

EC 308-003-Intermediate Microeconomics

Spring 2026

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture



Contact Information

Jiatong Xue

Email: jxue6@crimson.ua.edu

Office Hours:

TR, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Office Location: Alston 274

UA Campus Directory:

<https://www.ua.edu/directory/>

Course Description

Examination of the theory of price and the theory of resource allocation. Topics include demand theory, production and cost functions, pricing and output under competitive and noncompetitive conditions, resource markets, and rudiments of general equilibrium analysis. Students cannot receive credit for both EC 308 and EC 310.

Prerequisite(s): (EN 102; or EN 103; or EN 104; or EN 121) and (MATH 121 or MATH 125 or MATH 145) and (EC 110 or EC 112) and (EC 111 or EC 113) and (AC 210 or AC 211) and (LGS 200 or LGS 201) and ST 260 and MIS 200 and (GBA 146 and GBA 246; or GBA 247)

Required Texts

Goolsbee, Austan / Loose-Leaf for Microeconomics 4e

Subtitle: Goolsbee, Austan / Loose-Leaf for Microeconomics 4e

ISBN: 978-1-319-52742-6

Publisher: Worth Publ

Required or Recommended: Required

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to use supply and demand to analyze markets and market outcomes. Students will be able to derive a consumer's demand function from the utility function, given a budget constraint. Students will be able to solve a firm's profit maximization problem. Students will understand how market power affects both a firm's choices and market outcomes. Students will be able to derive firms' pricing strategies with market power and how these choices affect market outcomes.

Outline of Topics

Week 1 (1/8) : Overview of the Course

Week 2 (1/13): Math Review (Appendix)

Week 2 (1/15): Supply, Demand, and Market Outcomes (Chapter 2 and 3) -- This is review material.

Week 3 (1/20): Supply, Demand, and Market Outcomes (Chapter 2 and 3) -- This is review material.

Week 3 (1/22): Consumer Behavior (Chapter 4)

Week 4 (1/27, 1/29): Consumer Behavior (Chapter 4)

Week 5 (2/3, 2/5): Market Demand (Chapter 5)

Week 6: Review (2/10) & **Midterm Exam # 1 (Feb 12) (Covers Chapters 2-5)**

Week 7 (2/17, 2/19): Producer Behavior (Chapter 6)

Week 8 (2/24, 2/26): Costs (Chapter 7)

Week 9 (3/3, 3/5): Market Supply (Chapter 8)

Week 10 (3/10, 3/12): Market Supply (Chapter 8), Review Session

Spring break (March 13–22)

Week 11: Midterm Exam # 2 (Mar 24) (Covers Chapters 6-8)

Week 11 (3/26): Market Power (Chapter 9)

Week 12 (3/31, 4/2): Market Power (Chapter 9)

Week 13 (4/7, 4/9): Imperfect Competition (Chapter 11)

Week 14 (4/14, 4/16): Imperfect Competition (Chapter 11)

Week 15 (4/21, 4/23): Review

**Week 16 (Final Week): Final Exam (Apr 29, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.)
(Cumulative Exam)**

This course meets every Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. from January 8 to April 23, except during Spring Break (March 13–22).

Exams and Assignments

Problem Sets: The problem sets are available on Blackboard. **Every student must upload their homework to Blackboard as a single PDF.** Uploading multiple PDFs or photo attachments will result in a grade of zero. To convert written answers to PDF, students may use a scanner or a phone application such as Genius Scan or Adobe Scan. Students may also write their answers using a tablet/computer and stylus, as long as the answers are submitted as a single PDF. **It is the student's responsibility to verify that their assignment has successfully uploaded to Blackboard.**

Midterm Exams: There will be two exams in the class. The first one is on **Feb/12**, and the second one is on **Mar/24**.

Final Exam: There will be a final exam on **Apr/29**, from **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

Grading Policy

Final Exam (30%): The final exam is cumulative and will take place during Finals Week as scheduled by the registrar.

Midterm Exams (40%): There will be two midterm exams. Each counts for 20% of your final grade.

Problem Sets (30%): There will be 6 problem sets. Problem sets will be graded on the basis of completeness and effort. (You must show your work, even if you do not know the correct answer.) You may discuss the homework problems with classmates, but you **must** write up the homework on your own. Late homework will receive a **zero**. Homework turned in after 11:59 p.m. on the day it is due is considered late.

Letter grades are determined according to the following scale. There will be **no rounding**. Grades lower than 60 will be determined as F.

A+ [97, 100]	A [93, 97)	A- [90, 93)	B+ [87, 90)	B [83, 87)	B- [80, 83)
C+ [77, 80)	C [73, 77)	C- [70, 73)	D+ [67, 70)	D [63, 67)	D- [60, 63)

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

I give make-up exams only to students with university-approved excuses for missing a midterm exam -- illness with documentation, travel for sports, death in the family, etc. Travel plans are not a valid reason for requesting a make-up final exam.

All lecture slides are available on Blackboard. Students who miss a lecture are encouraged to review the slides and attend office hours to ask questions about the missed material.

Attendance Policy

I expect students to be engaged and active participants in the course. Regular attendance is essential, each class builds the skills and problem-solving steps needed for homework and exams.

Generative AI Tools

All submitted work must be produced by the students themselves, whether individually or collaboratively. Use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini to complete an assignment constitutes academic misconduct. You may use generative AI as a learning aid if you find it useful for this purpose. Keep in mind that homework assignments prepare you for the exams. Using AI as a substitute for learning in the short run will harm your grade in the long run.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official [Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

Statement On Disability Accommodations

The University of Alabama is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and need reasonable

accommodation(s) to participate in this class, contact the Office of Disability Services (or ODS; 205-348-4285, ods@ua.edu, Houser Hall 1000, www.ods.ua.edu) as soon as possible. If you have been approved to receive accommodations through ODS, please meet with your instructor or College designee during office hours or by appointment to review your accommodation letter and discuss how accommodations can be implemented in this course.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please refer to the Severe Weather Guidelines located on the [Office of Emergency Management website](#).

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the [UAct website](#).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at [Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines](#).

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The [UAct website](#) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Student Resources

The University of Alabama provides resources and support for the benefit of all students. An up-to-date list of these resources is located on the [Division of Student Life website](#), which includes information regarding counseling, health and wellness, career planning, and accessibility services.