

Economics 2106 - Principles of Microeconomics –Summer 2026

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

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Weekly Classes: (This is an in-person, synchronous course, just like the old days!)

Section DF2 (CRN 57828) & Section NP2(CRN 57827):

Meeting: Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thu 9:30am – 11:40am ET

Class Meetings: Van Leer, Room C240 ([Zoom](#))

My Office Hours (immediately after each class): Mon 11:45am

Teaching Assistants: See Canvas Home Page for details about Office Hours:

Teaching Assistant:

Office Hours: TBD

Zoom Link: TBD

Email:

Overview

Microeconomics is the study of individual, human decision-making. In this course, you will learn to think like an economist, using conceptual frameworks such as preferences, incentives, supply, demand, competition, markets, and prices to understand human behavior. The tools of economic analysis provide a powerful lens to evaluate government policies, understand business strategies, and make decisions in your own life.

Economists use the tools of microeconomics to study all aspects of life, ranging from business to the environment, and even to dating and marriage! How should a firm decide how much output to produce and what price to set? How can one evaluate the tradeoffs between economic outputs and environmental costs? We will discuss the applied economics of these and many other real-world examples throughout the course.

Learning Outcomes

After this class, students will be able to:

1. Apply the conceptual frameworks of Microeconomics (e.g., supply, demand, incentives, etc.) to understand phenomena in public policy, business, and everyday life.
2. Communicate and understand the ideas of microeconomics at a professional level.
3. Think critically about economics.

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 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

Course Mode

This course is (thankfully!) an in-person class four-days-a-week. We will have an interactive discussion in each class. I will be available after each class to answer questions and discuss current events in Economics.

There will be weekly Office Hours with the TA and myself to review homework problems from the previous week and discuss difficult homework problems in the current week. We cover one or more chapters a day, and whatever chapters we do that day, the homework is due the next night by 11:59 PM. These Review Sessions are a good opportunity to go over any difficult questions from the previous week's homework.

Required Materials

This course has online tests, class exercises, and homework assignments. You must have access to a computer and a stable internet connection. If your internet connection prevents you from turning in an assignment, please notify the TAs ASAP.

Textbook and Achieve Homework System

Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers. *Principles of Microeconomics*, **3rd edition (2025)**. Macmillan.
(NOT the 1st or 2nd editions)

You must purchase the textbook from the publisher or from the bookstore to get access to the online homework system Achieve. A physical copy of the textbook is not required. If you do not purchase a copy of the textbook and cannot complete the homework, you will not receive credit for the assignment, so please do not delay purchasing the textbook.

While you are waiting for the textbook access code to arrive, you can start a free trial or “grace” period. See the instructions on Canvas for more information.

You can access the Achieve homework system within the course’s Canvas site in the Macmillan Learning tab.

There might also be additional lab software required – I will notify you as the semester progresses. If so, the cost will be modest (it should be less than \$25).

Zoom

If we need to have any virtual meetings or if you are sick and still want to attend online, we can use Zoom. You can access the Zoom download link for free: https://gatech.service-now.com/home?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0028579

Communications and Canvas

Communication about the course and other course materials is available on Georgia Tech’s Canvas system. I will upload additional course materials and post course announcements on the course page. I strongly suggest setting your Canvas Notifications so that Announcements get forwarded to your email (I have mine set to forward to both my GA Tech email and my personal email account to ensure I don’t miss anything). You can access Canvas at <https://canvas.gatech.edu/>.

If you send an email query to the TAs or me, please allow 24 hours for a response. We try to handle all emails quickly but occasionally one will be overlooked – If you do not get a timely response, please resend or follow up with us during Office Hours. When sending an email to me, please copy the TAs as well to help ensure I don’t miss your message (unless your email is private). You also have my cell phone number (cell: 470-756-1821) so you can contact me via text message or phone call for urgent matters.

Course Structure and Flow

Each week, the course is organized around four or more chapters in the textbook. For each topic, there are textbook readings, in-class lectures, additional self-study materials (such as readings, podcasts, or videos), office hours immediately after class, and homework assignments. Each day, I will release the next day’s course materials, video lectures, and homework assignments, which are due on the subsequent day. Thus, from week to week, the typical course flow will be:

Early in the Week: This week’s material assigned. Attend Office Hours with TAs or myself to review difficult Homework Quiz questions.

