

Syllabus for Intermediate Microeconomics (310-2)

Northwestern University, Winter 2025,

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am - 10:50am, Harris Hall 107.

Instructor: Harry Pei

Email: harrydp@northwestern.edu

Office Hour: Wednesday 5:00pm - 6:00pm in KGH 3391.

Teaching Assistants:

- Yifan Mao

Email: yifanmao2029@u.northwestern.edu

Sections: Thursday 5pm in TCH L150 and Thursday 6pm in TCH M177

Office Hour: Thursday 2:00pm - 3:00pm in KGH 3411

- Tomer Novikov

Email: tomernovikov2027@u.northwestern.edu

Sections: Thursday 5pm in TCH M164 and Thursday 6pm in TCH M164

Office Hour: Tuesday 4:30pm - 5:30pm in KGH 3411

- Saam Zahedian

Email: saamzahedian2029@u.northwestern.edu

Sections: Thursday 5pm in TCH M128, 6pm in TCH M152

Office Hour: Monday 2:00pm - 3:00pm in KGH 3198

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

Robert Gibbons “Game Theory for Applied Economists.”

Michihiro Kandori “Mighty Microeconomics: A Guide to Thinking Like An Economist.”

Grading:

1. 90%: **three closed book exams** (30% each), Jan 23rd, Feb 13th, and Mar 6th in class.

Location: Harris Hall 107.

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

2. 10%: **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 letter 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:

- Jan 7th and Jan 9th: Preference, Choice, Utility, and Risk. **(TA sections)**

Pset 1 due at 5pm, Jan 14th.

- Jan 14th and Jan 16th: Uncertainty and Violations of Expected Utility **(TA sections)**

Pset 2 due at 5pm, Jan 21st.

- Jan 21st: Review for Exam 1.

- Jan 23rd: Exam 1.

- Jan 28th and Jan 30th: Normal Form Games & Dominant Strategies **(TA sections)**

Pset 3 due at 5pm Feb 4th.

- Feb 4th and Feb 6th: Nash Equilibrium & Rationalizability, Extensive Form Games **(TA sections)**

Pset 4 due at 5pm Feb 11th.

- Feb 11th: Review for Exam 2.

- Feb 13th: Exam 2.

- Feb 18th and Feb 20th: Subgame Perfect Equilibrium and Applications to Industrial Organization (**TA sections**)

Pset 5 due at 5pm, Feb 25th.

- Feb 25th and Feb 27th: Adverse Selection and Signaling Games (**TA sections**)

Pset 6 due at 5pm, Mar 4th.

- Mar 4th: Review for Exam 3.

- Mar 6th: Exam 3.

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.