

Microeconomic Principles

Email: Tabarrok@gmu.edu

Office: Carow Hall, 10B

TA: Eugenio Garza, Email: egarzaga@gmu.edu

This is entirely an **online course** taught by Alex Tabarrok (and Tyler Cowen) based on their book *Modern Principles of Economics: Microeconomics*. We think this is the best online course in principles of economics ever offered. The course is video based. Every video is followed by questions. Every week there is homework and a test. Lecture time is less and **active learning** time is **more**. Active learning requires more from the student so be prepared the class will move quickly. There will also be opportunities to ask questions of the instructors and TAs.

Needed: In order to take this course you **must purchase access to the Achieve homework system** which gives access to the e-book, practice questions, homework and tests. You can get access for one term for \$114.99 or \$139 if you would also like to rent a paperback textbook. The paperback textbook is useful but not mandatory. The Achieve system has access to the e-book. You purchase Achieve through Blackboard.

You **must sign up using your GMU EMAIL** and **must access Achieve through Blackboard**--this will keep your GMU and Achieve accounts linked. Once you have gone to the Blackboard Home Page got to Home Page Achieve on the left panel and then ACHIEVE and then View by Assignments then start the assignments. Blackboard is only used to access Achieve. All class materials including homework and exams etc. are on Achieve. Grades on Achieve are definitive, Blackboard grades take time to sync are should be mostly ignored.

Technical Support

If you have trouble accessing the Achieve system, try the usual procedures of using a different browser, updating your browser, clearing the cache etc. If that doesn't work, **contact Achieve Support**.

<https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/chat-with-us>

My experience is that support is very good. **Note that I *can't* help you with technical support!** I'd like to but I don't control the Achieve system. If support needs to contact me, they will.

Economics Support

The economics department offers regular economics tutoring. I will email you the hours. In addition, there is a TA for the course, Eugenio Garza, who is available to answer questions.

egarzaga@gmu.edu

You can also email me with questions.

Email

Use your **GMU email** to sign up for the class and monitor your **GMU email** for periodic announcements.

Grading

At the end of each **video**, there are homework questions. On these questions, you get unlimited attempts, but you lose 25% for each incorrect attempt. For each chapter there is also a Learning Curve. You can answer as many **Learning Curve** questions as you want to get up to a set number of points. Each section also has an assessment section that is a combination of **Discovering Data, Work It Out** and **News Analysis** questions (not every chapter has all categories). You also get multiple attempts at these questions with a 5% penalty for each incorrect attempt. Each chapter concludes with a **Chapter Test**. Finally, there is a **Midterm** and a **Final**. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Category	Percentage of Grade
Video Homework	20
Learning Curve	5
Discovering Data/Work It Out/News Analysis	15
Chapter Tests	20
Midterm	20
Final	20

Your numerical grade will be a good guide to your standing in the class but I reserve the right to adjust (bell) the final grade.

Class Structure and Due Dates

It is very important that you submit your homework and tests **BEFORE** the due date. All time are EST! If your computer breaks down or if you lose internet access and cannot submit your work you get **ZERO**.

You will have plenty of opportunity to get your work done on time. We will work according to the schedule below and **you will be able to work one week ahead if you choose**. You have flexibility when you do your work, but it is your job to get everything done on time.

Also, your lowest Chapter Test, Video Assignment and (one of) Discovering Data, Work It Out and News Analysis will be **dropped**. This policy is **INSTEAD** of you asking me to change a due date if you were sick, forgetful or had a family emergency. Everyone gets the same opportunity to miss a little bit of work and still catch up. Note that it is never in your interest to miss work. As noted above, you also have the opportunity to work ahead by one week.

The rhythm of the class is that you have all week to finish assignments which are due Sunday night at midnight. But there are exceptions. Do not leave all your work till Sunday night as that will lead to **disaster**.

Use the Achieve homework system to check for due dates. **Approximates dates** are as follows. Always check Achieve for exact due dates.

Week of	Last day to complete	Chapters
Jan. 14	Jan 21 preferable but up to Jan. 25	Chapter 3: Supply and Demand
Jan. 21	Jan. 28	Chapter 4: Equilibrium
Jan. 28	Feb. 4	Chapter 5: Elasticity
Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Chapter 6: Taxes and Subsidies
Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Chapter 7: The Price System
Feb. 18	Feb. 25	Chapter 8: Price Floors and Ceilings
Feb. 25	Mar. 3	Chapter 2: Comparative Advantage, Chapter 9: International Trade
Mar. 10	Mar. 17	Chapter 10: Externalities
Mar. 21	Mar. 22	Midterm must be completed by March 22

Mar. 17	Mar. 24	Chapter 11: Costs and Profit Maximization,
Mar. 24	Mar. 31	Chapter 12 Competition and the Invisible Hand Chapter 13: Monopoly
Mar. 31	April 7	Chapter 14: Price Discrimination
April 7	April 14	Chapter 18: Labor Markets
April 14	April 21	Chapter 19: Public Goods and Tragedy of the Commons
April 21	April 28	Chapter 24: Asymmetric Information Chapter 23: Stock Markets and Personal Finance
May 3	May 5	Final Exam must be completed by May 5.

George Mason University has an **Honor Code**, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited.

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

[Disability Statement](#)

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

[Enrollment Statement](#)

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website registrar.gmu.edu.)