Syllabus for Econ 301: Intermediate Microeconomics
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 to 3:15 PM
Ball Communication Building 129
Fall 2026

Professor: Phil DeCicca
Office: WB 117
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 to 5:15 PM, and by appt
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Note: Please scroll way down to see the course schedule, but be sure to read this in its entirety. Thank you.

Course Description:

The primary objective of this course is to provide a theoretical foundation of the economic behavior of individual decision-making agents such as consumers, resource owners and firms. We will develop basic tools that are used in many fields of economics, including labor economics, health economics, production theory, international economics, natural resource economics, public finance, and capital markets. Another important objective is to encourage you to think analytically about economic decision-making. You are expected to be familiar with the course content of a Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 201) class.

Class Materials:

There is one recommended text for this class: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications*, 12th edition, by Browning and Zupan. You can buy this book from the bookstore on campus or from a variety of online retailers like Amazon.com. That said, you can also buy an older used copy and save a few bucks. I don't require its use however, as I make all of my own assignments (i.e., the book is not needed if you come to class/watch all of the lectures diligently). The book should be used as a reference when needed or desired.

Determination of Grade in Course:

The grade in the course will be based on weekly in-class quizzes, and a cumulative final examination as follows:

--Weekly Quizzes (Ten Highest Scores Counted): 60%
--Cumulative Final Exam: 40%

Please note that grades are not "curved": (e.g., 60-69 is a D, 70-79 is a C, 80-89 is a B and 90 and up is an A, with pluses and minuses in each range). Grades are rounded to the nearest integer.

Weekly Quizzes

Over the course of the term, we will have roughly 12-15 weekly quizzes on material that I covered in lecture that particular week. I will count only your ten (10) highest scores in computing your final average on the weekly quizzes, so they are each worth 6% of your final grade. Each week, I will post the quizzes on Canvas by Wednesday night and they will be due by Friday of that week. Since this is a relatively short turn around time, the quizzes will not be long and, again, will focus on what I covered in lecture that week. So, please make a point of keeping up with the lectures. Since I am dropping your lower scores, there will be no make-up quizzes.

Final Exam

There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the course which will be worth 40% of your grade. The exam will be a take-home exam, delivered like the weekly quizzes. I will provide more details as the semester progresses. Note that I will deduct **five percentage points** per day if turned in late (e.g., an exam that earned a grade of 85 will be marked as a 75 if the exam is two days late, 70 if three days late, and so on and so forth). I will provide practice problems in advance and strongly encourage you to spend considerable time on these. We will use the last day of class for a review session for the final exam.

University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

Academic Integrity

As students of the university you must conduct yourself in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes any type of cheating or plagiarism, both inadvertent and intentional. Academic dishonesty by a student will not be tolerated and will be treated in accordance with the BSU Student Academic Ethics Policy. An

ethics violation, depending on the severity, can lead to a zero for the assignment, failure of the course, or expulsion from BSU. Per University policy, all ethics violations, even if resolved at the instructor level, are reported to the University. Everything you turn in must be your own original work. If you are unclear about this policy or my expectations, you must notify me immediately. Claiming that you did not understand the concepts of plagiarism, proper referencing, or cheating will not be an acceptable defense after you have already turned in an assignment.

All course materials (class lectures and discussions, handouts, examinations, web materials) and the intellectual content of the course itself are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law. Students are permitted to make notes solely for their own private educational use. Exceptions to accommodate students with disabilities may be granted with appropriate documentation. To be clear, in this class students are forbidden from selling class materials to any person or organization.

Some Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

During this class, we may use ChatGPT or other generative AI applications. You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted to be used, along with guidance for attribution. Any use outside of this permission constitutes a violation of Ball State University's Student Academic Ethics Policy.

The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsu.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to bsu.navigate.eab.com.

The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing. The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to bsu.edu/writingcenter. Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the Basic Needs Hub. The

Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a Basic Needs Assistance Form.

The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.
At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found here.

The Speaking Center

The Speaking Center is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.
The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this direct link to sign up for a time**.** Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

FERPA and Privacy
As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent.
However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection.

Other Classroom Policies (from me)

I plan to use Canvas to post homework assignments and answers. I will not post my lecture notes. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate.

--Since I will not hand out lecture notes, it is very important to come to class. What I discuss in class will be the best exam preparation, followed by the homework assignments.

