an assessment tool. As such they must reflect your own knowledge, and not that of students sitting around you or things written on cheat sheet and other cheating tools. During the exam, mind your own work and do not look in other students' exams. Should you be found guilty of cheating on an exam you will be penalized. Exam are **not** a collaborative effort.

General Information and Disclaimers:
I plan to cover as much as possible during the course of this class. While I will mostly follow the textbook, I may add some material that is not contained in it. In that case, your lecture notes will contain all the relevant information that you will need on exams. If you are having trouble with the material you are strongly encouraged to come see me during office hours. I strongly encourage you to work on the problems assigned in class as well as others in the textbook. This will not only help you come exam time but also enable you to truly understand the material.

The course outline below is a provisional one and subject to change. The topics included on each exam will depend on how quickly we cover the material. Hence exams can include more or less material than what is stated below. Exam dates may change under extraordinary circumstances only and any changes will be properly communicated to you in class and via announcements on Canvas.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Chapter	Assignment due
1	18-Aug	1	
	20-Aug	2	1
2	25-Aug	3	2
	27-Aug	3	
3	1-Sep	No class	Labor Day
	3-Sep	4	3
4	8-Sep	4/5	4
	10-Sep	5	
5	15-Sep	Exam #1	5
	17-Sep	No class	
6	22-Sep	6	
	24-Sep	6/7	6
7	29-Sep	7/8	
	1-Oct	8	7
8	6-Oct	No class	Fall Break
	8-Oct	9	8
9	13-Oct	13	9
	15-Oct	13	
10	20-Oct	14	13
	22-Oct	15	14
11	27-Oct	Exam #2	15
	29-Oct	16	
12	3-Nov	17	16
	5-Nov	18	17
13	10-Nov	10	18
	12-Nov	11	10
14	17-Nov	20	11
	19-Nov	19	20
15	24-Nov	Exam #3	19
	26-Nov	No class	Thanksgiving
16	1-Dec	12	
	5-Dec	Final Exam	@11:20am

MobLab

ECON 2106 Fall 2025

use code or scan QR:

a54jpst34

Student sign up at moblab.com