

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
EC 201 INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS: MICROECONOMICS

Fall 2021

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Robert McDonough	<b>Lecture Time:</b>	T,R 16:00-17:20
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:rmcdono2@uoregon.edu">rmcdono2@uoregon.edu</a>		(Pacific Time)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	T 17:20-18:00; F 15:00-15:50		
<b>GE:</b>	Ngan Tran	<b>Lecture Place:</b>	Tykeson 140
<b>GE Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ntran7@uoregon.edu">ntran7@uoregon.edu</a>		
<b>GE Office Hour:</b>	W 13:00-13:50; F 15:00-15:50		

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**Course Page:** <https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/185644>

**2021 is Hard:** *This is a stressful time. None of us has lived through anything like this.* As the University transitions back to in-person classes, I have built flexibility into our syllabus so that you can all succeed despite our less-than-ideal circumstances. I hope that you will extend the same flexibility to me. Please reach out if you need anything. The sooner I know you need help, the sooner we can make it happen. Nothing we learn in class will be useful without your physical and mental health! My goal is to make this course as useful to you as possible, which includes creating opportunities to talk about this crisis constructively. Feedback, positive or negative, is always appreciated.

**Course Objectives:** This main goal of this course to show you how to think like an economist. There is an *economic perspective* to most of the decisions we make every day. Since microeconomics is the study of the individual units of the economy and their interactions — households, businesses, and individual people like you—it is the ideal starting point for developing economic thinking. Thinking like an economist will develop your critical thinking skills in a new way that will be useful outside of this class. In a sentence, I want to show you how economic thinking can help you personally, even if this is the only economics course you ever take. Finally, I hope to impress upon you why economics is an important field of study, and the range of important topics that can be understood through an economic point of view.

**Lecture:** Lecture will be held in Tykeson 140 from 16:00 to 17:20 (4:00-5:20 PM), Pacific Time. Lecture attendance is not mandatory, but you are encouraged to attend lectures if you are feeling healthy.

**Textbook:** Mateer and Coppock, *Principles of Microeconomics 3E, COVID-19 Update* (ISBN: 978-0-393-87173-9).

You have several options for accessing our textbook but you must have access to the Inquizitive program, which is a homework/quiz software that I discuss more below. (1) You can purchase the ebook version of our text for \$75 on our canvas page (quickest/easiest). (2) You can purchase a physical copy through the Norton website or the bookstore (more expensive, but you get a book). Options (1) and (2) include access to Inquizitive. Finally, (3) you can buy standalone access to Inquizitive for \$25 through our canvas site, then buy or find an older edition of the textbook (cheapest option, probably). In my opinion, the COVID-19 update of the textbook is an improvement over the previous version, but both the 2nd edition and the 3rd (pre-COVID) edition are comparable. I encourage you to choose the option that works best for you.

**Discussion Section:** Discussion sections will be led by Ngan Tran at either 13:00 in Lillis 185, or 14:00 in Anstett 191. Attending discussion sections is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged whenever you feel healthy. The smaller environment will make it more comfortable to ask questions. Discussion sections will be used to go over examples that reinforce the material covered in lectures. Given the potential need for contact tracing this term, please only attend the discussion section for which you are registered.

**Course Policies Relating to COVID-19:** Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the following policies are in place for our course. These policies, as well as the rest of the syllabus, are subject to change in the event that the University changes or updates any of its COVID-19 policies and procedures.

