

COURSE SYLLABUS
ECON 201
Principles of Microeconomics

Course Introduction

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: none

Instructor: Allyssa Wadsworth

Class Meets: In Person M and W 9:30am – 10:20am and via Zoom on F 9:30am – 10:20am

Course Introduction: This course is designed to introduce WVU students to the principles of microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of the behavior of individual economic units, such as households and business firms, and of their interactions in markets. Almost 100 years ago, the economist Alfred Marshall described microeconomics as the study of men and women in the “everyday business of life.”

Faculty Contact Information

Instructor Office Location: BUE 439

Office Hours: We will have numerous office hours scheduled each week. Check eCampus for a list of scheduled sessions or see the Collaborate/Zoom sessions in eCampus.

Communication Policy: If you have any questions about the course content or activities at any point in the course, please save them for class or come to walk-in hours. We meet three times a week for class. If you bring your question to class and it is off topic, I will answer it after class. I expect class to end a bit early each day. Students are expected to communicate questions about course requirements and content in a live setting. We expect questions

- during class (use the chat),
- after class (class always ends a bit early),
- during virtual walk-in hours (see schedule under “Start here”), and
- during Neidermeyer Scholar Review and Office Hours session (see link in eCampus)

Email communication is reserved for students who require an appointment to discuss extenuating circumstances. Email should be directed to the instructor (aaw0012@mix.wvu.edu) with the subject line, “Econ 201, request for an appointment.”

Instructional Materials

Required Instructional Materials:

Reading the text is highly encouraged. I have selected the Openstax Microeconomics text. All relevant sections of the text are uploaded to **TopHat** (www.tophat.com) and associated with **relevant and required videos and self-check quizzes (75)**. You may download the whole book here: <https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-microeconomics>. The entire book is also linked in Tophat.

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the **Packback Questions** (packback.co) platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. (see below)

We will use **Respondus Lockdown Browser*** for the exams. You will need to download Respondus Lockdown Browser and do a thorough environment check for each assessment. The first proctored quiz is February 5th.

*Given the online nature of the class, we reserve the right to substitute an oral exam for an individual student, for all future exams.

Optional Instructional Materials:

Each module will contain numerous instructional videos related to concepts helpful to answering the questions in the problem sets and exams. These are not truly optional. Students are expected to watch the videos, check for their understanding with the included topical quizzes, and keep up with the reading for each module. If you do these things and attend the online sessions, you will have the opportunity to learn quite a lot in this class. Exam questions will be directly and indirectly related to the reading, quizzes, session discussion, and video content.

Course Learning Outcomes

The course will introduce students to the university-level study of microeconomic principles and the application of those principles to the world around them. Having completed this course:

- 1) Students can investigate economic relationships using graphical analysis.
- 2) Students can state the basic theories behind consumer behavior (demand) and producer behavior (supply) constrained by the scarcity of valuable resources.
- 3) Students can analyze how world events affect market equilibrium prices and quantities using supply and demand.
- 4) Students can describe the role of prices and profit and loss in coordinating economic activity.
- 5) Students can describe the nature of competition in markets.
- 6) Students can assess the efficiency of competitive market outcomes relative to alternative arrangements.
- 7) Students can outline the theory of the firm and its implications for prices and production under both perfect and imperfect competition, including monopoly.
- 8) Students can solve simple analyses of markets for production inputs, including labor and capital.

- 9) Students can examine the potential roles for government in the economy.
- 10) Students can explain externalities and where and when they are likely to occur.
- 11) Students can analyze outcomes associated with government interventions into markets.

Assessment

Short Descriptions of and Grading Criteria for Major Assignments/Assessments:

The class runs from January 20, 2021 – April 30, 2021. The final exam is May 5th at 2:00 p.m.

There are 15 modules of content. Two or three modules are assigned at a time. Each Module has

- Readings (Tophat)
- Videos (Tophat),
- Checks for understanding (short quizzes in Tophat), and
- Participation (Packback).

Every Friday at 11:59 p.m. at least one module is due in Tophat.

Every other Friday at 11:59 p.m. participation in Packback is due (One original question and two responses). More on Packback below.

There are five big quizzes and two graphing assignments. The final exam is comprehensive and can count once or twice depending on whether that helps your grade or not. We recommend doing all the quizzes to reduce the pressure on requiring a high performance final exam.

