ECON 10010/20010: Principles of Microeconomics

Summer 2025

Instructor: Emily Davis

Email: edavis25@nd.edu

My Office: JNH 3046

Meeting Time: MTWTh 1-3:15pm

Classroom: Jenkins-Nanovic Hall (JNH) B044

Office Hours: MTh 9am-12:30pm

Book office hours at this LINK

If these times do not work for you, please reach out and we will find another time. You are also welcome to just stop by my office (JNH 3046) and see if I'm around. 🙂

Scheduled Office Hours Location: JNH 3005 (3rd floor)

Course Overview

Why did the U.S. government subsidize cotton farmers in Brazil in the early 2000s?

Do Affirmative Action policies hurt outcomes for under-represented populations?

When are low prices bad for consumers?

Do minimum wage laws hurt low-income workers?

These are examples of questions that economists are interested in. At its core, economics, and microeconomics in particular, is concerned with how agents make decisions given that they face tradeoffs. If it's a question related to human behavior, it can be addressed using economics. Economists address these questions using a set of tools and an impartial view that is commonly referred to as "thinking like an economist". The goal of this course is to introduce you to this way of thinking. We will do this by exploring questions that are thought provoking and learning simple tools that economists use to shed light on complicated questions.

By the end of this class you will be able to,

- Recognize and apply basic economic models to make predictions about human behavior.
- Analyze polarizing issues using an impartial framework.

Optional Textbook

Principles of Microeconomics, by Hubbard and O'Brien. This optional textbook will provide you with an additional resource for reviewing the concepts covered in class. As we cover these concepts, I will point out the corresponding sections from the textbook. Any edition is fine for the purpose of this class. You will NOT be responsible for material in the textbook that is not covered in class.

Poll Everywhere

We will be using Poll Everywhere to facilitate interaction during class. This software provides you with a way to actively participate in lectures as well as a way to help me gauge how well concepts are being relayed. We will go over the logistics of Poll Everywhere on the first day of class. If you can, please download the app and create your (free) account using your university email before the first day of class.

Grading

Grades will follow the traditional +/- scale: A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D = 60-69, F = 59 and below. Exams will not be curved mid-semester, but I reserve the right to adjust grade thresholds downward at the end of the semester. Exam and homework grades will be posted on Canvas. Throughout the semester, please verify that the grades are inputted correctly. You will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Item	Percentage	Dates/Frequency
Polls and Participation	10%	Daily
Midterm exam	25%	7/3 regular class time and location
Final exam	25%	7/17 regular class time and location
Problem Sets	20%	4 total- due every Tuesday
Economic Puzzles	20%	4 total- due every Wednesday

Exams

There will be one midterm exam and a non-cumulative final exam. The midterm will be over material covered in the first half of the class, and the final will be over material covered in the second half of the class.

Midterm Policy: The Midterm will be held during normal class times. There are no makeup midterms for unexcused absences. If you miss the midterm, the weight (25%) will be put on the final exam. For example, if you miss the midterm, your final will be worth 50% (25% for the midterm + 25% for the final).

Final Exam Policy: Per ND rules, you must have a valid excuse from the Dean to take the final exam at a time other than the scheduled time. Other university exam policies can be found here (https://al.nd.edu/advising/processes-policies/final-exams/). If you miss the final exam and do not have an excuse from the Dean, you will receive a score of 0% on your final.

Cheat Sheet Policy: For the midterm and the final, you are allowed to bring in one side of an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper with anything on it legible to your naked eye.

Disabilities: If any student will require assistance or appropriate academic accommodations for a disability, please contact me after class, during office hours, or by individual appointment. You must have established your eligibility for disability support services through Disability Services.

Homework Assignments

There will be two types of graded assignments: problem sets and economics puzzles.

For the problem sets and economic puzzles, you ARE permitted (and encouraged) to work in groups, but everyone must turn in their own submission. See the section regarding the honor code for information on what resources you are permitted to use.