Four-days-a-Week: In-person live class sessions. I will hold office hours on Monday immediately after class – This is a great opportunity to ask about any of the concepts in that day’s lecture that were not clear, discuss homework problems, or to discuss how Economics relates to current events.

Late in the Week: TA Office Hours to assist with homework. Listen to Extra Credit Weekly Podcast related to Economics (interesting and a way to boost your grade!) and answer a short quiz to earn Extra Credit.

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 23:59: Daily homework assignments due. Answer the brief **each module’s Feedback** question (in Canvas):

What did you like about this week’s material and what could be improved?

(Note, answering the **Feedback** question unlocks the next module)

Each day, I will release a sequence of study in Canvas providing an order to complete the course readings and assignments. Ideally, you will complete the readings before the daily class sessions, so you'll be prepared for the class discussions (but come even if you haven't had a chance to complete the readings!).

Grading Policies

Graded assignments and tests serve three purposes (among others):

1. To serve as a mechanism to incentivize and facilitate student effort and learning.
2. To provide feedback to the instructor about instructor effectiveness and to provide feedback to the student about current performance in the course.
3. To certify student achievement to the Institute and to future employers.

Thus, I will assign problems that are graded as a pass/fail for completion (LearningCurve homework assignments) to incentivize you to read the course materials, graded Homework Quiz and TLE Podcast Quiz assignments to engage you in learning and to provide feedback before exams, and exams to evaluate your overall performance in the course. In addition, Extra Credit is available for taking the weekly Economics Podcast Quizzes and for attending (and participating in!) our weekly in-person class meetings. Attendance Extra Credit can also include Econ Club meetings, econ-related lectures (e.g., a speaker discussing the effectiveness of economic sanctions against rogue nations), etc.

<u>Graded Material</u>	Weight
Thinking Like an Economist Podcast & Questions for Each Chapter	5%
LearningCurve Homework Assignments for Each Chapter	10%
Weekly Homework Quiz Assignments for Each Chapter	10%
Midterm Exams (2 planned)	50%
Final Exam	25%
Total:	100%
<u>Extra Credit</u>	
Weekly Podcast Quiz - Extra Credit	0.5%
Class Attendance & Special Econ-Related Events / Activities (e.g., Econ Club Meetings, special speakers, econ seminars, submissions to the Undergraduate Econ Journal, etc.) – Extra Credit	0.8%
CIOs End-of-Semester Student Evaluation Class Participation Goal Extra Credit Points depend on the entire class's response rate (see <i>CIOs Course Survey Extra Credit</i> section below for details)	0.5%

Your final grades transfer to the Georgia Tech grading system as follows:

A	4.0	Excellent	90.00% - 100.00%
B	3.0	Good	80.00% - 89.99%
C	2.0	Satisfactory	70.00% - 79.99%
D	1.0	Passing	60.00% - 69.99%
F	0.0	Failure	< 60.00%

Note that grades are **not** rounded up (e.g., 89.99% is still a B). At the end of the semester your final grade cannot be changed with additional extra credit or makeup opportunities; this is for fairness to all students. Any requests for grade revisions to weekly Homework Quiz / LearningCurve / TLE Podcast and Midterm must be submitted *before* the Final Exam.

Pass/Fail Policy

If you are taking the class pass/fail, you must achieve a C grade to earn a pass in the class. Please reach out to me at the beginning of the semester if you are taking the class pass/fail.

Class Attendance

There are four live class sessions per week. While attendance is not required, it is highly encouraged and provides Extra Credit. Students who attend in-person have better understanding of the concepts and get better grades. There will be an Attendance Survey conducted during each class (so you'll need a phone, tablet, or laptop); this survey will be used to track attendance Extra Credit. Note, answering the Attendance Surveys are covered by the GA Tech Honor Code and certifies that you attended class in-person.

You can also attend via a live Zoom session, but Zoom attendance does NOT result in attendance credit (unless you have made provision with me or the TA which requires advance notice and coming off of mute and participating in that day's class discussion).

Homework Policy

LearningCurve, TLE Podcast Quizzes, and Homework Quiz assignments are completed via the online homework system Achieve associated with the textbook.