Weight/Distribution of Course Points:

	Points	Percentage
Checks for understanding (Tophat)	375	~11.45%
Questions and responses (Packback)	700	~21.4%
Graphing Exercises (2)	400	~12.2 %
Quizzes (5)	1500 (or 1200)	
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	300 (or 600)	
Quizzes & Final	1800	~55%
Total points*	3275	

*If extra credit is offered, it will not change the total points used for the grade distribution below.

Mid-Semester Grade:

At least 40% of your grade will be available for mid-semester grade checks.

Expected Timeline of Major Assignments/Assessments and Topics/Units:

*Note all graded work during class is due on Fridays, with the exception of Wednesday, March 31st.

All assessments are due during the designated class meeting time.

All Packback and Tophat deadlines are Fridays at 11:59 p.m.

January 18 – 22	<i>19 (Tuesday)– First day of Spring Semester</i> <i>20 – Zoom – First class, housekeeping</i> <i>Open Modules 1&2</i> <i>22 – Zoom</i>
January 25 – 29	<i>25 Last day to Register, Add New Courses, Make Section Changes, Change Pass/Fail and Audit</i> <i>25 – In Person</i> <i>27 – In Person</i> <i>29 – Zoom</i> Module 1 Tophat due Modules 1&2 Packback open (suggestion - 1Q) Tophat registration, Packback registration, and Syllabus deadlines
February 1 – 5	<i>1 – In Person</i> <i>3 – In Person</i> <i>5 –</i> QUIZ 1 (Modules 1&2) Module 2 Tophat due Modules 1&2 Packback due (1Q and 2R from last two weeks) Open Modules 3-5 Demand, Supply, Equilibrium
February 8 – 12	<i>8 – In Person</i> <i>10 – In Person</i> <i>11 (Thursday) – No Classes – Non-Instructional Day</i> <i>12 – Zoom</i> Module 3 Tophat due Modules 3 Packback (suggestion - 1Q)
February 15 – 19	<i>15 – In Person</i> <i>17 – In Person</i> <i>19 – Zoom</i> Graphing Assignment 1, Modules 3 & 4 (Supply and Demand) Module 4 Tophat due Modules 3 & 4 Packback due (1Q and 2R from last two weeks)
February 22 – 26	<i>22 – In Person</i> <i>24 – In Person</i> <i>26 – Zoom</i> Module 5 Tophat due Modules 3, 4, & 5 Packback (suggestion - 1Q) Open Modules 6 & 7 Elasticities
March 1 – 5	<i>1 – In Person</i>

	<p>2 (Tues) – No Classes – Non-Instructional Day 3 (Wed) – No Classes – Non-Instructional Day 5 –</p> <p>QUIZ 2, Modules 3-5, 6</p> <p>Module 6 Tophat due</p> <p>Modules 6&7 Packback due ((1Q and 2R from last two weeks) – mixed between Supply and Demand and Elasticity)</p>
March 8 – 12	<p>8 – In Person 10 – In Person 12 – Zoom by noon - Mid-Check Grades Due</p> <p>Module 7 Tophat due</p> <p>Modules 6&7 Packback (suggestion - 1Q from Elasticity)</p> <p>Open Modules 8, 9 & 10 Markets / Price Controls / Externalities</p>
March 15 – 19	<p>15 – In Person 17 – In Person 19 –</p> <p>QUIZ 3, Modules 7 & 8</p> <p>Module 8 Tophat due</p> <p>Elasticity + Modules 8 Packback due (1Q and 2R from last two weeks))</p>
March 22 – 26	<p>22 – In Person 24 – In Person 26 – Zoom</p> <p>Module 9 Tophat due</p> <p>Modules 9 & 10 Packback (suggestion - 1Q from Price Controls)</p>
Mar 29 – Apr 2	<p>Mar 29 – In Person Mar 31 (**Wednesday**) –</p> <p>QUIZ 4, Modules 9 & 10</p> <p>(Suggestion) Module 9 & 10 Tophat due</p> <p>(Suggestion) Modules 9,10 Packback due (1Q and 2R from last two weeks)</p> <p>Apr 2 – Spring Holiday: University Closed Open Modules 11 (+cost), 12 Perfect Competition / Monopoly</p> <p>(Actual) Module 9 & 10 Tophat and Packback due</p>
April 5 – 9	<p>5 – In Person 7 – In Person 9 – Zoom</p> <p>Module 11 Tophat due</p> <p>Modules 11 Packback (suggestion - 1Q)</p>
April 12 – 16	<p>12 – In Person 14 – In Person 16 – Last Day to Drop a Class and Last Day to Withdraw from the University</p>
Graphing Assignment 2, Modules 11 & 12	

