

ECON 310-2: Intermediate Microeconomics II

Winter 2026
MWF 10:00-10:50, Lutkin Hall

Maxim Sinitsyn, msinitsyn@northwestern.edu
Office Hours: W noon-2 in KGH 3227

Discussion Sessions:

21 Tu, 3:30-4:20, Tech M177

22 Th, 3:30-4:20; Tech M177

23/25 Tu 5:00-5:50, Tech L251

24/26 Th 5:00-5:50, Tech M345

TAs (no sessions or OHs the first week):

Michel Gutmann (michelgutmann2030@u.northwestern.edu)

(Sessions 21 and 23/25; Office hours: T 1-3 at KGH 3496)

Saam Zahedian (saamzahedian2029@u.northwestern.edu)

(Sessions 22 and 24/26; Office hours: Th 1-3 at KGH 3198)

Course Description: The second part of the intermediate microeconomic sequence will start by developing the basic tools of game theory. These tools are then used to study oligopoly models. The second part of the course covers externalities, public goods, and social choice. The course concludes with models of asymmetric information and general equilibrium.

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course. You could continue using Microeconomics by Besanko and Braeutigam from your 310-1 course or any other intermediate micro textbook for reference.

Weekly Homework: Each week, I will post practice problems on Canvas. These problems are essential for your success in the course. They are craftily designed not only to give you practice applying the concepts we cover in class, but also to guide you through extensions and deeper explorations of those topics. For example, while I will introduce two-player games in class, the homework problems will ask you to work with games involving three or more players.

Each problem set includes questions marked with **boxed numbers**, which you must write up and submit on Canvas. Solutions must be submitted before the problem sets are covered in discussion sessions (Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.). There will be 9 problem sets in total, and your top 8 scores will count toward your final grade.

You don't need to submit solutions to questions without boxed numbers. However, it is important to practice solving them independently. Simply reading the solutions will not adequately prepare you for the exams. The best approach is to form study groups: first, attempt the problems on your own, and then review them together. While collaboration on problem sets is allowed, each student must submit their own solutions.

Exams: Grading will be based on problem sets (16%), two midterms (22% each), and a final examination (40%). The final exam will be cumulative. You must take all exams. The dates for the midterms are

February 6th, and February 27th. The final exam is Thursday, 3/19, at 3pm. There is no alternative date for the final exam. All exams are closed book, and you may not use calculators.

Schedule

Weeks 1, 2	Game Theory
Weeks 3, 4	Oligopoly Models
Weeks 5, 6	Externalities, Public Goods, VCG mechanism
Weeks 7, 8	Asymmetric Information
Week 9	General equilibrium

Quarter-Long Study Group Opportunity – Registration Required: If you would like to study with other students in this class, consider joining a [Peer-Guided Study Group](#). Participants will meet weekly with about 5 to 8 other students and a peer facilitator, a trained student who has already taken and done well in the course. During sessions, students review concepts, work through practice problems, bring their questions, and work together to develop answers.

Students register for the full quarter on CAESAR, and attendance is expected weekly. Study Group sessions are listed on CAESAR below course lecture and discussion sections (when searching for study groups, enter “SG” in the Course Number field in CAESAR to get a complete list of sections). Feel free to contact Borislava at borislava.miltcheva@northwestern.edu with any questions. Provided through [Academic Support & Learning Advancement](#).

Drop-In Peer Tutoring – No Appointment Needed: Students are welcome to stop by [Drop-In Peer Tutoring](#) to get support with a specific question or issue, or just talk through course materials with others. Tutoring is offered for this course and many introductory courses in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Math, Physics and Statistics. Tutoring takes place Sundays through Thursdays. **Check specific times, courses, and locations on the [Drop-In Peer Tutoring website](#).** Feel free to contact Valerie at valerie.wolf@northwestern.edu with any questions. Provided through [Academic Support & Learning Advancement](#).

Additional Academic Support Options: ASLA offers [individual and group peer academic coaching](#), as well as [consultations](#), to help students navigate their academic paths and refine their study strategies. **Wondering how to become a peer leader with ASLA?** See the [ASLA website](#) to learn more.

Northwestern University Syllabus Standards: This course follows the [Northwestern University Syllabus Standards](#). Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with this information.