LearningCurve assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis. Each question you answer correctly earns points toward a target score. When your score meets or exceeds the target score, you will get full credit for the assignment. If you want more practice, you can continue answering LearningCurve questions after you have achieved the target score. There is one LearningCurve assignment per chapter of the textbook. In some days we will cover two chapters; therefore, there will be two LearningCurve assignments and two Homework Quizzes and TLE Podcast Quizzes in those days.

Homework Quiz assignments are assessed by the accuracy of your answers. You can attend Office Hours (with either the TAs or myself) *before* you submit a Homework Quiz to get clarification on any difficult questions – This strategy will allow you to get full credit on Homework Quizzes.

All homework assignments are due by 11:59 pm ET on their due date. I will accept a late graded homework assignment but there will be a daily Late Penalty (e.g., 3% points per day) – If there is a change in the Late Penalty policy during the semester, I will announce it via Canvas. Note, there are NO dropped assignments –

You are responsible for doing *all* daily chapter LearningCurve, TLE Podcast Quiz, and Homework Quiz assignments.

Extra Credit Podcasts

There are Extra Credit podcasts that are available on a weekly basis:

- I have chosen interesting podcasts on topics in Economics – one podcast in each weekly Module (except test review weeks).
 - o Answer the associated questions to earn the Extra Credit points for that week’s Module (on Canvas).

Podcasts are one of the most enjoyable ways to learn about economics. To incentivize you to explore economics podcasts without making them stressful or a time burden, I am offering extra credit for listening to these economics podcasts every week related to interesting topics in the field.

The podcasts are assigned weekly with the rest of the course materials and are due by 11:59 pm ET on their due date. Late podcast quizzes do not count and there are no makeup opportunities.

Daily Feedback

I value your feedback – it helps to improve this course. At the end of each day’s Module in Canvas, the last item is a short feedback question: *What did you like about this today’s material and what could be improved?* I appreciate your feedback, and I act on your suggestions whenever possible. Note, answering the Daily Feedback unlocks the next day’s Module in Canvas.

CiOS Course Survey Extra Credit

At the end of the semester, GA Tech issues a CIOS Course Survey. To encourage you to fill out this anonymous survey and keep response rates high, I will give extra credit to the whole class based on the CIOS response rate for the entire class. Note, since the CIOS survey is anonymous, I can only give Extra Credit based on the entire class’s response rate; I have no visibility to individual submissions. The following Extra Credit will be added to each person’s course grade:

Extra Credit Added to Everyone’s Course Grade	Class CIOS Response Rate
+0.5%	100%
+0.4%	90.00% - 99.99%
+0.3%	80.00% - 89.99%
+0.2%	75% - 79.99%
+0.1%	70% - 74.99%
0%	< 70%

I will set the CIOS completion deadline for this Extra Credit offer on the day after the Final Exam at 11:59 pm.

Testing Policy

Tests will be taken in class using the Lockdown Browser – Be sure to bring your laptop and charger to class (with a fully charged battery!) and check that its Internet connection is working! Also bring three sheets of

scratch paper, a pen, and a standalone calculator (not a calculator application on a phone, tablet, or laptop). I will provide a LockDown Browser EquipmentCheck practice test in advance so you can check that everything is working properly in the Lockdown Browser environment before the test.

Exams must be taken on the assigned date. If there is a verifiable emergency or approved athletic absence, we can work out an appropriate alternative. For illness, injury, or other emergency, provide appropriate documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students (<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/class-attendance>). False doctor's notes fall under the Academic Honor Code.

Collaboration

In this course, group work and discussion are allowed on homework assignments. When turning in homework assignments, each student must turn in an individual submission via Achieve. The midterm and final exams are not to be discussed between students and must be completed individually. The table below summarizes these policies.

Type	Group or Individual Work	Turn in
Homework assignments	Group discussion and collaboration allowed	Each student makes his or her own online submission.
Podcast quizzes	Group discussion and collaboration allowed	Each student makes his or her own online submission.
Exams	Individual work only. No discussion and no collaboration allowed. Exams will be in-class using the Lockdown Browser.	Each student makes his or her own online submission.

I trust you to complete exams individually. Cheating on exams is very serious and results in a zero grade and a report to the Office of Student Integrity and Dean of Students. See the section on Academic Integrity.

