



**UTTyler**  
**ARTS & SCIENCES**

Fall 2023

# **PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS**

Syllabus

**Cecilia Cuellar, Ph.D.**



# UT Tyler

## ARTS & SCIENCES

### Syllabus

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#### **Hacking the economy meetings**

**Online meeting:** Fridays at 9:00 - 10:00 am  
(starting on September 01, 2023)

**In-person meetings:** Wednesday at 10:00 - 11:00 am  
(starting on August 30, 2023)

**Help hours:** By appointment

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#### **1. Description of the course**

In this online course, you will better understand how the economy works. Discover how individuals make decisions, how markets interact, and how resources are allocated in the real world. Through real-life examples and exercises, this course will explore the fundamental principles that govern how individuals and firms make decisions and how these decisions collectively influence the economy.

**Learning outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will possess the necessary skills to...

- i. Understand the fundamental economic problem and its relation to scarcity and efficiency.
- ii. Comprehend the mechanics of markets, including how supply and demand influence market equilibrium and resource allocation.
- iii. Use economic analysis to comprehend 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. Utilize the provided material to delve deeper into the influence of governmental policies on markets and overall economic performance.



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### 2. Prerequisites

There are no formal 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 use 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. Hard skills

In economic analysis, mathematics is a powerful tool. In this course, however, I will present the material primarily through numerical and graphical analysis and intuitive explanations.

#### c. Soft skills

This course will primarily consist of online learning. You will require a certain level of discipline and motivation to complete it.

### 3. Structure of the course

The students will learn the material by reading the textbook, viewing online lectures, participating in hacking the economy sessions, and completing several assignments. The comprehension of the material will be measured by the student's performance on the assignments and examinations.

#### a. Online

This is an online course; 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 additional material here, 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 **Start Here!** section in Canvas.



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### EconoSlice videos

I will create short videos that use real-life scenarios to clarify important definitions or economic issues covered in each lecture. Please note that my videos are intended to supplement your learning, and you should still refer to the textbook for a comprehensive understanding of the material.

### b. Grades

#### i. Examinations

There will be **TWO** or **THREE** examinations during the semester (please see the **RED DOOR** option subsection in Canvas). Your performance on each examination will determine **20%** of your grade. The examinations will generally consist of problems similar to those in your textbook and the assignments. I will provide you with more information about the examinations later in the course.

#### ii. Assignments

Several online assignments will be distributed during the semester. There will be **HOMEWORK** assignments and **QUIZ** assignments:

- The **HOMEWORK** assignments will be graded based only on completing the assignment, and to get full credit, you need to complete the assignment on time. Your performance on the homework assignments will determine 20% of your grade.
- The **QUIZ** assignments will be graded based on how well you answer the questions, and to get full credit, your work must be correct, and you must complete the assignment on time. Your performance on the quiz assignments will determine 20% of your grade.

### Grade Policy (Standard Path)

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



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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. Course Outline

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

Week	Due Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Aug 27	Introduction	
2	Sep 03	Fundamentals of Economic Analysis	Week 2: Assignments
3	Sep 10	Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium	Week 3: Assignments
4	Sep 17	Market Efficiency and Elasticity	Week 4: Assignments
5	Sep 24	Consumer Choice	Week 5: Assignments
6	Oct 01	<b>Exam I</b>	
7	Oct 08	Production	Week 7: Assignments
8	Oct 15	Perfect Competition	Week 8: Assignments
9	Oct 22	Monopoly	Week 9: Assignments
10	Oct 29	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Week 10: Assignments
11	Nov 05	<b>Exam II</b>	
12	Nov 12	Resources, Prices, and Utilization	Week 12: Assignments
13	Nov 19	International Trade	Week 13: Assignments
14		<b>Thanksgiving break</b>	
15	Dec 03	Market Failures	Week 15: Assignments
16	Dec 07	<b>Exam III</b>	



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### 5. University Policies

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

#### **Important COVID Information**

It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing, and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. If you don't feel well, you are encouraged to stay home, and if you show symptoms, you should get tested for the flu or COVID. If you test positive, self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). In this situation, work with your professor to maintain coursework and consult [existing campus resources](#) if you need additional support.

#### **UT Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

#### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <https://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

#### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over 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 <https://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/>

#### **UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.



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There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit <https://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free/>

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <https://www.uttyler.edu/registrar/>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date).
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade).
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment.
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid.

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog.



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Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### **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 you have 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 Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/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 University Center, #3150 or call 903.566.7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (such as e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.





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### **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;



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- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5995)  
writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5964)  
tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](tel:903.566.7254) (903.566.7254)