

ECON 3550.002 Intermediate Micro-Theory (MW 2:20-3:40 PM, ART 226)

Instructor Contact

Name: Ms. Jiyoung Kwon

Student Drop-In Hours (In person at WH 336):

- Monday & Wednesday: 12:30 to 1:30 PM
- Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, or by appointment.

Email: jiyoung.kwon@unt.edu (The subject line of your email must include ECON 3550-002.)

Communication Expectations: The primary online tool will be Canvas, where all the course material will be posted. All emails must be sent through your **UNT student email address (my.unt.edu)**. You can also message me through Canvas. I will respond within 24 hours, Monday through Friday, when UNT is open. If you do not get a response within two business days, please resend, ensuring that you follow the instructions above.

Course Description

From the UNT Catalog: Demand and supply analysis, consumer choice theory, production and cost theory, and market equilibrium under different market structures.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

Students in Econ 3550 are required to have completed Principles of Micro (ECON 1100) and any one of the following math courses: Business Calculus (MATH 1190) or Calculus 1 (MATH 1710), with a grade of C or better.

Course Structure

1. The instruction mode for this course is face-to-face (in person). Students are required to attend lecture meetings in person on campus.
2. All course content, including announcements, guided lecture notes, and assignments, will be posted on Canvas.
3. Before each class meeting, you are required to (a) read the assigned textbook sections and (b) preview and print the guided notes for that day. Use the guided notes as a reading guide to help you identify the key concepts while you read. Bring your printed guided notes to class — you will complete them during lecture and use them as a basis for in-class quizzes and activities. Come prepared: quizzes may draw on the assigned reading as well as material covered in class.
4. Schedule for Lectures (subject to change):

Week	Date	Text Material Covered:
Week 1	Aug 17	Introduction
	Aug 19	1. Supply and Demand
Week 2	Aug 24	1. Supply and Demand (Continued)
	Aug 26	3. The Behavior of Consumers
Week 3	Aug 31, Sep 2	3. The Behavior of Consumers (Continued)
Week 4	Sep 7	<i>Labor Day Holiday (No Class)</i>
	Sep 09	4. Consumers in the Marketplace
Week 5	Sep 14	4. Consumers in the Marketplace (Continued)
	Sep 16	Midterm Exam 1

Week 6	Sep 21	4. Consumers in the Marketplace (Continued)
	Sep 23	5. The Behavior of Firms
Week 7	Sep 28, 30	6. Production and Costs
Week 8	Oct 5, 7	6. Production and Costs (Continued)
Week 9	Oct 12, 14	7. Perfect Competition
Week 10	Oct 19	7. Perfect Competition (Continued)
	Oct 21	Midterm Exam 2
Week 11	Oct 26, 28	8. Welfare Economics and the Gain from Trade
Week 12	Nov 2, 4	10. Monopoly: Single Pricing
Week 13	Nov 9, 11	10. Monopoly: Price Discrimination
Week 14	Nov 16, 18	11. Market Power, Collusion, and Oligopoly
	Nov 23 – 27	<i>Fall Break (No Classes)</i>
Week 15	Nov 30, Dec 2	12. The Theory of Games; Review
Week 16	Dec 05	(Cumulative) Final exam (Saturday, Dec 5, 1-3 pm)

Note: **Friday, Nov 6th** is the last day for students to drop a course with a grade of W. Students who wish to drop a course may do so from their student portal in my.unt.edu.

Course Textbook

- Required Text: Landsburg, Steven (2013). Price Theory and Applications, 9th ed. Thompson Southwestern (although the 8th or 10th edition will work just as well)
- Course materials such as syllabus, Guided lecture notes, PowerPoint slides, problem sets, and old exams, will be available on Canvas. *Lecture notes and PowerPoint slides are intended only to provide an outline for topics to be covered in class; anything that is covered and/or discussed in class may be on quizzes and exams.*
- **Copyright Notice:** Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection. Materials may include but are not limited to: documents, exams, slides, images, audio, and video. Materials in this course are only for the use of students enrolled in this course, for purposes associated with this course, and may not be retained for longer than the class term. Unauthorized retention, duplication, distribution, or modification of copyrighted materials is strictly prohibited by law. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Homework	10%
In-Class Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam 1	25%
Midterm Exam 2	25%
Cumulative Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Course grades are assigned according to the following scale:

