0201E350
Intermediate Microeconomics

Instructor: TBA

Time: October 20, 2025 - November 21, 2025

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Email: TBA

Course Description

This course builds on the fundamentals learned in Introduction to Microeconomics. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze a wide variety of economic problems and understand why societies use certain tools and the limitations of those tools for economic analysis. Moreover, the tools developed in this course are very useful for upper division economics courses. Topics we will cover include behavior of households, firms and industries under competitive and monopolistic condition; factors that influence production, price, and other decisions of the firm; application of the theory of economic efficiency and distribution of well-being.

Required Textbook(s)

Intermediate Microeconomics, Hal R. Varian, W. W. Norton & Company, 1st ed. 2014.

Additional Reading Recommended

Microeconomic Theory (by Tatsuro Ichiishi (shelved 2 times as microeconomics)

Microeconomic Theory (by Andreu Mas-Colell (shelved 6 times as microeconomics)

Principles of Microeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw (shelved 5 times as microeconomics)

Market Microstructure and the Theory of the Firm by Daniel F. Spulber (shelved 2 times as microeconomics)

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt (shelved 7 times as microeconomics)

Prerequisites

0201E101 Microeconomics, 0201E102 Macroeconomics and 0701M110 Calculus I. This course will require students to have training in principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics. In many of the models we study, the new material will be an extension of the basic material. In general, understanding the market mechanism, national income accounts, economic policy, and macro indicators is needed. The courses in principles are thus required.

Tentative Course Schedule

The course extends through 5 weeks. The tentative schedule list of due dates will be as shown in the following table. Please note that the exact timing of exams and assignments could change according to student needs or university scheduling.

Week	Day	Chapter	Topic	Assignments& Exams
1	Monday	1	Economic models	
	Tuesday	2	Supply and Demand	
	Wednesday	3	Comparative statistics	
	Thursday	4	Allocation mechanisms	
	Friday	5	Pareto efficiency	
2	Monday	6	Budget constraint	
	Tuesday	7	The budget set	Problem Set 1
	Wednesday	8	Changes to the budget line	

	Thursday	9	Numeraire	
		10	Taxes, subsidies, rationing 1	
	Friday	11	Taxes, subsidies, rationing 2	
3	Monday	12	Preferences	Exam 1
	Tuesday	13	Indifference curves	
	Wednesday	14	Types of goods	
	Thursday	15	Marginal rate of substitution	
	Friday	16	Behavior of the MRS	
4	Monday	17	Utility	
	Tuesday	18	Utility functions	
	Wednesday	19	Marginal utility	Problem Set 2
	Thursday	20	Marginal utility and MRS	
	Friday	21	Cobb-Douglas preferences	
5	Monday	22	Monopoly	
	Tuesday	23	Monopoly behavior	
	Wednesday	24	Oligopoly	
	Thursday	25	Game theory	
	Friday	26	Review	Final exam

Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to watch all required recorded classes. To encourage this, some test questions will contain references to the recordings. In addition, students will be required to participate in the face-to-face meetings during office hours.

2. Students are expected to read the required readings before class.

3. Class Conduct: Consistent, respectful and informed participation is expected from every student in the course.

4. I will respond to emails in a timely manner. It is best to make an appointment or speak to me after lecture.

5. It is your responsibility to keep me updated with attendance, email, etc.

6. Please check your email regularly for instructions and readings.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on problem sets, assignments, and exams.

Type	Details	Percentage
Problem Sets	2 Problem Sets	20%
Exams	2 exams	70%
Participation / Engagement		10%
Total		**100%**

Problem Sets

Students will be assigned problem sets as homework. These will involve questions that ask for students to engage their knowledge of quantitative analysis, graphing, mathematical computation, and verbal explanation. The goal of the problem sets will be to prepare students for the exams, as well as encourage in-class discussion of economic topics. There will be 2 problem sets, due on the dates shown in the schedule. In total, these problem sets will be worth 20% of the final grade. The due dates are shown in the course schedule above.

Exams

There will be 2 exams, each worth 35% of the final grade (for a total of 70%). The first exam will be given at the start of week 3, as shown in the schedule, and the second exam will be due at the end of Week 5. The second exam is not cumulative, but by its very nature, the material on Exam 2 can sometimes depend on remembering the material of Exam 1.

Participation / Engagement

The final grade will include 10% for overall participation and engagement in class. Of course, much of the class includes video recordings that students will watch on their own. But there are some important interactions that can happen during office hours.

- **Office Hours**. I will be available at least 2 hours a week of appointments. This is for optional help or discussion with problems or other issues in class. The 10% portion of your final grade will be determined by the interaction that we will have during office hours.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students` work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.