

ECO 304K: INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMICS (Unique No. 34110)Course Outline and Required Reading

OFFICE HOURS: D. Hamermesh, 2.162 BRB (second building north of Gregory Gym)
Monday, 10:15-11:45, Wednesday 1:30-3:30, or by appointment

WEBSITE: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/hamermesh/www/class.html>

Teaching Assistants: To be announced in class.

BOOKS, etc.:

1. G. Stone, Core Microeconomics, with Course Tutor. Worth, 2011, 2nd edition (paper) **STONE**, ISBN 1-4292-6288-5.
2. D. Hamermesh, Economics Is Everywhere. Worth, 2012 (paper) **EIE** ISBN 1-4292-87756;
and the three are packaged as 1-4292-4433-X. These can be purchased online, including direct from the publisher at a discount at:
<http://www.worthpublishers.com/customstore/UTA/Hamermesh>
3. Course Packet of materials for ECO 304K with D. Hamermesh, to be downloaded by you from the website listed near the top of this page.

EXAMS:

There will be two 75-minute-long exams in class, **Thursday, Sept. 27** and **Thursday, Nov. 1**. The first will be all short essay; the second will be part short essay, part multiple-choice. There will be multiple-choice quizzes (8 in total, each with 6 questions) in class Tuesdays, Sept. 11, Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 20 and Dec. 4, covering the previous week's material. The final exam will contain 72 multiple-choice questions. **The final exam will be Wednesday, DEC. 12, 7:00-9:30PM. Please do not plan to leave campus before that date.** EXCEPT FOR CONFLICTS WITH OTHER FINAL EXAMS or a compelling personal reason, you must take the final exam at this time. The final will be entirely multiple-choice, with 72 questions. All tests will include questions based on the lectures. There will be a Q&A session shortly before each midterm and the final.

Copies of past tests are in the course packet along with suggested answers to them. Quiz answers will be posted on the website the afternoon of the quiz. The website will also contain an occasional "Economic Thought of the Day"—consult it regularly! Most of these can also be read, along with interesting thoughts by other economists, at <http://www.freakonomics.com/blog/> Also, I will send occasional announcements/reminders through email.

GRADING: Possible Grades are A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.

Standard: The quizzes count 15 percent in total, with the lowest two scores being discarded (including up to two missed quizzes). Each midterm counts 20 percent; the final exam counts 40 percent. (There are no make-up quizzes or midterms.) The remaining 5 percent of the grade is based on an original "**Story**". The course grade is based on total points, **not** 90-80-70 etc.; thus on a midterm, the highest B+ is only very slightly different from the lowest A-, etc.

If you miss a midterm, your course grade will continue to be based 15 percent on the quizzes, 20 percent on the other midterm, 5 percent on the "Story," but 60 percent of the grade will be based on the final exam. Scores on quizzes and exams will be available on Blackboard.

The "Hammer Homer": If your final exam score is in the top 5 percent of the class, and you would otherwise have not gotten at least an A-, you receive an automatic A- for the course **IF** you have turned in a passing "Story" **AND** you have taken **BOTH** midterms.

"STORY": The first paragraph of the one-page double-spaced "**Story**" must state something that you have observed in the real world, in family life, in a song (list the relevant lyrics) or a movie (describe the scene). The second paragraph must analyze how the item described in the first paragraph illustrates a particular economic concept covered in class. The "**Story**" cannot duplicate any in Economics Is Everywhere or any story, song or movie discussed in class. Also, it cannot be one of those discussed in Dirk Mateer, Economics in the Movies (Thomson, 2005), a little workbook that you may find interesting. The story must be printed out—no email attachments accepted—and handed in at the end of the lecture Tuesday, November 20.

SCHEDULE:

Week ending	Topic	Chapters or pages in STONE	EIE
August 31	Scarcity	1, incl. Appendix; start 2.	1
September 7	Supply and demand	Finish 2, except pp. 38-42; 3.	2
September 14	Supply and demand	4, except pp. 84-101; start 5.	3, 4
September 21	Elasticity; nature of demand	Finish 5, except pp. 122-125; start 6; Stone health reading	5
<u>Policy Lecture: Health</u>			
September 28	Nature of demand	Finish 6, except Appendix; pp. 262-266.	6

FIRST MIDTERM, September 27

October 5	Production; short-run costs	7.	7, 8
October 12	Short-run output decisions; the long run	8.	9, 10, 11
<u>Policy Lecture: Voting</u>			
October 19	Monopoly	207-218	12, 13
October 26	Monopolistic competition; oligopoly; game theory	10, except pp. 245-246	14
November 2	Competition policy	218-228	

SECOND MIDTERM, November 1

November 9	Discounting; input markets.	pp. 276-281 and 267-276	15, 16
<u>Policy Lecture: Sports</u>			
November 16	Income distribution; discrimination	12, except pp. 300-305; 14;	17
<u>Policy Lecture: Social Security</u>			
November 23	Externalities and pollution	pp. 84-90.	18
November 30	Taxation	13; pp. 122-125 .	19
December 7	International trade	pp. 38-42; 15.	20