

Syllabus

Intermediate Economic Analysis, 90-709
Heinz College
Carnegie Mellon University
Fall, 2024
Professor Koenig

1 Basic Information

Class Meetings	Mo, We 2:00-3:20 pm, HBH 1204
TA Sessions	TBC
Instructor	Felix Koenig HBH 2202 fkoenig@cmu.edu
Instructor Office Hours	TBC
TA	TBC
TA Office Hours	TBC
Graders	TBC
Textbook	Microeconomics, 9th Edition, by Jeffrey M. Perloff Boston: Pearson/Addison-Wesley, 2022 You can purchase this in any format and previous editions are also fine. The library has copies too. A scanned version of the book is available through the library (here).
Website	Go to http://canvas.cmu.edu and navigate to course site from there.

2 Course Description

This is a course in economics relevant to public policy and management for those who already have some familiarity and facility with basic economics. In this course we will focus on microeconomics, which is the study of individuals, firms, and markets.

Upon successful completion of this course a student will:

- Be familiar with microeconomic concepts and analysis that are essential to good managerial and policy decisions.
- Be able to use economic analysis in evaluating public policy issues.
- Be able to apply these concepts and analysis in other courses taken at Heinz, e.g., Management Science, Financial Analysis, Budgeting and Management Control Systems, Negotiation, Public Policy and the Internet, Systems Synthesis, etc.
- Be able to critically evaluate economic arguments in public policy debates. You should be able to understand and critically evaluate articles and op-eds about economics in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc. You will be able to impress and amaze friends and family with your deep insights and critical understanding of current economic events when such discussions arise over the cheese dip or arguing with your Uncle Edgar.

3 Prerequisites

Some reasonable familiarity with basic economics and graphs and basic algebra. Usually a course in principles of economics will suffice.

4 Evaluation

The course grade will be based on the following: three equally weighted in-class examinations (25% each), and homework (25%).

Homework assignments will occur regularly and will be announced in class. The assignments are due at the *on Friday at the beginning of recitation*. The assignments are typically posted on Canvas 1 week before the due date. Late assignments will receive no credit. **The lowest homework score will not count towards the course grade (including late or missed assignments)**. For the avoidance of doubt, this is our only policy to accommodate missed assignments (we do not offer extensions, make-up assignments, or similar arrangements). I advise against missing an assignment unless you really have to, you only get to drop one assignment grade.

All homeworks and exams will be posted on Canvas and will be turned in via Gradescope. The Dean's guideline for grades in this class is a class average of 3.33–3.42 (B++).

5 Lectures and TA Sessions

All class lectures and TA sessions will be in-person. You are expected to attend and email the TA about extenuating circumstances if you have to miss a session. We aim to record lectures, please let the TA know if you would like to object to being recorded. The recordings will be available on Canvas. You will not be able to join the class via zoom.

6 Missing Class

Attendance in class is expected. Students sometime miss class during the semester due to illness, religious holidays, family events, or other reasons. I am not concerned if you miss one or two classes during the course of the semester. If you miss more than one or two classes, please let me know. I suggest you arrange with a fellow student to obtain notes for any lectures you miss. Feel free to contact me or the TAs if you'd like help catching up.

7 Academic Honesty & Generative AI

All assignments in this class are to be done independently (aka without help from students or AI), without any consultation with anyone else. Deviation from this will be considered academic dishonesty and will be dealt with according to Heinz and CMU protocol.

You may use generative AI programs like ChatGPT during the brainstorming and idea generation phase for assignments. However, doing so cannot be considered a substitute for traditional research. Generative AI programs rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct, but has been shown to sometimes be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and / or biased. Any information generated by an AI program should be cited like any other reference material. You are ultimately responsible for the content of the information you submit. However, you may not attempt to pass off any work generated by an AI program as your own.

8 Children in Class

Some of you have child care responsibilities. Please feel free to bring your child with you if doing so facilitates attending class. Children are welcome - we will accommodate them if you bring them.

9 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and are registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to use their online system to notify me of your accommodations and discuss your needs with me as early in the semester as possible. I will work with you to ensure that accommodations are provided as appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to contact them at access@andrew.cmu.edu.

