

Hamilton College, Fall 2023
ECON 275: Microeconomic Theory

Instructor: Stephen Wu

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Class Meetings: MWF 9am (sec 3), 10am (sec 4)

Office Hours: M 2:30-4pm, Tu 1-3pm

Text: Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Microeconomics, 9th edition (2018)

Course Description:

Microeconomic theory builds upon concepts introduced in introductory microeconomics; the course examines the allocation of resources through market mechanisms. Underlying the market demand and supply curves are decisions made by individual consumers and firms, so we focus on studying consumer theory and the theory of the firm. We will analyze formal economic models mathematically/graphically, but we also will build an intuitive understanding of how models work and discuss their public policy implications. This course will engage you with several of Hamilton's educational goals, particularly analytic discernment (analyzing information and arguments quantitatively), disciplinary practice (engaging in economic analysis), ethical, informed and engaged citizenship (understanding public policy), and intellectual curiosity and flexibility (examining issues in depth and from a variety of perspectives).

Problem Sets:

Problem sets will usually be posted by Wednesday mornings and due by the following Wednesday morning at the beginning of class. You may use Word or another program to generate graphs and equations electronically or you may write these out by hand and then take pictures of the images and convert them into electronic files. Please submit one combined file for each problem set in either Word or PDF format. All problem sets will be submitted electronically via Blackboard.

Receiving Help

Scheduled office hours are the best time to see me for help. If there are other students in my office, you feel free to join in and listen, as many of you will have similar questions. Those of you with conflicts with my office hours can arrange other times to meet me. Tutoring at the QSR center is also available for students, so feel free to take advantage of that. In general, e-mail is the best way to contact me with very quick questions about the course, as I check e-mail often and will respond as promptly as possible. I encourage you to talk to other students about the problem sets and to work together, though you should write up your actual answers independently. Strictly copying answers from other students or from online solutions constitutes a violation of the honor code and it also will not help you learn the material. For this class, you are not allowed to use AI programs to assist with your problem sets.

Quizzes and Exams

Notes, textbooks, and electronic devices are not allowed for any quizzes and exams.

Students with Disabilities:

Hamilton College will make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation(s) and would like to make a formal request for this course, please discuss it with me during the first two weeks of class. You will need to provide Allen Harrison, Associate Dean of Students (Elihu Root House; ext. 4021) with appropriate documentation of your disability. All discussions will remain confidential.

Student Wellbeing

Many of us may feel overwhelmed, anxious, or depressed for various reasons. If at any point you feel unable to complete work for this class, please reach out and discuss with me. I also encourage you to

make use of the resources available on campus to help and support you, such as Student Support Care Team (315-859-4020; studentsupport@hamilton.edu), the Counseling Center (315-859-4340), or an RA or Area Director in your residence hall. For academic matters, please contact the Associate Dean of Students for Academics, Adam Van Wynsberghe (315-859-4600; avanwyns@hamilton.edu).

Grading

Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exams	45%
Problem Sets	10%
Final Exam	30%

Important Dates:

Quizzes (in class): Friday September 15, Friday October 27

Midterm Exams (7pm in Science Auditorium): Tuesday 10/3, Wednesday 11/8

Final Exam: Tuesday December 12 at 9am

Final Exam

Please note that the Final Exam is scheduled for Tuesday December 12 9am (during the ECON common exam time). For the final exam, please schedule your travel plans around this date. If you anticipate having a conflict with the exam time, please let me know during the first two weeks of class.

Course Outline (subject to change**)**

Week starting:

	Chapters
August 25	1
August 28	2,3
September 4	3,4
September 11	4
Quiz 1 in class on September 15	
September 18	5,6
September 25	7
October 2 (no class on Wednesday October 4)	review, 8
Exam 1 on Tuesday October 3, 7pm in KJ Auditorium	
October 9 (no class on October 13: Fall Break)	8
October 16	9
October 23	10, 11
Quiz 2 in class on October 27	
October 30	12
November 6 (no class on Friday November 10)	12, review
Exam 2 on Wednesday November 8, 7pm in KJ Auditorium	
November 13	13
No class week of November 20 (Thanksgiving Break)	
November 27	18
December 4	review

Final Exam on Tuesday December 12 at 9am