**Econ 2201: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory**

University of Connecticut, Spring 2023

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:40 – 5:55pm

Modality: In person

Classroom: FSB 103

**Instructor Information**

Professor Remy Levin

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**Course Description**

Microeconomics is the study of how individuals, households, and firms make economic decisions, and how specific markets (as opposed to the economy overall, which is the domain of macroeconomics) function. “Economic decisions” is a surprisingly broad concept. In practice microeconomics serves as the basis for a variety of fields, such as the economic analysis of the environment, crime, the labor market, poverty, migration, health, the effects of taxation, and many others. Understanding how economists think about decision-making and market behavior can be an invaluable tool for making sense of the confusing world we live in today.

This is a theory class which will prepare you for upper division electives in the major. We will be focusing on consumer and producer theory primarily, as well as some topics related to how real-world markets work. While the subject matter can be abstract, I will endeavor to tie it in to real-world situations and current events, in order to illustrate the scope and power of the theory.

**Prerequisites**

ECON 1200 or 1201; MATH 1071 or 1110 or 1120 or 1125 or 1131 or 1151 or 2141. Recommended: ECON 1202.

**Textbook (required)**

We will be using the Goolsbee, Levitt, Syverson textbook, *Microeconomics*, 3rd edition, with the Achieve homework system. You can order digital only access (Achieve Essentials) which includes the full e-book from the MacMillan website for $109. **See instructions below**. If you would like a physical copy of the textbook, you can order that online too, but be sure to buy it with the Achieve Essentials package. The book is also available through the Husky Book Bundle program. Note that regardless of how you access it, **you must purchase Achieve access because you will need that to complete your homework assignments**. While you are deciding what to purchase, you can temporarily access the text and Achieve by choosing the option to use a free 14 day trial.

**Grading + important dates (subject to change)**

Midterm 1 – 22.5% – *Monday February 13th (Chapters 2,3,4)*

Midterm 2 – 22.5% – *Wednesday March 8th (Chapters 5,6,7)*

Final – 35% – TBD, Finals week *May 1st – 5th (Chapters 8,9,10,16,17)*

Online Homework – 20%

* Math Review – *Due Friday, 1/20 , 11:59 pm.*
* Learning Curve – *Due Each Friday, 11:59 pm, starting 1/27.*
* Practice Quiz – *Due Each Friday, 11:59 pm, starting 1/27.*
* End of Chapter Questions – *Due Each Friday, 11:59 pm, starting 1/27.*

There are three kinds of weekly problem sets, all due on Friday nights. Late problem sets will not be accepted since solutions to the problem sets will be posted IMMEDIATELY after their due dates. I urge you to complete homework assignments early. The sooner you get started, the more time you will have to seek help from me, our TA, department tutors, or fellow classmates. If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the Achieve website, please let myself and our TA know as soon as possible.

**How to Enroll in Achieve Learning (for the homework):**

1. Go to the Achieve folder on HuskyCT and click the “Student Registration – Start here” link in the HuskyCT menu. Follow the instructions on how to register for Econ 2201.
2. You may purchase access at this page or through the bookstore. If you purchased access though the bookstore, be sure to have the Achieve access code that was provided.
3. Select your access option and continue to your assignment page.
4. You are now enrolled in the course and can access future assignments in Achieve. To access Achieve you may click on the “Achieve homepage” link in the same folder. **You must always log in to Achieve via HuskyCT**.
5. To access your ebook click on the image of the book on the left sidebar of your course site. Create an account or log in with an existing Macmillan Learning eBook account.
6. **Need Help?** Answers to many common questions are found in our Student Support Community.  If you need direct assistance you can also contact technical support: [Contacting Customer Support](https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Contact-Customer-Support-online-or-by-phone)

**Note:** Your first homework assignment (math review) is due Friday of the first week. Please do not wait until that day to enroll in Achieve in case you there are any problems with enrolling. Also, please do take advantage of the 14-day grace period, but do not wait until the last minute to pay the enrollment fee, again in case there are any problems with that. You will not be able to submit later homework unless you have purchased an access code.

**Laptops and phones in class**

The research is very clear on the effects of using laptops and phones in class – they are a distraction both for you and for those around you. Therefore, **I have a strict policy of no laptops or phones in class**, except in the case of a documented disability that requires their use. If you have such a documented disability, please let me know as soon as possible, and we will figure out a reasonable accomodation.

