Syllabus – Spring 2016
UPDATED 12/3/2015
Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change.
The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS (2201) - INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY

William T. Alpert – Spring 2016

Course Title: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
Credits: 3
Format: Online
Prerequisites: ECON 1200 or 1201; MATH 1071Q or 1110Q or 1125Q or 1131Q or 1151Q, or 2141Q. Recommended preparation: ECON 1202
Professor: William Alpert

"The theory of economics does not furnish a body of settled conclusions immediately applicable to policy. It is a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking, which helps its possessor draw correct conclusions."


Contact Information: The best way to contact me is through my university email.

Email: alpert@uconn.edu
Telephone:
• 203-251-8413 (o)
• 914-524-0404 (ext. 2) (o)
• 203-384-2231 (home)
• 203-455-4534 (cell)
• 828-883-4462 (home)

Office Hours: Any time by appointment:
• Office 323 (Stamford Campus)
• HuskyCT Chat
• Skype (william.alpert7)

Response time: I will respond to your inquiries within 24 hours. If you do not receive a reply within that period, send your email again or try to contact me using a different method.
Catalog Course Description

Intermediate microeconomic theory, covering demand and supply, exchange and production, pricing, and welfare economics.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Review and become proficient with supply and demand analysis.
- Review utility theory and complete problems of utility maximization.
- Practice present value, internal rate of return, elasticities, price controls, and comparative absolute problems.
- Explain the principles underlying consumer behavior.
- Recognize revealed preference.
- Identify income and substitution.
- Construct market demand schedules and curves.
- Examine the behavior of producers in a variety of markets.
- Determine production costs.
- Analyze individual and market demand.
- Discuss case studies where asymmetric information is introduced.
- Explain perfectly competitive markets.
- Examine a firm’s supply curve and the industry supply curve.
- Define the characteristics of a monopoly and monopsony.
- Determine the most effective use of a firm’s market power.
- Examine monopolistic competition and oligopoly.
- Analyze strategic decision making through game theory.
- Examine factor market structures.

Course Materials

1. Textbook: The principal textbook for this course is Robert S. Pindyck and Daniel L. Rubinfeld, Microeconomics, c2013, 8th edition.

2. MyEconLab: We will also be using the internet resource “MyEconLab” this semester: How to access your MyEconLab course can be found under the MyEconLab link on the home page of the course.

3. Other Required Materials:
   - QuickTime to view movies.
   - Adobe Reader to view PDFs.
   - A text editing program, such as Word, to write and submit assignments.
   - A spreadsheet program for manipulating problems, such as Excel.
   - A reasonable familiarity with Google Draw or similar program.
   - A fast, reliable internet connection.
   - A University of Connecticut Supported Web Browser such as IE9, FireFox, Google Chrome or Safari.
   - A working webcam and microphone (required for online Proctoring of Final Exam).
Technology Assistance:

It is your responsibility to be familiar with and able to use all the tools within HuskyCT including the Discussion, Assignment, and Assessment tools. You must be able to attach documents to Assignments for submission.

If you need technical assistance, contact HuskyCT Help. They can be reached by phone (860-486-1187) or via their website (HuskyCT Help for Students).

NOTE: Activities for each week are usually due by 12:00 Noon ET on a Monday [EXCEPT: THE FRIDAY PRIOR TO SPRING BREAK, FRIDAY, MARCH 11 (ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE NOON ET) AND THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES WHEN ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE – INCLUDING MYECONLAB – AT 12:00 NOON ET FRIDAY APRIL 29, 2016] (anything available can be submitted early). Be sure your computer is operational and all tools are functional prior to the deadlines. Technological problems will not be accepted as valid excuses for missed work.

The Course Orientation module contains practice activities to test your computer settings and familiarize you with HuskyCT. You should complete it the first day of class.

Course Schedule

AS AN ONLINE CLASS THIS CLASS HAS A RIGOROUS SCHEDULE – YOU CAN WORK AHEAD BUT CANNOT FALL BEHIND AND RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE WORK!

[PLEASE NOTE: ADDITIONAL QUIZZES, ASSIGNMENTS, READINGS AND SO FORTH ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE ADDED AS THE SEMESTER PROGRESSES. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEING AWARE OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS AND HOW THEY WILL BE ASSESSED. STUDENTS SOMETIMES COMPLAIN ABOUT RELEVANCE – IF YOU HAVE SUCH AN ISSUE WITH THIS CLASS IT WILL BE A SURPRISE TO PROFESSOR ALPERT!]

