

The College of William & Mary
Fall 2017

SYLLABUS

ECON 303 - 07 & 08. Intermediate Microeconomics

M/W/F. 9:00–9:50AM. Tyler 123

M/W/F. 10:00-10:50AM. Washington 302

Instructor:	Thomas P. LaSalvia, PhD
Office Location:	Tyler 230
Office Hours:	M/T/W/R. 2:15-3:30, appointments, open door policy
Email:	tplasalvia@wm.edu

*Will reply the same day on Mon.-Fri. if received prior to 5:00pm

Teaching Assistants: ?

Course Description:

Intermediate Microeconomics is the study of firm and consumer behavior in various market structures. Topics include: price theory, consumption theory, public policy analysis, and strategic firm behavior. Tools and concepts include: indifference curves, budget constraints, cost curves, and game theory.

Course Objectives:

Utilize a structured economic framework to describe how consumers and producers make market oriented decisions

Evaluate the benefits and consequences of a “free market” with consideration to market structure

Evaluate and discuss government policy meant to alleviate “failures” of the free market with consideration to market structure.

Understand, evaluate and participate in discussions involving business, politics and human behavior

Prerequisite: ECON 101

Add/Drop: September 8th, W/D: October 27th

Course Structure and Assessment: We all learn differently. Due to this, a combination of lectures, readings, group work, papers, short answer assignments, presentations, and tests will be used. Everyone will have a chance to learn.

The below descriptions and totals are approximates and subject to change.

<u>Assignment Type & Amount</u>	<u>Points (each)</u>
Homework (6)	3
Quizzes (6)	9
Comprehensive Midterm (1)	42
Comprehensive Final Exam (1)	72
Semester Project (1)	21
Total	207

Midterm is comprehensive, Date is TBD

Final Exam is comprehensive

9am class - Wednesday, December 13th at 9am

10am class - Thursday, December 14th at 2pm

Semester Project will be an application of the material to a particular market
(more details to come)

I reserve the right to “bump you up or down” ½ a grade level based on your participation and attendance. Expectation is full attendance and occasional outside of class meeting. Exceptional participation requires in-class participation and multiple outside of class meetings.

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	A = 93% - 100%	A- = 90% - 92%
	B+ = 87% - 89%	B = 83% - 86%
	B- = 80% - 82%	C+ = 77% - 79%
	C = 73% - 76%	C- = 70% - 72%
	D+ = 67% - 69%	D = 63% - 66%
	D- = 60% - 62%	F = 0% - 59%

Grading: 0 – 3 scale. 0 = nothing, 1 = economic thought, 2 = economic thought that is “in the right direction”, 3 = complete and correct economic thought (based on in-class discussions)

Text: Varian, H. Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach, 9th ed. W. W. Norton & Company. 2014

Additional Course Materials:

Read/watch the news. Any article or video you see that interests you and is relevant to our discussions please share with the class.

<http://freakonomics.com/blog/>
<http://economicshelp.org>

Writing Resources Center (WRC) - Communications Related

The Writing Resources Center, located on the first floor of Swem Library, is a free service provided to W&M students. Trained consultants offer individual assistance with writing, presentation, and other communication assignments across disciplines and at any stage, from generating ideas to polishing a final product. To make an appointment, visit the WRC webpage www.wm.edu/wrc. The WRC opens for the Fall semester on Monday, September 11 at 1:00.

Student Accessibility Services:

"William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services staff at 757-221-2512 or at sas@wm.edu to determine if accommodations are warranted and to obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please visit www.wm.edu/sas."

Course Policies:

You must be **respectful** to everyone.

- Do not text or use social media.
- Do not talk while others are talking.
- Do not use the web for non-relevant activities.
- Do not be late.
- Do not leave early.
- Do not miss class.
- Do not be a loud consumer of food or drink.

If you need to leave early or need to leave your phone on because of an expected important call, please tell me at the beginning of class.

We will have lots of fun and learn useful and interesting material if we can all follow these policies. **I genuinely want to help all of you.**

If you do not act in a respectful manner, I will **not** write you a letter of recommendation.

Please Be a kind and thoughtful human being

The William & Mary Pledge

"As a member of the William and Mary community, I pledge on my honor not to lie, cheat, or steal, either in my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust, of which we are all stewards."