- **Mask Policy:** The University requires faculty, staff, students, and visitors to use face coverings when in UO buildings, including classrooms. Please wear a suitable face covering over your nose and mouth during class and discussion section. Mesh masks, lace masks, and other face coverings with openings, valves, holes, vents, or other visible gaps are not in compliance with this policy. Students unable to wear face coverings can work with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to find a reasonable accommodation. **Only accommodations provided to me directly by the AEC will be honored.** Students refusing to wear a face covering will be asked to leave the classroom.
- **Eating and Drinking During Class:** Due to the mask policy, the University has explicitly forbidden eating and drinking in classrooms. Please feel free to excuse yourself from class if you need a moment to get a drink or eat a snack. Even if you just need a moment alone, or to step outdoors to breathe some fresh air, please feel free to do so.
- **Attendance Policy:** Attendance in lecture and discussion sections is not mandatory. Please prioritize your and your peers' health above course attendance. I will work with you to make sure you can stay caught up with the class.
- **Academic Disruption** In the event of a campus emergency that disrupts academic activities, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. If we are not able to meet face-to-face, students should immediately log onto Canvas and read any announcements and/or access alternative assignments. Students are also expected to continue coursework as outlined in this syllabus or other instructions on Canvas. In the event that the instructor of this course has to quarantine, this course may be taught online during that time.
- **COVID Containment Plan for Classes** As the University of Oregon returns to in-person instruction, the key to keeping our community healthy and safe involves prevention, containment, and support. Here is information critical to how the UO is responding to COVID-19.

**Prevention:** To prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 in classrooms and on campus, all students and employees must:

- Comply with vaccination policy
- Wear face coverings in all indoor spaces on UO campus
- Complete weekly testing if not fully vaccinated or exempted
- Wash hands frequently and practice social distancing when possible
- Complete daily self-checks
- Stay home/do not come to campus if feeling symptomatic
- Complete the UO COVID-19 case and contact reporting form if you test positive or have been in close contact with a confirmed or presumptive case.

**Containment:** If a student in class tests positive for COVID-19, all relevant classes will be notified via an email by the Corona Corps Care Team with instructions for students and staff based on their vaccination status. Specifically:

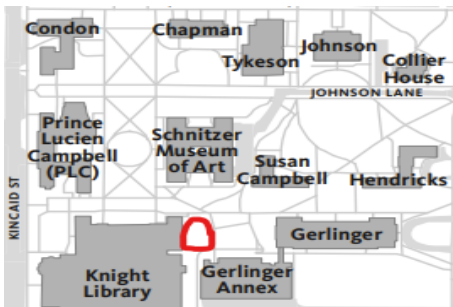
- **Vaccinated and Asymptomatic students:** Quarantine not required, but daily self-monitoring before coming on campus is advised; sign up for testing through MAP 3-5 days after exposure if advised you are a contact.”

- **Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students:** 14-day quarantine advised – do not come to class – and sign up for testing 3-5 days after notification through MAP, if asymptomatic, or through University Health Services (541-346-2770) or your primary care provider, if symptomatic.
- **Symptomatic students:** stay home (do not come to class/campus), complete the online case and contact form, and contact University Health Services (541-346-2770) or your primary care provide to arrange for immediate COVID-19 testing.

Students identified as a close contacts of a positive case will be contacted by the Corona Corps Care Team (541-346-2292).

- **Good Classroom Citizenship:** Wear your mask and make sure it fits you well. Stay home if you're sick. Get to know your neighbors in class, and let them know if you test positive. Get tested regularly. Watch for signs and symptoms with the daily symptom self-check. Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be held in person on Tuesday at 17:20-18:00 (directly after class), and also on Friday at 15:00-15:50. Weather permitting, office hours will be held outside on the benches near the Opal Whiteley statue on the east side of Knight Library (facing the front doors of Knight Library, turn left and walk to the edge of the building; picture below). On days that are rainy or too cold, Tuesday office hours will be held in our classroom (Tykeson 140), and Friday office hours will be held in PLC 353. Face masks will be required during any office hours inside. I reserve the right to move office hours to Zoom. If you would like to meet outside of scheduled office hours, either in person or via Zoom, please email me to make an appointment.



