

## ECONOMICS 306 Professor Ronald A. Heiner

Summer A Term

### ***INTERMEDIATE MICRO – ECONOMICS***

1. Texts: We will use two main textbooks; *Microeconomics & Behavior* by Robert Frank, and *Experimental Economics* by Holt & Davis. Used versions of these textbooks are fine, and may save you some money compared to the newest edition.
2. Office hours: Monday, 2 - 3 pm, at Carow Hall. Other times by appointment <sup>30 30</sup> (just ask before or after class). If possible, I will answer questions just after class when that is more convenient for students (avoiding the extra time to meet at my office in Carow Hall). Carow Hall is located off of Shenendoah Drive across from Presidents Park dorms.
3. Goals & Requirements: This course will give an introduction to intermediate microeconomic analysis of individuals involved in market trading within a larger exchange economy. After the midterm, we will also give an introduction to experimental markets, using the text by Holt & Davis above. Several problem sets will be given to provide practice and key concepts and feedback on students' understanding. A midterm will be given (during the week just before or just after the spring break). A comprehensive final exam will also be given. I recommend that students have some background in econometrics and/or probability & statistics, because certain topics will use probability concepts more extensively.
4. Content & Instruction Methods: Most classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. Student comments and questions are encouraged and recommended for everyone's benefit (for more enjoyable and better understood ideas). Students will also participate in a few experimental auction markets conducted during class. The latter will provide a more explicit "hands on" learning experience.
5. Customized problem sets will be given out, and recorded by a check-mark if turned in on time. They are intended to give practice on key principles, as well as a helpful study guide to help you prepare for the midterm and final exams.
6. Tests & Evaluation Methods: Problem sets will be worth 10% of the final grade. The midterm and final exams are worth 40% and 50% respectively. However, if your final exam score exceeds your midterm score by at least 10%, then the final exam will be weighted 70% of the total grade; so the weights for midterm and problem sets are then 20% and 10% respectively. Your grade is based on the weighted average at the end of the term. A 95-100, A- 90 up to 95; B+ 87 up to 90, B 84 up to 87, B- 80 up to 84; C grades (same as B grades, except from 70 up to 80); D grades (same as B grades, except from 60 up to 70), grade failure below 60.
7. Getting Started: Read Chapter 1 - 2 of Frank's text. We will begin by reviewing basic supply/demand concepts with graphs. Then a first example about the effects of price controls is given; followed by the effects of sales taxes and subsidies.
8. Disability & Honor Code If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, contact Disability Services at 703.993.2474 or ods.gmu.edu. Academic accommodations need to be arranged through this office.

Familiarize yourself with the Honor Code, <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/>.

Suspected cases of academic dishonesty including plagiarism will be sent immediately to the Honor Committee.