

ECON 303 – Intermediate Microecon Theory – Fall 2019
SYLLABUS

Section 07: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. in Tyler Hall 123

Instructor: Dr. Jin Qin (Dr. J)
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Office: Tyler Hall 241
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
or by appointment

Course Description

ECON 303 covers microeconomics at a rigorous but not advanced level, including consumer theory and producer theory, such as functioning of the market economy, role of prices in determining the allocation of resources, the functioning of the firm in the economy, forces governing the production and consumption of economic goods, etc.

Textbook

Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld (2018), *Microeconomics, 9th Edition*.

Exams

There will be **three mid-term in-class tests** plus a **cumulative final exam** during the semester. The three tests will NOT be cumulative and only the top two scores will account in your final grade. You can bring a calculator to the exam, but only a simple one for adding and multiplying. You will not be allowed to use a calculator on your phone, iPod, iPad, computer or a similar smart device. Also, sharing of calculators is not allowed. The exam dates are as follows:

Tests – Test 1: **Wednesday, September 18**
Test 2: **Wednesday, October 23**
Test 3: **Monday, November 18**

Final – **Monday, December 9**, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (in the classroom)

The dates for tests are tentative and will be subject to changes based on the progress we make over the class. Please plan to take your exams on those dates. **No make-up exams** will be given.

Homework Assignments

There will be 5 homework assignments over the semester and only the top 4 scores will account in your final grade. Each homework is due at the beginning of class by the following dates. Late homework will NOT be accepted. **No make-up homework** will be given.

Homework 1: **Friday, September 13**
Homework 2: **Friday, October 4**
Homework 3: **Friday, October 18**

Homework 4: **Wednesday, November 6**
 Homework 5: **Wednesday, November 13**

I reserve the right to modify these dates based on the progress we make over the class.

Important Dates

Add Deadline: **Friday, September 6**
 Withdraw Deadline: **Monday, October 28**

Grading Policy

Your final course grade is based on the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Homework Assignments | 10 Points (2.5 Points Each) |
| • Tests | 50 Points (25 Points Each) |
| • Final Exam | 40 Points |
| • Attendance and Classroom Behavior | +/- |

The course letter grading scale is the following:

93	≤	A	≤	100
90	≤	A –	<	93
87	≤	B +	<	90
83	≤	B	<	87
80	≤	B –	<	83
77	≤	C +	<	80
73	≤	C	<	77
70	≤	C –	<	73
67	≤	D +	<	70
63	≤	D	<	67
60	≤	D –	<	63
0	≤	F	<	60

Attendance

Attendance sheet will be passed around for each class. Attendance and good participation will absolutely have a positive effect on your score. Up to 5 points extra in your course grade will be awarded for full attendance and active class participation.

You are granted five absences over the semester. 2 points will be deducted from your course grade for each subsequent absence. If you miss more than 12 classes during the semester, you will automatically fail the course.

Classroom Policy

Any unprofessional or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and could result in you being asked to leave. In that case, you will lose the credit of attendance for the day and additional 5 points will be deducted from your course grade. Those unacceptable behaviour includes but not limits to: talking with each

other about non-academic affair, use of cellphone/laptop/headphone for non-academic reason, reading non-academic materials, etc.

Cellphone: If you have a phone with you, please turn the sound off while in class. If the class are disturbed by your use of the phone, you may be asked to leave.

Laptop: Use of laptop is permitted in class only if it is for the class material. If you are seen using the tablet for something other than the class material, you will not be allowed to use the tablet for the rest of the semester.

Arrive on time! Be on time for your own benefit and out of consideration for others – the disruptions you cause by coming in late affect everyone, i.e., negative externalities. Being late without an acceptable reason will account as an absence.

Do not leave while the lecture is in progress! If you know you will have to leave before class ends, your need to let me know before class starts, and I will sit you by the door to minimize disruptions and interruptions for your classmates that will occur if you don't sit near the door and have to stomp over the top of them and/or parade across the front of the room as you exit. Otherwise, leaving early without an acceptable reason will also account as an absence.

Do not make it a habit to wander into and out of lecture! This is rude and disruptive behavior that causes a negative impact on your fellow classmates and makes your instructor grumpy. If you frequently wander into and out of lecture, I will not allow you back to the classroom and you will lose attendance credits for the day.

Midterm Grade

I fit in two tests prior to the last day of withdraw. Your midterm grade will be given based ONLY on the average score of the first two tests. You need to contact me individually regarding other grading components to get your overall standing in the class if you were to make a decision about withdrawing.

Students with Disabilities

William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services staff at 757-221-2509 or at sas@wm.edu to determine if accommodations are warranted and to obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see www.wm.edu/sas.

Academic Integrity

The College of William & Mary has had an honor code since at least 1779. Academic integrity is at the heart of the College, and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led honor system is responsible for resolving any suspected violations of the Honor Code, and I will report all suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the honor system. The Student Handbook (www.wm.edu/studenthandbook) includes your responsibilities as a student and the full Code. Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected. To read the Honor Code, see www.wm.edu/honor.

Cheating will not be tolerated. Violations of academic integrity will earn you a straight F for the course. You may work together on homework assignments, but simply giving answers to another student or receiving answers from another student is considered cheating. The work that you turn in must be your own. Also, sign up your own attendance! If you are caught signing up attendance for a different student, both you and the one you sign up for will lose attendance credits for the day and additional 10 points will be deducted from your course grade.

Final Notes

Take excellent class notes – write out explanations and examples of the concepts covered rather than just copying down the definitions or graphs – this will help you immensely as you work on assignments and as you study for exams.

You may wish to bring colored pens/pencils with you to class. For some graphical analyses, I will use different colored markers. Some students have expressed that having colors of their own greatly enhances their ability to understand their notes.

Keep up the materials build as the semester progresses – very few students can succeed by just studying the night before the exam. You have many opportunities to develop your problem-solving skills across formal in-class and homework assignments and other practice materials I provide. Students who perform at the top of the class generally are the ones who work on these sample questions and ask questions as they go about what they discover they don't understand as well as they thought they did.

Realize at the outset that you may have really buckle down and approach studying for this class differently. This class will require much more than basic memorization and regurgitation of definitions. This class has the reputation of being “hard” for a reason. Merely showing up every day for class is likely to be insufficient to secure an “A” or even a “B” letter grade. You should plan on allocating time outside of class to studying and understanding the course materials. Historically undergraduate students have been advised time and again to plan on spending 3 hours studying outside of class for every hour of official class time.

Finally, I reserve the right to make any changes I consider academically advisable. Such changes, if any, will be announced in class. Please note that it is your responsibility to attend class and keep track of the proceedings.