

Econ 202: Introduction to Microeconomics

Prof. Scott Ogawa; Northwestern University; 2026 Winter Tue/Thu 12:30 - 1:50 pm; Tech Aud

Course Goals:

- (1) Provide a fruitful exposure to the current economic paradigm.
- (2) Gain deeper intuition for economic concepts, including *supply and demand*, *elasticity*, *gains from trade*, *public goods*, *common resources*, *externalities*, *labor markets*, *monopoly*, *monopolistic competition*, and *game theory*.
- (3) Improve your numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Also, I hope this class provides a time and space to engage with other humans, free from technology.

There is no textbook to buy in this class! (Find link to readings [HERE](#).) However, you are very much expected to read the chapters that we provide.

Week 1	Supply and Demand; Surplus/Welfare	No section Monday.
2	Market Interventions; Elasticity	
3	Costs Curves and Perfect Competition	
4	Gains from Trade	Midterm 1 Thu, Jan 29
5	Externalities and Public Goods; Taxes	
6	Factors of Production	
7	Monopoly; Monopolistic Competition	
8	Game Theory; Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition	Midterm 2 Thu, Feb 26
9	Game Theory; Interest Rates	
10	Reading week	Section Monday but no lecture.
11	If you miss this exam for any reason then you will need to take the final exam during finals week in a subsequent quarter.	Final Exam Mon, Mar 16, 3-5 pm

People and Contact Info (please just email directly; do *not* use Canvas Inbox)

- Scott (sogawa@gmail.com)
- Joao (joao.santos@u.northwestern.edu)
- Thu (ThuTran2027@u.northwestern.edu)
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Grades

Grades will either be based on a percentage (>93.3% is A, >90% is A-, etc) or a curve typical of economics courses (in this course, median set to a B/B+), *whichever is higher for you*. Passing grades (C- or better) will also depend on other factors, including whether you submit all of the problem sets and take all of the exams.

Exams (90%-100%)

Your exam percentage will be based on “highest three” exams, where the final counts double: If you do well on your final, it will count for two thirds, while your best midterm will count for one third; If you do poorly on the final, then the three exams will count equally. This means that *you can simply not show up for a midterm*, though this is a risky strategy that we do not advise (and you need to email 24 hours in advance with an explanation). However, if something comes up (such as illness, funeral, or job interview) it will be up to you to decide whether missing a midterm is worth it. ([details](#))

Engagement (0-10%)

There will be several ways to demonstrate engagement throughout the quarter. In almost all cases, you will simply get credit for participating. Also, this can only help your grade. If you ever fail to engage in the following ways, your exam average will simply count for more (i.e. if you do not engage at all, then 100% of grade will be based on exams). Exact details [HERE](#), though in general, I would just try to do your best with everything as each part will also help you prepare for the exams. Also, for students who simply want to pass the class (C- or higher) or earn a B- or higher, concrete evidence of engagement via these channels can make a difference.

- Submitting weekly **problem sets** (typically in groups) [3 points each week]
- Submitting your work during the **weekly sections** [1 point each week]
- Attending hourlong “tech free zones” during the quarter (experimental, with details forthcoming) [1 point each]
- Taking **in-class quizzes** in the middle of lecture. [typically 2 points each week.] This is the only component in which giving correct answers may have a small impact on your scores. Exact content of each quiz will be made clear in advance, and it will often involve groupwork and/or your written notes.

Other Info:

- **Office Hours:** Look for details about Office Hours on the Canvas homepage. Subject to change based on student usage and needs.
- **No Screens:** No electronics in this classroom. This includes not only computers, but also tablets (and even watches and earbuds). Enforcement details will be discussed at the start of class. Briefly: Always silence your phone and leave it in the designated part of the room; then any electronics usage during class will result in direct point reduction on your exam. If you have an accommodation approved by the university then you can use it as prescribed with no concern about impact on your grade, but please discuss with me in advance so I can be aware of the context, and please remain mindful of how screens may affect both your own learning and the learning of those around you. There may be limited provision for tablet use, but you must sit at the front of the room, and you cannot use your tablet notes during the periodic open-note quizzes.
- **Regrades:** If you have a regrade request, please *write out your request via a link online*. Generally the original ruling stands: Requests centered on difficult (and unfortunately somewhat subjective) partial-credit decisions will not get points back (i.e. there must be clear evidence to overturn the “call on the field”). Your regrade request needs to point out a *mistake* or *oversight*, not just an honest disagreement about partial credit. We promise to be as consistent and fair as possible, and to take every request seriously; we thus ask that you not abuse this process. Please try to submit requests within one week of receiving a score.
- **University Policies:** Finally, all expectations [HERE](#) apply. Let me emphasize (1) that you should not make any unauthorized recording and (2) don’t just not cheat: if you become aware of anything or have concerns, please let me know (with no expectation that you name names).