A = 90% and above B = 80-89.9% C = 70-79.9% D = 60-69.9% F = Below 60%

Teaching Philosophy and Helpful Tips

I believe that economics is more like math, finance, or accounting in that you are learning a skill. In economics, the "skills" you will be learning are basic core models in economics and the ability to use them to make decisions and understand the decisions made by others. Memorizing the key features of the models we develop and the definitions of terms we use is an important first step, but the goal is to know these models well enough that they can be applied to new situations.

So how do you get there? Just reading the text or attending lectures is not enough — you must become an active participant in the learning process. I use a system in which students are given guided notes with blanks and problems that must be completed during lecture. To get the most out of this system, you should read the assigned text before each class and use the guided notes as a roadmap for that reading, identifying the key concepts to focus on. This course revolves around problem-solving: I spend a great deal of time writing and choosing relevant problems that build on previous concepts, and class time will increasingly involve in-class quizzes rather than straight lecturing, so that you are actively working through the material rather than passively watching it. I intend to create a progressive learning environment that develops not only your understanding of economics but also your critical thinking skills. Weekly homework problem sets and old exams are designed to help you work through the material in a more active way. Getting comfortable answering these types of questions is critical if you want to do well in this class. As the saying goes, "Practice makes perfect."

Course Policies

Examination Policy

- The exams will be given in class, and it is a closed-book and closed-notes test.
- The final exam is **cumulative**.
- Except for those with a valid University-approved reason (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>), everyone is required to take the exam during the scheduled time.
- There are no make-up exams offered on an individual basis. If you miss an exam with a valid, documented University-approved excuse, the weight will be redistributed to the final exam. If you miss any exam without a valid University-approved excuse, a score of zero will be given.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is expected and will significantly increase your chances of gaining a better understanding of economics and a better grade in this course. Additionally, unannounced quizzes and in-class graded activities that you might miss by failing to attend class will lower your grade. Bonus points may be awarded during the semester without prior notice. Additional bonus points or extra credit will NOT be available on an individual basis.

Assignment Policy

Late submissions for homework problem sets, quizzes, and exams will NOT be accepted.

Technical Help

In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty that prevents students from completing a time-sensitive assessment activity, students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to

resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. **It is in your best interest not to procrastinate.** Visit the website for additional information and hours of operation: <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

Syllabus Change Policy

If exigencies arise, I will let you know if changes are needed for the syllabus, course information, and due dates.

Please read the following UNT policies that apply to all courses at UNT.

Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the ODA website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/index.html>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

The Economics Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have not registered with ODA, we encourage you to do so. Please present your written accommodation request during the first two weeks of the semester if possible.

AI Use

The "unauthorized" use of any person or technology that assists in a student's assignment, project, or paper is considered cheating under the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003). Unless a professor or instructor gives explicit "authorization," AI cannot be used to complete assignments, projects, or papers. Doing so will result in a "cheating" violation.

Academic Integrity Policy

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. The UNT Department of Economics adheres to the University's Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. To view the complete Student Academic Integrity policy, go to <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>.

Individuals engaging in activities that may be construed as cheating or plagiarizing should be prepared for the consequences; one consequence is to receive an "F" for the course. Please see below for further information on and explanation of cheating and plagiarism.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Classroom Conduct: Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with the Instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the Instructor may refer the student to the appropriate University office. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>. See section IX for a list of the Categories of Misconduct and section X for a list of the Sanctions for Misconduct.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or 940-565-2759.

Student Affairs and Dean of Students Office

For a comprehensive list of all of the services available to UNT students, please visit the Division of Students Affairs website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/departments/>. Access to student-related policies, information, and services can be found at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/index.html>. The Dean of Students is part of the Division of Student Affairs. The Dean of Students office provides a wide range of services and information for students such as Academic Rights, Gowns for Grads, and Student Legal Services.