

INTERMEDIATE MICRO – ECONOMICS

1. Texts: You will receive a **CUSTOMIZED ELECTRONIC TESTBOOK (for free)** – as a set of 20 Study Guides sent to your GMU email address. So be sure your GMU email address is up to date, and listed with this Econ 306 class.

This customized text/study-guide directly relates to class lectures and to the actual questions that will be on the midterm and final exams.

There are also two optional texts for your additional reference only – so they are NOT required:  
*Microeconomics & Behavior* by Robert Frank, and *Experimental Economics* by Holt & Davis

2. Office hours: Tuesday, 10:30 - 11:30 am, at Carow Hall. Other times by appointment (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. Tests & Evaluation Methods: Problem sets will be worth 10% of the final grade. To receive the 10%, you must complete all the problem sets, with no more than 2 late. Problem sets are due the next class period after they are passed out. The midterm and final exams are worth 40% and 50% respectively. However, if your final exam score exceeds your midterm score by more than 10%, then the final exam will be weighted 70% of the total grade.

Also, if you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

6. 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.
7. 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.