Homework assignments that are not turned in by the due date will receive a maximum score of 50%. All graded work must be submitted before the final exam. Each assignment is weighted equally, and your lowest score on each type of assignment will be dropped.

I will post homework problems the week before they are due. This means there is a chance that we may not be able to cover a topic on the problem set before it is due. If this happens, you will not be graded on your responses to the questions we do not cover in class. I will keep the questions in the problem set and post the solutions so you will have access to all types of questions as you study for your exams.

I will frequently assign ungraded problems. It is important that you get lots of practice doing lots of types of problems. Do not infer that "ungraded" means "unimportant". Homework problems are designed to prepare you for exams. Because exams make up 50% of your grade, it is important that you take these assignments seriously.

Poll Everywhere Score

10% of your grade will depend upon your attendance and participation in polls administered during class. These will be multiple-choice questions interspersed throughout lectures that gauge your understanding of lecture material and any assigned (out of class) readings, podcasts, or videos. The vast majority of poll questions will be graded based on participation, not accuracy.

In order to allow for illness, technical problems, and other unforeseen emergencies, there is a 10 percentage point curve on your poll score (not to exceed a total score of 100%).

Course Schedule and Important Dates

The table below shows the course schedule: the topics we will cover and important due dates and assignments for each week of class. This schedule is **tentative**. If there are any changes to the schedule or due dates, I will update this table to reflect changes. I will also send an announcement on canvas to notify you and highlight changes to the schedule during class.

Week	**Topics**	**Important Dates /Assignments**
Week 1: June 18-June 19	● Course Intro ● What is Economics? ● Trade	
Week 2: June 23-June 26	● Demand ● Market Power ● Market Power Equilibrium ● Perfect Competition	● PS 1- Tuesday 6/24 ● Puzzle 1- Wednesday 6/25
Week 3: June 30-July 3	● Perfectly Competitive Equilibrium ● Elasticity ● Prices	● PS 2- Tuesday 7/1 ● Puzzle 2- Wednesday 7/2 ● **Midterm: Thursday, July 3:**
Week 4: July 7-July 10	● Regulation (price	● PS 3- Tuesday 7/8

	controls, taxes, and subsidies) ● Externalities (plus Coase Theorem and Tragedy of the Commons) ● Theory of the firm	● Puzzle 3- Wednesday 7/9
Week 5: July 14-July 17	● Game Theory ● The Dismal Science ● Special Topics/Review	● PS 4- Tuesday 7/15 ● Puzzle 4- Wednesday 7/16 ● **Thursday, July 17:** Final Exam (NON cumulative!)

Honor Code

Notre Dame students are expected to abide by the Academic Code of Honor Pledge: "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty." If you do not yet understand your responsibilities under this code, I urge you to go to http://honorcode.nd.edu to learn more. I will do my best to discourage cheating by actively proctoring exams, but there is a limit to what I can do. Ultimately, you should recognize that nothing we do in this course is worth jeopardizing your integrity over.

Honor Code – Homework Assignments

You can use the following resources to help you complete your homework assignments:

- The course instructor and teaching assistants
- Any economics book, whether in electronic or traditional form.
- Course notes from another principles of microeconomics course found online.
- Math software, including calculators and www.wolframalpha.com.
- Instructional websites, such as www.khanacademy.org.
- Any assigned readings, podcasts, and videos.
- Anyone currently taking any section of ECON 10010/20010, as long as they have not seen the answer keys for the problem set.

You **CANNOT** use AI to complete your homework assignments.

Honor Code – Exams

You are **NOT** allowed to use exam materials from previous semesters in preparation for the exam if these materials are not available to all class members (i.e., unless I distribute them).

The only resources you are allowed to use during an exam are:

- A pencil
- A calculator
- For the midterm and final, you are allowed to bring in one side of an 8.5 x 11" sheet of paper with anything on it legible to your naked eye.

Note about AI

AI composition or editing software (like ChatGPT or Grammarly) may not be used for assignments in this course. Using these tools without my permission puts your academic integrity at risk.