**Grading Policy:** Your grade in this course will depend on roughly 9 homework assignments, two midterms, and a final. I will calculate your final percent grade under the following two schemes and award you the higher of the two grades:

Assessment	Scheme A	Scheme B
Homework	25%	25%
Midterm 1	25%	20%
Midterm 2	25%	20%
Final	25%	35%

Canvas will display your current course grade based on Scheme A. The traditional grade scale (90-100% → an A of some kind, 80-89% → a B of some kind, et cetera, modified by + and - where applicable) will be used as a baseline for course grades. Letter grades will never be worse than this scale would imply, but a favorable curve may be applied at my discretion. Those students taking this course pass/fail must earn a “C-” in the course in order to receive a passing grade.

**Midterms & Final:** The two midterms and final for this course will be administered in person. Midterms

will be administered in Tykeson 140 during our scheduled class time. The final will be administered at the time and place indicated by the Registrar's office, and will be comprehensive. Dates for the midterms and final are given below. Given the high likelihood of unexpected events during this term, I am adding several potential options if an exam has to be missed. First, you may ask me for a makeup within 24 hours of the missed exam, and provide me with your justification for why a makeup is warranted. If a makeup exam is granted, you should plan on it being more difficult than the regularly scheduled exam, since you will have had more time to prepare. Makeup exams will be definitely be given to students who must miss an exam due to required COVID quarantine. You will have to provide me with official verification of your quarantine status from the University or public health body asking you to quarantine. All other makeups are subject to my discretion. Alternatively, students will also be allowed to put the weight of a single missed midterm on the final exam, provided that I am notified within 7 days of the missed exam. A missed final due to an unanticipated emergency may be handled with an "incomplete" for the course. Please review the schedule of final examinations for any conflicts in your final exams and for potential multiple exams on the same day. If you know you cannot take the final or any other exam for personal reasons you should drop this class.

All exams will be closed note and closed book. You may have a pen or pencil, a ruler or straightedge, and a non-programmable hand-held calculator at your desk while taking an exam. Any other forms of assistance or sources of information are prohibited. Any violations of academic integrity involving an exam will result in a failing grade for the course. All cell phones must be turned off during examination periods. No student will be given an exam 30 minutes following the commencement of that exam. Other exam policies related to COVID mitigation will be communicated closer to the time of exams.

**Inquisitive Homework Assignments:** This course will use InQuisitive, an online homework program that accompanies the textbook. Each chapter of the textbook has its own assignment. Reading the textbook will be of great assistance in completing these assignments. Inquizitive will be due in 'chunks' after each exam. InQuisitive will be assigned and due through Canvas. You must submit your own InQuizitive assignments, but collaboration with other students is allowed. On the tentative lecture schedule, I have indicated when I think you will be able to finish each Inquizitive assignment, but you will have access to all Inquizitive assignments from the beginning of the course. I strongly encourage doing the InQuisitive assignments around the time they are listed on the schedule. InQuizitive will help you with mastering concepts for midterms, but is not a substitute for studying. The best way to learn to think like an economist is by practicing. I want you to incentivize you to spend some time before exams thinking about our subject material, but I recognize that this quarter is likely going to be hectic, difficult, and stressful due to COVID-19. With that in mind, I am assigning homework using InQuizitive for two reasons:

1. The Inquizitive software has a lot of flexibility built for both you and me, including the fact that it is integrated with Canvas and is entirely digital. I think that this flexibility makes InQuizitive a good option for this less-than-normal term.
2. InQuisitive is set up so that you can get 100% on each assignment if you keep working at it. If you get a question wrong at first, you'll see it again later and get another chance to figure it out. This means that 25% of your course grade is 'guaranteed,' if you put in the effort. Hopefully this will accomplish my goal (you spend time thinking about economics), but with less grade-related stress.

Please access InQuisitive via the Canvas page! Do not navigate to InQuisitive from the Norton website.