10 Statement of Support for Students' Health & Wellbeing

I hope you will enjoy your time in grad school. Undoubtedly there will be stressful times. The University Provost provides the following thoughts for students. I consider them important.

Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is here to help: call 412-268-2922 and visit <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or in danger of self-harm, call someone immediately, day or night:

CaPS: 412-268-2922 Re:solve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226 If the situation is life threatening, call the police On campus: CMU Police: 412-268-2323 Off campus: 911

If you are worried about affording food or feeling insecure about food, there are resources on campus that can help. Email the CMU Food Pantry Coordinator to schedule an appointment (cmu-pantry@andrew.cmu.edu).

11 Statement on Diversity and Inclusivity

My goal is that this class be a productive and positive learning experience for all students, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings

conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you.

12 How to Succeed in this Class

There are a number of things that you can do that will help you succeed in this class.

- Attend the lectures at the assigned class time.
- Review the lecture slides and your notes within 24 hours of a lecture.
- Attend the TA sessions.
- Review the week's material from lecture before the TA session, and identify questions you have, so you can ask them during the TA session.
- Work problems. Economics is best learned by working problems. The homework is designed to help you learn the material. In addition, it gives you practice with the kind of problems that will appear on the exams.
- Do not limit yourself to the homework problems. The textbook has questions at the back of every chapter. Feel free to ask me or the TA for suggestions of problems to work. In addition, the text has worked problems in each chapter, and many examples throughout.
- Rather than simply reading the textbook, sit down with a pad of paper and a pen or pencil and write things out as you read/review them in the textbook. You will learn things better and more effectively than if you simply read the material.
- Write down things you don't understand and questions that you have. This will help you focus and make the best use of the TA sessions and office hours.
- Review the answers to homeworks and exams, even if you received a high score. Sit down with paper and pencil and work through them.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help. Go to the TA sessions with questions or things you can't figure out. Come to my office hours or the TA's office hours. Make an appointment to see me or the TA if you need more time or if the office hours don't work for you.

13 Draft Schedule

The class schedule below is tentative and will not be followed exactly.

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1		
Mo 8/26	Introduction	Ch. 1
W 8/28	Review of Supply and Demand	Chs. 2,3
F 8/30	Review, cont'd.	
	Review, cont'd.	
Week 2		
Mo 9/2	No Class - Labor Day	
We 9/4	TA Session	
F 9/6	Off	
Week 3		
M 9/9	Add/Drop Deadline	
Mo 9/9	Perfect Competition	Ch. 9
We 9/11	"	"
F 9/13	TA Session	
Week 4		
Mo 9/16	Perfect Competition	Ch. 8
We 9/18	"	"
F 9/20	TA Session	
Week 5		
Mo 9/23	Review Session	
We 9/25	1st Exam	
F 9/27	TBC	
Week 6		
Mo 9/30	Monopoly	Ch. 11

Date	Topic	Reading
We 10/2 F 10/4	“ TA Session	“
Week 7		
Mo 10/7 We 10/9 F 10/11	Monopoly, cont'd. Pricing, TA Session	Ch. 12
Week 8		
Mo 10/14 We 10/16 F 10/18	No Class - Fall Break No Class - Fall Break No Class - Fall Break	
Week 9		
Mo 10/21 We 10/23 F 10/25	Oligopoly Oligopoly TA Session	Ch. 13
Week 10		
Mo 10/28 We 10/30 F 11/1	Game Theory Game Theory cont'd TA Session	Ch. 14

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 11		
Mo 11/4	Externalities & Public Goods	Ch. 18
We 11/6	2nd Exam	
F 11/8	TA Session	
Week 12		
Mo 11/11	Externalities & Public Goods	
We 11/13	Uncertainty	Ch. 17
F 11/15	TA Session	
Week 13		
Mo 11/18	Uncertainty	
We 11/20	Asymmetric Information	
F 11/22	TA Session	
Week 14		
Mo 11/25	Asymmetric Information	Ch. 19
We 11/27	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	
F 11/29	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15		
Mo 12/2	Contracts	Ch. 20
We 12/4	Contracts	
F 12/6	TA Session	
Finals Week		
12/9 - 12/13	3rd Exam	