

Syllabus for Intermediate Microeconomics (310-2)

Northwestern University, Spring 2023,

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am - 10:50am, Fisk Hall 217.

Instructor: Harry Pei

Email: harrydp@northwestern.edu

Office Hour: Friday 2:30pm - 3:30pm at KGH 3391.

Teaching Assistants:

- Pedro Ohi

Email: pedroohi2024@u.northwestern.edu

Sections: Thursday 5pm and 6pm at Tech M152

Office Hour: Wednesday 1:30pm - 2:30pm at KGH 3411.

- Jose Higuera Corona

Email: josehigueraacorona2025@u.northwestern.edu

Sections: Friday 10am and 11am at Locy Hall 301.

Office Hour: Monday 3:30pm - 4:30 pm at KGH 3198.

- Yutong Zhang

Email: zhangyutong2017@u.northwestern.edu

Sections: Friday 10am and 11am Locy Hall 318

Office Hour: Friday 8am - 9am at KGH 3198.

Recommended Textbooks (not required, no need to buy):

Robert Gibbons “Game Theory for Applied Economists,” Princeton University Press.

David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam “Microeconomics,” any edition, Wiley.

Jeffrey M. Perloff “Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus.” Fifth Edition.

Grading:

1. 70%: **two closed book exams** (35% each), May 4th and May 30th in class.

Location: Fisk Hall 217.

Exams are not cumulative. There will be **no make-up exam**. If a student misses the first exam, then all weight is put on the second exam.

2. 30%: 6 weekly problem sets. Collaboration and discussions among students are strongly encouraged but each student **must** turn in their own solution.

Submissions & Returns: When a new pset is released on Canvas and until the due date, students will be able to upload their work on **gradescope.com**. Students may still hand-write

their solutions, but only electronic submission on **Gradescope** will be accepted and graded. Upon uploading a document that shows their work, students should indicate which page corresponds to which question, just as gradescope asks them to do. On their gradescope.com page, students will also be able to see all of their graded problem sets and exams.

No late submission is accepted. Solutions will be posted right after the deadline.

3. If you have any academic question related to this course, please **post them on the Canvas discussion board**. Students are strongly encouraged to **join the discussions on Canvas and to answer other students' questions**. The instructor and the TAs will answer all remaining questions by the end of each day. Active participation (in class and on Canvas) will be used for students who fall on a cutoff between two grades.

Course goals:

1. Improve abstract reasoning, especially as it relates to the economic topics listed below.
2. Develop tools used to predict outcomes when people make decisions in isolation and when people interact with each other.
3. Gain deeper intuition for economic concepts, such as *equilibrium* and *rationalizability*.
4. Practice problem solving, including both formal logic and numeric calculations.

Course Materials:

- March 30th: Introduction.
- April 4th and April 6th: Preference, Choice, Utility, and Risk. **(TA sections)**
Pset 1 due at 5pm, April 11th.
- April 11th and April 13th: Uncertainty and Violations of Expected Utility **(TA sections)**
Pset 2 due at 5pm, April 18th.
- April 18th and April 20th: Normal Form Games & Dominant Strategies **(TA sections)**
Pset 3 due at 5pm April 25th.
- April 25th and April 27th: Nash Equilibrium & Rationalizability **(TA sections)**
Pset 4 due at 5pm May 2nd.
- May 2nd: Review for Exam 1.
- May 4th: Exam 1.

- May 9th and May 11th: Extensive Form Games and Subgame Perfect Equilibrium (**TA sections**)

Pset 5 due at 5pm, May 16th.

- May 16th and May 18th: Applications to Industrial Organization and the Lemon's Market (**TA sections**)

Pset 6 due at 5pm, May 23rd.

- May 23rd and May 25th: Signaling Games and Review for Exam 2. (**No TA section, only office hours**)

- **May 30th: Exam 2.**

AccessibleNU: Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and provide professors with an accommodation notification from AccessibleNU, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.

Laptop Computer Policy: Except in the case of proven medical necessity, students may not use a laptop computer or computer tablet during the lectures. Such devices must remain in your bag, and may not be placed on your desk. Unless permitted by AccessibleNU, recording is strictly forbidden in lectures, sections, and office hours.

Mobile Communications Policy: Mobile telephone devices should have the ringer turned off and be placed in pockets or backpacks. Students may not make or receive phone calls, surf the web, or send or receive text messages during class.