Course Policies

Recording Classroom Activities

In order to preserve class integrity, student privacy, and provide an encouraging environment to express opinions, student recording of our real-time classes in any format (e.g., using digital, tape, or audio devices) is not allowed. This policy can be waived by the instructor for students with accommodations upon explicit recommendation from the Office of Disability Services. The instructor will record real-time classes to accommodate students in particular cases (e.g., learning-needs or illness). Recordings can be found in the Canvas Media Gallery for this course.

Students must receive the written consent from the instructor to distribute, sell, or otherwise commercialize class notes, lecture slides, lecture videos, and materials such as homework assignments and answers. Students may not store or distribute class notes and materials in homework repositories or test banks under any circumstances. Students may not share or distribute lecture videos or lecture notes outside of this class.

Freedom of Expression

As a faculty member at Georgia Tech, I respect your rights to the freedom of speech and expression. I am also committed to maintaining an orderly learning environment for all students and ensuring that all facilities are used in a way that facilitates teaching, learning, and research. Therefore, you should treat your peers and instructor respectfully in discussion. Disagreements are likely to happen. When they do, you are expected to disagree respectfully and to keep your discussion focused on evidence.

Discussions in this class are expected to take place solely within the course. Thus, statements made during class must not be quoted on social media unless the individual being quoted has provided their express permission. This applies to the instructor, students, and classroom guests. This policy is meant to protect student privacy and create a safe environment to learn.

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.

"I commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity by refusing to betray the trust bestowed upon me as a member of the Georgia Tech community."

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Academic integrity is extremely important to me.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an exam or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

The Honor Code also applies to submitting Attendance Surveys in class – Assisting others who did not attend class in-person would be considered an honor violation.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

It is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of 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.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and Athletics Absences

If you are a student with special accommodations or an athlete and have an away-game or a serious injury, you can attend live class sessions online (e.g., via Zoom) and still get Attendance Survey Extra Credit. If I am teaching more than one section of this class, you can attend either class session, either in-person or online (I generally cover the same material in both sections) – See the Canvas Home Page for class schedule details. If attending live is not possible, you can view recorded lectures in the Canvas Media Gallery (but no Attendance Survey Extra Credit in this case).

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, 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 to set up a time to discuss your learning needs. Your accommodations cannot be put in place until you discuss them with me.

For athletes, you can obtain statements of approved absence from the Office of the Registrar (<https://registrar.gatech.edu/>) one week in advance of your planned absence.

I will accommodate your schedule if I have enough time, so please get in touch early.

This Syllabus is Subject to Change

At any time and for any reason, I may need to update this syllabus. I will quickly inform you if I make any changes.

Tentative Agenda (subject to change)

- Thinking Like an Economist: Opportunity Cost, Marginal Analysis, Cost/Benefit Analysis
 - o Chapter 1
- Supply & Demand (and Equilibrium, Elasticity)
 - o Chapters 2 - 5
- Government Intervention (Taxes & Regulation)
 - o Chapter 6
- Measuring Economic Welfare & Efficiency (Consumer/Producer Surplus, Deadweight Loss)
 - o Chapter 7
- Gains from Trade / International Trade
 - o Chapters 8 - 9
- Externalities & Public Goods
 - o Chapter 10
- Labor Economics
 - o Chapters 11 - 12
- Monopoly, Oligopoly, & Monopolistic Competition
 - o Chapter 14
- Entry, Exit, and Long-Run Profitability
 - o Chapter 15
- Pricing Strategies / Price Discrimination
 - o Chapter 16
- Economics of Strategic Management
 - o Chapter 17
- Decisions Involving Uncertainty
 - o Chapter 20

Notable Dates

- **First Day of Class** Jun. 29 (Mon)
- **Student recess** Jul 2 (Thu): Student recess. No classes. Campus open.

- **Deadline for Registration/Schedule Changes** Jul. 26, 2026 (Mon), 4pm ET:
 - *Last day to register, make schedule changes, and/or drop without a W grade by 11:59 pm Eastern Time. No changes to/from audit mode permitted after the registration deadline.*
- **Midterm 1 (week of July 13)** – Tentative Date, depending on our pace...
- **Midterm 2 (week of July 21)** – Tentative Date, depending on our pace...
- **Last Days of Class** Jul. 30 (Thu)
- **Reading Day** Jul. 31 (Fri)
- **Final Exam Week** – Aug. 3 (Mon) – Aug. 6 (Thu)
 - Exact Final Exam date will be posted on the Canvas Home Page