	Module 12 Tophat due
	Module 11, 12 Packback due (1Q and 2R from last two weeks)
	Open Modules 13, 14, 15 Price Discrimination / Taxes / Labor Market
April 19 – 23	19 – <i>In Person</i> 21 – <i>In Person</i> 23 – <i>Zoom</i>
	Module 13 Tophat due
	Modules 10&11 Packback (suggestion - 1Q)
April 26 – 30	26 – <i>In Person</i> 28 – <i>In Person</i> 30 – <i>Last day of Classes</i>
	QUIZ 5 (Modules 11 - 14)
	Module 14 & 15 Tophat due
	Modules 13, 14, & 15 Packback due (1Q and 2R from last two weeks)
May 3 – 8	3 – <i>Study day (no exams)</i> 5 – <i>Final Exam</i> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Modules 1-15

Final Grading Scale:

The course grade will be assigned out of 3275 possible points.

	Points	Grade
90% and above	2947 +	A
80% - 89.9%	2620 – 2946	B
70% - 79.9%	2292 – 2619	C
60% - 69.9%	1965 – 2291	D
less than 59.9%	< 1965	E/F

Tophat:

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) system for this class.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: Unique Course URL (<https://app.tophat.com/e/940228>) Note: Our Course Join Code 940228).

Top Hat may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Packback:

Discussion Each Week, Hard deadline Every Other Week

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Discussion (Packback) Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward ~21.4% of your overall course grade.

There will be a bi-Weekly Friday at 11:59 PM EST hard deadline for submissions. **Follow the deadlines based on the schedule here in the syllabus. Packback may prompt you for weekly submissions; while the deadline is bi-weekly, my strong suggestion to you is that you submit a question in the first week of each two-week period and your two responses in the second week. This will allow for lively discussion among the class.** In order to receive your points per deadline period (two weeks), you should submit the following per each two-week hard deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, each worth 33.33% of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, each worth 66.67% of each assignment grade

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.

Community Lookup Key: 5b571bd9-9a75-4f30-887b-182918993b8c

3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration. Please be sure to select your group according to your last name.

Packback requires a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

Respondus Lockdown Browser:

We will use Respondus Lockdown Browser for exams. You will need to download Respondus Lockdown Browser and do a thorough environment check for each QUIZ and the final EXAM. The first QUIZ is **February 5th**.

Respondus Instructions: **Each of the following instructions must be strictly adhered to and if not done properly your score may be reduced to zero. This includes doing a proper Environment Video:**

- ensure you are in a location where you are alone and will not be interrupted
- work at a well-lit desk/table
- clear your work surface of all external materials except for blank scratch paper and writing utensil
- no electronic devices are allowed; a simple calculator will be provided in Respondus

Start the assignment immediately following completion of the Environment Video (explained next) and remain at your computer for the duration of the Exam

You will be required to complete an Environment Video in Respondus for each Exam and the Final. Using your webcam, show the following slowly:

- the front of your monitor using a mirror or smartphone (if using a smartphone, show it being turned off and put away behind you)
- a 360-degree view of your entire work environment,
- your entire work surface, and under your work surface
- yourself standing and that there is nothing in your lap or on your chair and that your pockets are empty
- both the front and back of all scratch paper

Once the above items have been completed, begin your assignment immediately

Course and Institutional Policies

Attendance Policy:

none

Participation Policy:

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Late Assignment and Missed Exam Policy:

As this course is online and material for modules is posted in advance, only sanctioned absences will be considered for early release of materials/exams. Sanctioned absences require advance notice.

Institutional Policies:

Students are responsible for reviewing [policies](#) on inclusivity, academic integrity, incompletes, sale of course materials, sexual misconduct, adverse weather, as well as student evaluation of instruction, and days of special concern/religious holiday statements.