You will have several items due each week. You are not required to be online at any specific time, but you should plan on logging into the course a MINIMUM of three or four times a week to participate in discussions adequately, check announcements and assignments, read online material, etc. You should plan to spend a MINIMUM of 12 hours per week to get the most out this class (and get your money’s worth) This may seem like a lot of time, and it is, but in a regular semester class it has been recommended that to maximize learning 3 hours outside of the class should be spent for everyone in – this amounts to 9 hours per week outside a 3 hour class which means that 168 hours
per semester should be spent on a 3 hour class.

**Grading**

Your grade will consist of the following totals:

Quizzes – 10%
Writing Assignments - 10%
Graphing Assignments – 10%
MyEconLab – 15% (see description below)
Online Discussions – 12%
Module Exams - 24%
Final Exam 19%

**NOTE:** If the class average is below 75, grades will be curved up to a mean of 75 and IF class bonus assignments are given, UP TO an additional 5% can be earned towards your final grade. No individual bonus assignments will be offered.

**Quizzes**
There will be at least 17 quizzes. They are 20 questions each. They are generally based on material from your textbook. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. You will have unlimited attempts to improve your score. Be sure to save each answer as you go. If you go beyond 20 minutes, only those questions that were saved prior to the time limited will be graded.

**Writing Assignments**
Most of the assignments will require you to work outside of HuskyCT and then attach a document via the Writing Assignment tool.

**Graphing Assignments**
There will be 8 - 10 graphing assignments in this class. These assignments ask you analyze data and construct graphs. You may use Google Draw to prepare your assignments if that is helpful. Graphs are required and I recommend Excel and Google Draw, but whatever method is easiest for you is fine with me. The assignments will be presented in HuskyCT and submitted by attaching the answers in the Assignment tool in HuskyCT.

**MyEconLab**
Finally, you are encouraged to use MyEconLab this semester. It is linked to the class HuskyCT website. I encourage you to correctly complete the assignments and quiz problems (there are a large number) but you can work them until you get them correct (unlimited tries – actually 99). There are due dates for each week’s MyEconLab homework to help you keep up with the material, however, the all homework will be accepted until noon on the last day of class with no penalty. Your total average score in MyEconLab will be used to calculate your final grade as follows: Students scoring less than 50 percent will have that score equal 15 percent of the final grade (E.g. a score of 50% provides 7.5 points toward your final grade). Students scoring over 50 percent will count 1.33 times the score and will equal 15 percent of the final grade. For example:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Correct</th>
<th>MyEconLab</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Bonus</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
<td>&lt;7.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;7.5</td>
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<td>60%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>70%</td>
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<td>90%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
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</table>

There no late penalty for any MyEconLab work (which is separate from the
https://ims.uconn.edu/ work) but ALL MyEconLab work must be submitted prior to 12 NOON
ET FRIDAY APRIL 29, 2016. There will be no extensions unless authorized by the appropriate
dean.

**Forum Discussions**
Forum discussions are visible to everyone in the class and are accessed using the Discussion Board.
You should read each other’s forum posts and respond, comment, and or ask questions of each
other to enrich the conversation. Discussion grades will be based on your input, logic,
thoughtfulness, and involvement with other students.

**Group Discussions**
The class is divided into six groups. You will be assigned to one of these groups for the Group
Discussions. When it is your group’s turn to post, you should work with your other group members
on selecting an appropriate article, relating it to class content, and writing a thoughtful summary.
This will require you to contact your group members (via discussion board, chat, email,
Google Docs or phone) early in the week to have enough time to complete the post within the time
allowed.

Once a group posts a summary, discussion about the post begins and continues for a week. Group
members will act as moderators and respond to their classmates’ posts. All non-group members will
respond to the summary – ask questions, add information, make comments, etc. Each group
member is expected to individually participate in all activities.

Of the 12% for your Discussion grade, 5% will be for your summary post, and 8% will be for your
responses (when not part of the posting group) and moderating (when part of the moderating group).

**ATTENTION:** If you do not see anything on the Groups page, contact your professor immediately
to be assigned to a group.

**Final Exam**
The Final Exam will be due the last week of class. THE FINAL EXAM IS COMPREHENSIVE
– COVERS EVERYTHING IN THE CLASS! IT WILL BE AN ONLINE PROCTORED
EXAM USING A SERVICE CALLED PROCTORU. PROCTORU REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE A WEBCAM AND MICROPHONE. THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS SERVICE, UNLESS YOU REGISTER FOR IT LATE. THE FINAL EXAM MUST BE COMPLETED BETWEEN MONDAY, MAY 2 (9 AM ET TO 5 PM ET), TUESDAY, MAY 3 (9 AM ET TO 5 PM ET), AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 (9 AM ET TO 5 PM ET). MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THIS LINK: ProctorU or this one ProctorU. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM ME AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE POSTED WHEN SCHEDULING WILL OPEN. NOTE LATE SCHEDULING WILL RESULT IN A CHARGE TO YOU! PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO THE FINAL EXAM – CLOSED NOTES, CLOSED BOOK, WITH NO CALCULATORS OR ANY OTHER COMMUNICATION. UP TO TWO (2) BLANK PAGES OF SCRAP PAPER WITH A PEN ARE ALLOWED.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 or more</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59.9</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Late Work

