

# Microeconomic Principles–77567–Econ 103–004

## George Mason University

Instructor: Dr. Desiree Desierto  
Email: [ddesiert@gmu.edu](mailto:ddesiert@gmu.edu)  
Office hours: By appointment, Buchanan Hall D159

Class times: 7:20pm–10:00pm M  
Location: Horizon Hall 2017

---

### Textbook

Cowen, T. and Tabarrok, A. 2021. Modern Principles: Microeconomics, 5th ed. Worth Publishers.

### Course Requirements

- Midterm Exam 1 – 20%
- Midterm Exam 2 – 30%
- Final Exam – 50%

There will be two midterm exams, the first is worth 20%, and the second 30%, of the final grade, and one final exam, worth 50%. No make up exam will be given. The worth of each remaining exam will increase to make up for the missed exam, but **if and only if** you provide valid excuse and documentation, e.g. a note from your doctor. (Thus, if you miss Midterm 1, your Midterm 2 and Final Exam will be worth, respectively, 40% and 60%.)

Some tips for getting an A in this course:

- Read the assigned chapter/s, ideally before we take up the corresponding topic in class, and do not rely solely on the lecture slides.
- Take the opportunity to raise questions during class until you have a solid grasp of the material. The topics cumulate, and it will be difficult to follow later topics if you have not understood earlier ones.
- Make sure you take notes, especially when we solve problems during class. All the questions in the exams are similar to those discussed during class.

### Disability Accommodations

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu). Phone: (703) 993-2474

### Academic Integrity

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity (<https://oai.gmu.edu/>) for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Aug. 22	Introduction	chs. 1 to 2
Aug. 29	Supply and Demand	ch. 3
Sept. 5	No meeting	
Sept. 12	Equilibrium	ch. 4
Sept. 19	Taxes and Subsidies	ch. 5
Sept. 26	MIDTERM EXAM 1	chs. 3 to 5
Oct. 3	The Price System	ch. 6
Oct. 11	Price Ceilings and Floors	ch. 7
Oct. 17	Externalities	ch. 8
Oct. 24	Profit Maximization Under Competition	ch. 11
Oct. 31	Monopoly	ch. 13
Nov. 7	Oligopoly and Game Theory	ch. 15
Nov. 14	MIDTERM EXAM 2	chs. 6-8, 11, 13, 15, 19
Nov. 28	Public Goods	ch. 19
Dec. 12	FINAL EXAM	chs. 3-8, 11, 13, 15, 19