

# Syllabus: EC 201, Principles of Microeconomics

University of Oregon

Spring 2021

Class Times: Mon/Weds, 4:15-5:45 PM

Classroom: Remote

Instructor: Zachary Kiefer

Email: [zkiefer@uoregon.edu](mailto:zkiefer@uoregon.edu)

Office: Will not be available this term.

Online Office Hours: Mon/Weds, 1:00-2:00 PM

TA: Connor Wiegand

Email: [cwiegand@uoregon.edu](mailto:cwiegand@uoregon.edu)

Online Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 11:00 AM-12PM

Course Website: Hosted on Canvas

**Course Description:** This class introduces the basic approach used by economists to analyze human behavior. The goal of this course is for you to come away with a working knowledge of basic economic concepts which you can then use to describe much of the human behavior we observe in the world.

**Required Textbook and Software:** *Principles of Microeconomics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (ISBN 9780393614084), available at the Duck Store. You will need the additional instructional software, in particular, InQuizitive. (In truth, other editions of the textbook will work almost as well, as long as you get the software.)

**Canvas:** Announcements, important dates, lecture slides, homework, grades, and other materials will be posted on Canvas. This information will be important, so be sure to check Canvas regularly. If you are having difficulty with Canvas, you can contact UO Libraries Computer Help Desk at 541-346-1807.

You will need to access the InQuizitive homework through Canvas, and to do so, you will need to either register your textbook's access code or purchase access so that Canvas is linked to InQuizitive. A video tutorial is located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgNkg9Yl6cg>. Once you have registered, there are also links in Canvas which will point you towards relevant chapters of the textbook in an ebook format.

**Office Hour Policy:** My office hours are times set aside so that you can ask me questions outside of class. My TA will also be holding office hours. You do not need an appointment to come see either of us; just drop by our offices during the scheduled times. If you cannot make it to any of our office hours, please email me (not the TA, he's busy enough as it is) so that we can set up an appointment at some other time.

**Grades:** Your grade for this course will be based on two exams, several homework assignments, and your participation in practical exercises to be performed during class. The components of your grade will be weighted as follows:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
InQuizitive Homework	40%
Participation	Up to 5% extra credit

**Grading Scale:** Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

	93-100% → A	90-92% → A-
87-89% → B+	83-86% → B	80-82% → B-
77-79% → C+	73-76% → C	70-72% → C-
67-69% → D+	63-66% → D	60-62% → D-
	59% or below → F	

A curve will almost certainly be applied, in order to match “raw” scores with the letter grade I feel they deserve. My goal with this scale and curving system is to make it easy for you tell at a glance how you’re doing in this course: your letter grade as displayed on Canvas will be the curved score and will correspond with your final grade.

**Lecture Format:** Lectures will be given synchronously using Zoom. Recordings will be posted to Canvas afterwards, along with my lecture slides. Each class will begin with a short discussion exercise using Zoom’s breakout rooms, and I will occasionally be using Zoom surveys to check whether the class has grasped a concept. None of this is a mandatory part of your grade, but I strongly encourage every student to attend the synchronous lectures when possible, for two reasons:

1. I welcome questions during my lectures, and this is your first chance to ask me about something you don’t understand. I’d rather take a few moments extra to clear it up when we first discuss a topic than let the confusion set.
2. I will be awarding extra credit to the breakout room with the “best” responses to each lecture’s discussion question. The exact criteria will be explained later, but since the discussion questions will not be of a technical nature, I intend to reward responses which are memorable, clever, or timely (dealing with current events) while still being a relevant answer to the question. Each award will add 1% to your final grade, capped at 5% total. However, you will only receive extra credit if you were present during the lecture where your breakout room received an award.

**Homework:** Homework on each topic we discuss will be due at midnight, usually a week after we finish the relevant lecture, in the form of one or more InQuizitive assignments. The lowest 2 homework scores will be dropped at the end of the term. (You will not see any scores being dropped until we get to the last two assignments, at which point I will start dropping them one-by-one; this policy means that your grade can only go up at the end of the term, which avoids unpleasant surprises.) Late homework will not be accepted.

**Inquizitive:** InQuizitive is an adaptive assessment system: if you breeze through and get everything right on the first try, congratulations, you're done! If you missed something, InQuizitive will keep giving you new questions on the same topic. Until the due date, you can keep trying new questions until you get 100%, or whatever score you're satisfied with.

InQuizitive also has some additional features that you will likely be unfamiliar with if you haven't used it before. There is a very easy assignment due on the first Wednesday of class, titled "InQuizitive: How to Use InQuizitive," that I have assigned so that you can familiarize yourself with the system. It is worth points towards your grade, but it should be easy to reach 100% on this first assignment just by following the directions.

**Discussion Sections:** There will be discussion sections each week on Friday, led by the TAs. You must enroll in a section. The discussions will be used to review material from class, provide additional examples and practice, and answer any questions you may have. You should expect to work in small groups, like the breakout rooms in lecture, for part of most discussions.

