

Syllabus

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

Hours: Wednesday and Friday, 08:00-09:00am, online classroom
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 and how demand and supply determine the market equilibrium and the allocation of resources.
- iii. Apply economic analysis to understand consumer and producer behavior in competitive markets.
- iv. Apply demand-and-supply analysis to determine how changes in economic conditions affect the market equilibrium.
- v. Apply the material to investigate how government policy affects markets and the performance of the economy.

The students will learn the material by reading the textbook, viewing online presentations, participating in the online classroom sessions, and completing a number of assignments. The comprehension of the material will be measured by the performance of the students on the 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 simple computations, 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. Online

This is an online course and you will access the material using Canvas and the Connect learning system.

Canvas

This will be the primary way to access the material in the course. The material will be organized in weekly learning modules describing the material to read in your textbook and the assignments for the week. In addition, I will post here additional material such as video lectures or demonstration problems.

Connect Learning System

This is where you will access the textbook for the course and complete the required assignments and examinations. For more information, read the Getting Started section in Canvas.

Recording of Lectures: I will record lectures for use by the students enrolled in the course. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

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 examinations will generally consist of problems similar to the problems in your textbook and in the assignments. I will provide you with more information about the examinations later in the course

ii. 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.

Table with Grade Policy

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

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

Score	Grade
90%+	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59%–	F

4 Outline

This section describes the material we will cover in the course and the approximate dates.

Table with Course Outline

WEEK	DATE Start of Week	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1	AUG 24	Introduction	
2	AUG 31	Fundamentals of Economic Analysis	Week 2: Assignments
3	SEP 7 *	Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium	Week 3: Assignments
4	SEP 14	Market Efficiency and Government Policy	Week 4: Assignments
5	SEP 21	Consumer Choice	Week 5: Assignments
6	SEP 28	Exam I	
7	OCT 5	Production	Week 7: Assignments
8	OCT 12	Perfect Competition	Week 8: Assignments
9	OCT 19	Monopoly	Week 9: Assignments
10	OCT 26 *	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Week 10: Assignments
11	NOV 2	Exam II	
12	NOV 9	Resources, Prices, and Utilization	Week 12: Assignments
13	NOV 16	International Trade	Week 13: Assignments
14	NOV 23	Thanksgiving Break	
15	NOV 30	Market Failures and Government Policy	Week 15: Assignments
16	DEC 7	Exam III [Final]	

* **SEP 8: Census Date:** Deadline for all registration and schedule changes.

* **OCT 30: Withdraw Date:** Last day to withdraw from the course.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Withdrawing from Class

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services 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](#).

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

In this course, you can use AI programs (such as ChatGPT or Copilot). These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work.

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 semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

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. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

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. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form

to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. 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 or the Dean's designee 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](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of 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 at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, 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.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.

- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

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 5.2.3](#). 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 [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

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

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

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 is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.