--Attendance is mandatory; please come to class on time.

--Please keep your phones off during class or at least on silent/manners mode if you are in person. Thanks in advance.

--The best way to contact me is by email.

Some keys to learning

--Come to class or watch the lectures and TAKE NOTES while doing so (I also recommend taking your notes on white computer paper and then copying them into a notebook later that day or the next; the extra writing will help you remember concepts, and identify where you do not understand the material)

--Read the corresponding material in the textbook

--Do the homework assignments before looking at my answers, but always look at my answers afterwards to check on your work.

--If you are having difficulty, please come and see me; the sooner, the better!

Tentative Course Schedule

The course will be split roughly into three sections: consumer theory, producer theory and important topics that draw on the first two topics. This syllabus is tentative and we may deviate slightly from what is listed, depending on pace and appropriateness.

August 25 and 27: Intro to Microeconomics and Consumer Choice (Chapters 1 and 2)

September 1 and 3: The Theory of Consumer Choice (Chapter 3)

September 8 and 10: The Theory of Consumer Choice (Chapter 3)

September 15 and 17: Individual and Market Demand (Chapter 4)

September 22 and 24: Using Consumer Choice Theory (Chapters 4 and 5)

September 29 and October 1: Applications of Consumer Theory (Chapters 5 & 6)

October 6 and 8: Applications of Consumer Theory (Chapters 5 & 6)

October 13 and 15: **Fall Break, no class on October 13**, continuing with Applications on 10/15

October 20 and 22: Producer/Firm Theory (Chapter 7)

October 27 and 29: Producer/Firm Theory continued (Chapter 7)

November 3 and 5: Producer Theory, Cost Structure and the Supply Curve (Chapters 7, 8 and 9)

November 10 and 12: Market Equilibrium/Welfare Economics: Putting Supply & Demand Together

November 17 and 19: Market Equilibrium/Welfare Economics: Applications

November 24 and 26: 11/24, Monopoly and market power; 11/26 **Thanksgiving Break (Enjoy!)**

December 1 and 3: Public Goods & Externalities (Ch 20)

December 8: Public Goods & Externalities, Review Session for Final (if time)

Final Exam: This will be a take-home exam. I will let you know in advance when it will be posted, when it is due and other important details.

*Please note that this schedule is **TENTATIVE** and hence subject to modification*

Assurance of Learning

The Miller College of Business is committed to ensuring that every student graduating with a business degree is competent in five areas that are crucial to success in business. These learning goals can be easily remembered with the acronym C-KITE (Communication, Knowledge, Integration, Technology, and Ethics).

Communication: Miller College Graduates will be able to communicate appropriately in a professional context. Specifically, they will be

· Effective oral communicators who can: organize a presentation; use transitions; avoid verbal pauses; maintain audience interest; use eye contact, body language, and use visual aids effectively

· Effective written communicators who can: introduce the main idea; provide closure consistent to the main idea; use content to support the main idea; use transitions and emphases; maintain connections between ideas; use organizational structure effectively (paragraphs, flow); effectively use diction and conventions; and avoid spelling and grammatical errors

Knowledge: Miller College Graduates will demonstrate basic knowledge in

· Operations

· Marketing

· Finance

· Management

· Accounting

· Economics

Integration: Miller College Graduates will be able to integrate business knowledge in decision making. They will be able to

· Identify issues confronting the organization

· Synthesize and analyze available information

· Draw well-reasoned inferences and judgments for courses of action

· Design a plan for implementing the course of action

Technology: Miller College Graduates will be able to obtain, manage and communicate data effectively. They will be able to

· Analyze data for information to support decision-making using technology

· Identify common data security risks and safeguards

· Use common cloud technologies to collaborate on projects effectively

Ethics: Miller College Graduates will be able to recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas. They will demonstrate an ability to

· Identify an ethical dilemma in a business situation

· Identify relevant stakeholders

· Assess potential consequences to the stakeholders

· Recognize the importance of making ethical decisions

In this class, you will demonstrate

· Communication, by writing clear answers to short essay-style questions on homework assignments and exams.

· Knowledge, by mastering economic theory as it pertains to labor economics

· Integration, by synthesizing knowledge in lecture to answer complex questions on homework assignments and exams.