**Masking in class**

Masking is not currently required in instructional settings at UConn. I urge you to take a common sense approach to this issue. If you feel at all under the weather, please do not come to class. If you are in class and coughing or sneezing extensively, I will ask you to wear a mask to protect myself and the other students, or to leave class. Please be respectful of the choices of those around you, whether they choose to mask and socially distance or not.

**Tutoring**

The department offers tutoring services for this course. Additional information can be found here: <http://econ.uconn.edu/tutoring/>

**Academic Misconduct**

Academic Misconduct in any form is in violation of the University of Connecticut *Student Code* and will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to: copying or sharing answers on tests, using “cheat sheets” or notes during the exam (except as authorized), plagiarism (including using AI tools for writing), and having someone else do your academic work. Depending on the act, a student could receive an F grade on the test/assignment, F grade for the course, and could be suspended or expelled from the University.

**Students with Disabilities**

**The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at UConn provides accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. Detailed information regarding the accommodations process is available on their website at** [**www.csd.uconn.edu**](http://www.csd.uconn.edu)**. If you require an accommodation for test-taking, such as double time, note that you will have to take the exams at CSD, and that you must schedule to take these at the same time as the rest of the class, at least a week in advance (per CSD policy).**

**Note on taking this class during the pandemic**

Although it is now somewhat on the wane, the pandemic has been an extraordinarily difficult time for all of us. *The only way we will get through this time is if we all take care of one another.* As your professor I care about your success in this class, and also about your personal health and well-being, which go hand in hand. *If you are struggling with your physical or mental health, or need help for any reason, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.* While stress is almost always a part of the college experience, it can be especially acute right now. At the end of the syllabus I’ve included several resources that might help, which I encourage you to peruse.

My goal this semester is to teach this class in person, and as normally as possible. In the unfortunate event that myself or a large fraction of the class is infected later in the semester, we may have to switch back to an online modality. Online teaching is not my preferred modality, and I know that for many of you it is not your preferred way of learning. I urge us all to be patient with each other and to treat any difficulties we may experience with understanding and compassion.

Please note that ***attendance in this class is strongly encouraged****.* I think you will get more out of the class by coming to lecture and having a chance to ask question. Besides having the opportunity to participate fully, you will likely find that the routine is good for you given all of the other disorder in our lives. In case you are unable to attend lecture due to an illness, please reach out to me after the lecture and I will provide a recording of the class.

Even with everything that is going on, I firmly believe that together we can make this class a positive experience for everyone. I look forward to a great semester studying some interesting economics with you!

**Mental Health**

Each of us responds to these turbulent times in our own way. As school, work, and family life changes, worries can even threaten to take over our lives. Here are some common Mental Health Related Reactions:

· Anxiety, worry, or panic · Feeling overwhelmed or helpless · Social withdrawal beyond practicing safe social distancing · Sadness and loneliness · Difficulty concentrating · Increased boredom and loss of interest in daily life activities · Frustration, anger, or irritability · Increased sensitivity to physical sensations · Hypervigilance to health for ourselves and others

*If you are struggling, please know that you are not alone.* Things will, eventually, get better. There are actions you can take and resources that are available to you.

**Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress**

* Know what to do if you are sick and are concerned about COVID-19. Contact a health professional before you start any self-treatment for COVID-19.
* Know where and how to get treatment and other support services and resources, including counseling or therapy (in person or through telehealth services).
* Take care of your emotional health. Taking care of your emotional health will help you think clearly and react to the urgent needs to protect yourself and your family.
* Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including those on social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
* Take care of your body.
	+ Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate.
	+ Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
	+ Exercise regularly.
	+ Get plenty of sleep.
	+ Avoid excessive alcohol and drug use.
* Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
* Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
* Connect with your community- or faith-based organizations. While social distancing measures are in place, consider connecting online, through social media, or by phone or mail.

**If you are Experiencing Distress**

Students who feel they may benefit from speaking with a mental health professional can find support and resources through the Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health (SHaW-MH) office. Through SHaW-MH, students can make an appointment with a mental health professional and engage in confidential conversations or seek recommendations or referrals for any mental health or psychological concern.

SHaW's mental health services has moved to exclusively telehealth (online) or phone platforms for providing services to support students. In order to access services, students must call 860-486-4705.

**Mental health services are included as part of the university’s student health insurance plan** and also partially funded through university fees. If you do not have UConn’s student health insurance plan, most major insurance plans are also accepted. Students can visit the Student Health and Wellness-Mental Health located in Storrs on the main campus in the Arjona Building, 4th Floor, or contact the office at (860) 486-4705, or https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/ for services or questions.