**Exams:** The midterm will be administered during class on Wednesday, May 5, and the final exam will be administered on Wednesday, June 9. Both exams will be delivered online, in the form of a Canvas quiz. The exact times of the exams will be announced closer to the exam dates, but they will be scheduled in a 4-hour window at around the time of our usual class. There will also be a 2-hour time limit (which I think is more than adequate for the exams I write, which are designed for a normal 75-minute class), but you can use those two hours at any point during the 4-hour window. The final will not technically be comprehensive, but concepts from the first half of the course will remain relevant until the end of the course.

**Alternate and Make-Up Exam Policy:** If you know or suspect in advance that you will be unable to take the exam as scheduled, it is your responsibility to approach me ASAP to discuss a course of action. This is not a guarantee that a later exam time will be given, but I am willing to consider each student's individual circumstances. If you miss the scheduled exam without advance notice, a make-up exam will only be given in the case of serious illness or family emergency, and barring truly exceptional circumstances, I will expect you to request a make-up exam by email before midnight on the day of the exam. You should be aware that alternate and make-up exams may be more difficult, since I will not be able to make them exactly the same difficulty as the main exam, and I generally err towards the harder side.

**Early Exam Policy:** In accordance with university policy, early exams will not be given except if necessary when students have more than three final exams on the same day.

**Tentative Schedule:** Over the ten weeks of the class, I plan to cover the following topics:

**Week 1:** Introduction, Fundamentals of Economics, Economic Models

**Week 2:** Supply and Demand

**Week 3:** Elasticity, Surplus, Efficiency

**Week 4:** Welfare Theorem, Externalities, Government Intervention

**Week 5:** Comparative Advantage, International Trade, Consumer Theory Part 1

**Week 6:** Midterm Review, MIDTERM

**Week 7:** Consumer Theory Part 2, Producer Theory

**Week 8:** Monopoly, Price Discrimination

**Week 9:** Game Theory, Oligopoly

**Week 10:** *Advanced Topics: May include Labor, Adverse Selection, Moral Hazard, and/or COVID-19 and the Economy, depending on the preferences of the class.*

**Finals Week:** Optional Final Review, FINAL EXAM

*Italicized* topics are tentative: if we require more time for the previous topics, these will be dropped from the schedule.

## University Policies:

**Accessibility:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 155 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

**Academic Integrity:** Academic Misconduct: The University Student Conduct Code (available at [conduct.uoregon.edu](http://conduct.uoregon.edu)) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at [researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism](http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism). -From the Office of the Dean of Students

**Instructor's Note on Academic Integrity:** For this class, I don't mind if you work together on homework, and the exams will be open-book, open-note. However, you are not permitted to work together on the exams. (That would be the "unauthorized help" described above.) You will be required to sign and upload an honor pledge stating that you understand this before the midterm.

**Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment Reporting:** Any student who has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender-based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment may seek resources and help at [safe.uoregon.edu](https://safe.uoregon.edu). To get help by phone, a student can also call either the UO's 24-hour hotline at 541-346-7244 [SAFE], or the non-confidential Title IX Coordinator at 541-346-8136. From the SAFE website, students may also connect to Callisto, a confidential, third-party reporting site that is not a part of the university.

Students experiencing any other form of prohibited discrimination or harassment can find information at [respect.uoregon.edu](https://respect.uoregon.edu) or [aaeo.uoregon.edu](https://aaeo.uoregon.edu) or contact the non-confidential AAEO office at 541-346-3123 or the Dean of Students Office at 541-346-3216 for help. As UO policy has different reporting requirements based on the nature of the reported harassment or discrimination, additional information about reporting requirements for discrimination or harassment unrelated to sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment is available at Discrimination & Harassment.

Specific details about confidentiality of information and reporting obligations of employees can be found at [titleix.uoregon.edu](https://titleix.uoregon.edu).

**Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse:** UO employees, including faculty, staff, and GEs, are mandatory reporters of child abuse. This statement is to advise you that your disclosure of information about child abuse to a UO employee may trigger the UO employee's duty to report that information to the designated authorities.

**Diversity:** The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. This course is committed to upholding these principles by encouraging the exploration, engagement, and expression of distinct perspectives and diverse identities.

All of us associated with the course—you included—are expected to value each class member's experiences and contributions and to communicate disagreements respectfully. Please notify me if you feel aspects of the course undermine these principles in any way. You may also notify the Department of Economics at 541-346-8845. For additional assistance and resources, you are also encouraged to contact the following campus services:

- Office of Equity and Inclusion: 1 Johnson Hall | 541-346-3175 | [oied.uoregon.edu](https://oied.uoregon.edu)
- Center on Diversity and Community: 54 Susan Campbell Hall | 541-346-3212 | [codac.uoregon.edu](https://codac.uoregon.edu)
- Bias Response Team: 164 Oregon Hall | 541-346-1134 | [brt@uoregon.edu](mailto:brt@uoregon.edu) | [bias.uoregon.edu](https://bias.uoregon.edu)