

Syllabus

Instructor: Marco A. Castaneda
Location: CAS 138
Email: mcastaneda@uttyler.edu

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 09:30-10:50am
CAS 104

Hours: Wednesday and Friday, 08:30-09:30am, Online
By appointment

1 Description

Economics is the study of how individuals and society choose to allocate their limited resources. This course provides an introduction to microeconomics, which analyzes the behavior of consumers and producers and the structure and performance of markets. In this course, we will study the basic economic problem of scarcity and the implications for specialization and trade. In addition, we will study the behavior of consumers and producers in a competitive economy and how markets determine the allocation of resources. Finally, we will apply the material to investigate how government policy affects markets and the performance of the economy.

Learning Outcomes: At the successful completion of this course, the students will be able to

- i. Understand the basic economic problem and how it relates to the notions of scarcity and efficiency.
- ii. Understand how markets work, including the determinants of demand and supply and how demand and supply determine the market equilibrium and the allocation of resources.
- iii. Apply demand-and-supply analysis to determine how changes in economic conditions affect the market equilibrium.
- iv. Apply the material to investigate how government policy affects markets and the performance of the economy.

The students will learn the material by attending lectures, reading the textbook, and completing a number of homework assignments. The comprehension of the material will be measured by the performance of the students on the homework assignments and examinations.

2 Prerequisites

There are no formal academic prerequisites for this course.

a. Textbook

The required textbook for the course is *Principles of Economics* by Asarta and Butters (McGraw-Hill). You are required to purchase the “online course package” which includes (i) an electronic version of the textbook and (ii) the Connect learning system. You will be using the Connect learning system to access the textbook and complete the online assignments. *For more information, go to the Getting Started section in Canvas.*

b. Mathematics

Mathematics is a powerful tool for economic analysis, but in this course I will present the material in a non-technical form, based mostly on numerical and graphical analysis and intuitive explanations.

3 Structure of the course

I will dedicate as much time to the course as necessary. The material in the course is closely related to my research and teaching interests and I intend to make this course a fun and productive experience for you.

a. Lectures

Research in Psychology has demonstrated that a central element in the learning process is active participation by the learner. I understand lectures can promote passive observation rather than active participation. Therefore, to promote active participation, my lectures will generally include:

- i. Presentation of technical material in which students participate in the analysis,
- ii. Discussion of the implications for the real world, and
- iii. The opportunity for students to work in teams and do practice problems related to the material we cover in the lectures.

The lectures will be more fun and productive if you have read the material ahead of time and come to class prepared to contribute to the discussion.

b. Grades

Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance in the assignments and examinations.

i. Examinations

There will be THREE examinations during the semester. Your performance on each examination will determine 20% of your grade. The exams will generally

consist of questions and problems similar to the problems presented in class or in the Homework and Quiz assignments.

There will be no make-up examinations. Therefore, if you cannot take one of the examinations, contact me as soon as possible. You must take the FINAL examination on the date scheduled by the university. Therefore, look up the date and mark your calendars.

ii. Online Assignments

A number of online assignments will be distributed during the semester. There will be HOMEWORK assignments and QUIZ assignments:

- i. **HOMEWORK assignments:** Your performance on the homework assignments will determine 20% of your grade. The homework assignments will consist mostly of numerical and graphical questions.
- ii. **QUIZ assignments:** Your performance on the quiz assignments will determine 20% of your grade. The quiz assignments will consist of multiple-choice questions.

iii. Attendance

You are required to attend and participate in class because attendance and participation are essential if you want to do well in this class. For instance, I may cover material not contained in the textbook but that I may include in the homework assignments and examinations. Finally, if you have to miss class, make sure you talk to me or your classmates about the material you missed.

Your grade for the class will be computed based on your overall performance using the standard scale:

A = 90%+	B = 80-89%	C = 70-79%	D = 60-69%	F = 59%–
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Table with Grade Policy

Examinations	
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	20%
Online Assignments	
Homework	20%
Quiz	20%

4 Outline

This section describes the material we will cover in the course and the approximate dates. I expect you to read the material ahead of time and to come to class prepared to contribute to the discussion.

Table with Course Outline

WEEK	DATE Start of Week	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1	JAN 15	Introduction	
2	JAN 22	Fundamentals of Economic Analysis	Week 2: Assignments
3	JAN 29 *	Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium	Week 3: Assignments
4	FEB 5	Market Efficiency and Government Policy	Week 4: Assignments
5	FEB 12	Consumers	Week 5: Assignments
6	FEB 19	Exam I	
7	FEB 26	Producers	Week 7: Assignments
8	MAR 4	Perfect Competition	Week 8: Assignments
9	MAR 11	Spring Break	
10	MAR 18	Monopoly	Week 10: Assignments
11	MAR 25 *	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Week 11: Assignments
12	APR 1	Exam II	
13	APR 8	Resources, Prices, and Utilization	Week 13: Assignments
14	APR 15	International Trade	Week 14: Assignments
15	APR 22	Market Failures and Government Policy	Week 15: Assignments
16	APR 29	Exam III [Final]	

* **JAN 29: Census Date:** Deadline for all registration and schedule changes.

* **MAR 25: Withdraw Date:** Last day to withdraw from the course.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

This section contains a number of university policies which you should be familiar with. Follow the links for additional information.

Withdrawing from Class

Students, you are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course through the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing from classes can impact Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please read this page, speak with your instructors, consider your options, and speak with your instructor. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for our students and often can provide additional support options or student assistance. Please read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal on the [Registrar's Withdrawal page](#). We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#).

CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade; this is separate from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the [SAR webpage](#), the SAR office located in the University Center 3150, or call 903.566.7079.

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to [approved absences](#) as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information about [campus carry](#) is available online.