

ECON 603: Microeconomic Analysis 1 (first half) *FALL 2022*

Instructor: Emel Filiz-Ozbay

Office: Tydings Hall (TYD) 4115C

Office Hour: Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm (online or in person: **by appointment only**)

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Phone: 401-305-3474

Class: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm, TYD 1118

Discussion: Tuesdays, 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm, TYD 1132 (starting on Sept. 6th)

Teaching Assistant: Shanglyu Deng (sdengl@umd.edu)

TA's Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:55 am-10:55 am, Room TYD 4128

Midterm Exam: **Tuesday, October 18, 2022** --- 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm, SQH 1119

The course is planned to be face-to-face this semester. In special circumstances in which the instructor is unable to attend classes in-person, the instructor will adapt learning opportunities to the extent possible (online sessions, recorded lectures, TA teaching the class etc.). These decisions will be made according to the UMD Policies: www.umd.edu/4Maryland

If you are sick, tested positive for Covid-19, or think you were in contact with someone who has Covid-19, please stay home and let the instructor know for appropriate accommodations for the missed classes.

Course Description and Objectives: Economics 603 is the first half of the Economics Department's two-semester core sequence in Microeconomics. This course is taken by all first-year Economics Ph.D. students, as well as by quite a few Ph.D. students in Agricultural & Resource Economics, the Smith School of Business, and other academic departments. The first half of the semester covers consumer theory and the theory of the firm. The first five chapters of the textbook will be covered in this part. The second half of the semester is an introduction to game theory and its applications in economics. The first half of this course will be taught by Professor Emel Filiz-Ozbay. The final half will be taught by Professor Larry Ausubel (first lecture on October 19). More information on the final half can be found at <http://www.ausubel.com/econ603/>.

Text Book:

Mas-Colell, M. Whinston and J. Green (henceforth "MWG"), *Microeconomic Theory*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1995.

Organization of the Topics: The first half of the course is going to have two main parts. The first part deals with consumer theory, and the second part deals with firm theory.

PART 1

1) Preferences, Utility Functions and Utility Maximization

MWG, pp. 3-9, 17-28, 40-57 and 926-935

Problem Set #1

2) Review of Kuhn-Tucker Theory / Envelope Theorem and Applications

MWG, pp. 935-966
 Handout on Kuhn-Tucker Conditions
 Handout on Envelope Theorem

3) Expenditure Minimization, Hicksian Demands and Slutsky Equation

MWG, pp. 57-75
 Problem Set #2

4) Integrability, Substitutes Preferences

MWG, pp. 75-95
 Problem Set #3

5) Welfare Evaluation, Revealed Preference and Aggregate Demand

MWG, pp. 9-14, 28-36 and 105-123
 Problem Set #4

PART 2

1) Theory of the Firm, Profit Maximization, Cost Minimization and Duality

MWG, pp. 127-160
 Problem Set #5

2) Monopoly and Price Discrimination

MWG, pp. 383-387 and 488-501
 Problem Set #6

Course Website: If you are registered for this course, you should use your directory ID and password to access <https://elms.umd.edu>. Copies of this syllabus, homework, lecture notes, old exams, links to the Zoom meetings (if needed) and other relevant documents will be made available through the course website.

Email: The University has adopted email as the primary means of communication outside the classroom, and I will use it to inform you of important announcements.

Failure to check email, errors in forwarding email, and returned email due to “mailbox full” or “user unknown” will not excuse a student from missing announcements or deadlines.

You are encouraged to contact me by email, and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. PLEASE include course code in the subject line, so that I can quickly distinguish your message from spam or other less important matters. PLEASE also include your name and any previous messages we’ve exchanged within every message you send to me.

Expectations of Students:

Your grade for the course is based upon your performance in the first and second halves of the course, i.e. Midterm and Final exams.

Exams: The midterm exam will be on **Tuesday, October 18, 2022** at 2:00pm - 3:15pm at JMZ 0220 (note that this is different than our regular classroom). Any students having any known conflicts with the exam times should notify me immediately. If you miss the midterm exam because of illness that can be documented by a medical professional, you must inform me ASAP, preferably in advance of the exam, and a make-up exam will be scheduled. The final exam for Econ 603 is tentatively set for **Thursday, December 15 at 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**. This is outside the regular final exam time. If anybody has a conflict with this tentative final exam time, please email me and Professor Ausubel no later than September 6th.

Problem Sets: There will be 6 problem sets for the first half of the course. You are recommended to solve the problem sets before the discussion sessions and the TA will answer your questions at those sessions. You do not need to submit your solutions to the problem sets but studying them will help you prepare for the exams. If you want your solutions to the problem sets to be checked by the TA, you may ask the TA to read them or attend to the TA's office hours to discuss them. If you cannot follow the logic of lectures or problem sets then please meet me during my office hours.

Attendance and Course Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly. If you miss classes due to illness or restrictions related with Covid-19, *contact me immediately*. Participation in class discussion is encouraged. I suspect that most successful students spend a significant amount of time reading, studying, and working through examples outside of class. Consistent attendance greatly improves the likelihood of success in this course. You will get much more out of the class if you read the material before it is covered in class.

Notes: If you find that you can't follow the class discussions, please talk to me during my office hour. If you anticipate or experience any problem fulfilling the requirements of the course, you must inform me as soon as possible to maximize the possibility that I can help you. Contacting me about such problems at the end of the term when your grade is lower than what you would like is too late.

I look forward to receiving your feedback on the course at the end of the semester, so please use the University's on-line course evaluation system at the end of the semester.

Please contribute to a positive learning environment. We can make the most of this opportunity if you are willing to work at it. Students are expected to treat each other and me with courtesy and respect. Disruptive behavior will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct or the Campus Police.

Policies and Resources

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like Academic integrity, Student and instructor conduct, Accessibility and accommodations, Attendance and excused absences, Grades and appeals, Copyright and intellectual property. Please visit <https://gradschool.umd.edu/faculty-and-staff/course-related-policies> for the full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Counseling Center Sometimes graduate students experience academic, personal, and/or emotional distress. The Counseling Center in Shoemaker Hall provides comprehensive support services that promote personal, social, and academic success of UMD students. The cost of these services is covered by fees you already paid when you registered, so there is no additional charge if you use these valuable resources. Proactively explore the range of services available including the Counseling Service, the Disability Support Service, the Learning Assistance Service, and the Testing Office, all described at <http://www.counseling.umd.edu/>