### Important Dates:

<b>Midterm 1</b> .....	(In class) Thursday, October 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>InQuizitive Chs. 1,3,4 due</b> .....	17:00 Tuesday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Midterm 2</b> .....	(In class) Tuesday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>InQuizitive Chs. 2,5,6,7,8 due</b> .....	17:00 Tuesday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Final Exam</b> .....	12:30-14:30 Thursday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>InQuizitive Chs. 9 due</b> .....	17:00 Friday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>

**Grade Appeals:** Any re-grading requests on a test must be submitted in writing within 2 days of when grades are returned. A request should include an argument for why you feel your answer was correct. I will re-grade the entire question when a request is made.

**Academic Integrity:** The University Student Conduct Code defines academic misconduct, which includes unauthorized help on assignments and examinations and the use of sources without acknowledgment. Academic misconduct is prohibited at UO. I will report misconduct to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards—consequences can include failure of this course. As noted above, collaboration is allowed on homework but **not** on exams. I will ask you to certify that your exams are your own work. In order to ensure that each student is evaluated fairly, I will be very strict in the enforcement of the Student Conduct Code, which is published in the Schedule of Classes each term.

I do not consent to having notes from this class uploaded to the internet, including commercial note-selling websites. My course design is copyrighted by me and I do not consent to mass distribution of these materials. My lectures, including slide content, are my intellectual property and your creation of a derivative work (student notes from lecture) falls under this copyright protection. The distribution of course material (including your notes) to a commercial website falls under the UO's definition of plagiarism (see Student Conduct Code). Furthermore, such action violates UO's information technology "acceptable use policy" which prohibits use of its computing resources for commercial purposes.

**Accessibility and Special Accommodations:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. If you are uncomfortable discussing these issues with me, or if you require special accommodations of any kind due to a documented disability, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center at 541-346-1155 or uoac@uoregon.edu.

**Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support. This UO webpage includes resources for food, housing, healthcare, childcare, transportation, technology, finances, and legal support: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/basicneeds/food/>

**Support:** The following resources are available to you as a student.

- University Health Services or call (541) 346-2770
- University Counseling Center or call (541) 346-3277 or (541) 346-3227 (after hrs.)
- MAP Covid-19 Testing
- Corona Corps or call (541) 346-2292
- Academic Advising or call (541) 346-3211
- Dean of Students or call (541)-346-3216

**Student Athletes:** If you are a student athlete and will need special accommodations, it is your responsibility to notify me in a timely and appropriate manner, and to support your request for special accommodations by providing appropriate documentation.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Date	Major Topic	Chapter	Assignment
09/28	Introduction, Syllabus, Economic Fundamentals	Ch. 1	Sync Canvas and InQuizitive
09/30	Economic Fundamentals and Models	Ch. 1, Ch. 2 p. 27-32	Inquizitive Ch. 1
10/05	Markets & Demand	Ch. 3	
10/07	Supply & Equilibrium	Ch. 3	Inquizitive Ch. 3
10/12	Elasticity	Ch. 4	
10/14	Elasticity, Surplus	Ch. 4, Ch. 5 p. 155-166	Inquizitive Ch. 4
10/19	Wrap up & Midterm Review		<b>STUDY</b>
10/21	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
10/26	Why do we Trade?	Ch. 2 p. 33-53	Inquizitive Ch. 2
10/28	Externalities	Ch. 7	
11/02	Externalities	Ch. 7	Inquizitive Ch. 7
11/04	Tax Incidence	Ch. 5 p. 167- 183	Inquizitive Ch. 5
11/09	Price Controls	Ch. 6	Inquizitive Ch. 6
11/11	<b>Veterans Day Holiday- No Class</b>		
11/16	Theory of the Firm	Ch. 8	
11/18	Theory of the Firm, Midterm Review	Ch. 8	Inquizitive Ch. 8
11/23	<b>Midterm 2</b>		
11/25	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday- No Class</b>		
11/30	Competitive Markets	Ch. 9	
12/2	Competitive Markets, Final Review	Ch. 9	Inquizitive Ch. 9