Missed quizzes and problems set may be made up on a case by case for partial credit. Late work can be at the instructor’s discretion accepted for a grade of “F” if work is not turned in at all it will receive a grade of zero in your average. PLEASE RETAIN BACKUP COPIES OF ALL OF YOUR WORK!

While the formation of study groups is encouraged (but not as a substitute for individual study,) any form of collaboration between or among students before or during anyone’s completion of any class assignment is strictly prohibited EXCEPT FOR EXPLICITLY GROUP ASSIGNMENTS. Such conduct will result in formal academic misconduct charges being brought against the student(s) involved.

All course due dates are identified in Https://lms.uconn.edu/. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly.
The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.

There are no make-ups for the required online activities. Unless the student has made specific arrangements with the instructor in advance (prior to the end of the exam or assignment period), unexcused missed activity receives a score of zero. The Dean of Students Office has this to say about extenuating circumstances for missed or late assignments: “When students are forced to miss a final examination due to illness, accident, death in the family, or other unavoidable reasons they can come to the Office of Student Services & Advocacy to receive approval to arrange another exam time with their instructor. Students should present appropriate documentation to support their request. With other exams and assignments which are required during the semester students bring their documentation of extenuating circumstances directly to their instructors.”

Feedback and Grades

The instructor will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. Expect a response to questions within 24-hours. If you do not receive a response within that time, ask again. Graded materials will be returned within 168-hours after due dates, unless otherwise noted. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in Https://lms.uconn.edu/.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important standards, policies and resources, which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)
“Blackboard [Https://lms.uconn.edu/] measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved December 3, 2015 from Blackboard’s Accessibility website)

Software Requirements and Technical Help

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access
- Google apps. Students are encouraged to opt in to “Public Services,” the suite of apps beyond the basic ones available automatically to all registered UConn students.
- Online Homework. Instructions for acquiring an account and linking to this course will be provided in HuskyCT.
- Proctor U. Instructions for acquiring an account and linking to this course will be provided in HuskyCT. Note that this service is free as part of the student technology fee.
- Web cam. All students will need a web cam to use the proctoring service. Other requirements are listed on Proctor U’s technical requirements website. Be sure to check your computer before trying to begin a test.

Note that the instructor is your source for academic help, not for technical help, though you should report to the instructor any major technical problems that you think will affect other students. You should address technical question to the appropriate support team for each platform.

For UConn-supported platforms – HuskyCT and Google apps – online students have access to all in-person/live-person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech, UConn’s Student Tech Support. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

Some class exercises will require manipulating simple tables of data and graphing in spreadsheet software. These exercises are intended in part to help develop basic competence in spreadsheet software. All registered students have access to Google apps, which has a spreadsheet program.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.
Instructor Background

**Degrees:** AB (Lehigh University); MA, M.Phil., Ph.D. (Columbia University) all in economics.

**Previous teaching positions:** Columbia University (while a graduate student), Washington University (St. Louis), and Lehigh University.

**Research Interests:** Economics of Compensation, Family Leave, Trade Unions, Mandated Benefits and Social Insurance, Economic and Financial Literacy.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You are strongly urged to consult with me regarding the course at any mutually convenient time. In order for teaching to be successful (that is for learning to take place) I need your feedback. My job is to present the course material to you as effectively as I possibly can. Part of your job is to let me know how I'm doing. I can't read minds. You need to let me know what isn't working and perhaps just as importantly what is working. Is the textbook any good? I think it is the best on the market for this class, which is why I choose them but perhaps you don't think they are as valuable as they might be. How about the lectures? Are they clear? Do you get the point of the classes? You need to let me know. What about the technology? Suggestions on its better employment are always in order. You also need to ask questions. A question that is always in order is, "why is this important?" Any question regardless of how unimportant or foolish it may seem to you is important. Please ask it. It is almost always better to raise a question because if you need to ask the question the odds are excellent that half the class or more is also is confused about the same point and your question will assist them too. Are the writing assignments clear and useful? Is my feedback helpful? To conclude if you don’t understand something IT IS BECAUSE I AM NOT SAYING IT RIGHT. This is not plasma physics, or higher mathematics. I hope for all our sakes you need to fully participate in this class. Thank you. WTA

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.