

ECON 2100 SYLLABUS

Economics and Policy, 3 Credits
Monday/Wednesday/Friday

INSTRUCTOR

Anthony Harding

EMAIL

tony.harding@gatech.edu

OFFICE HOURS + LOCATION

BlueJeans, Friday 10-12pm
Or by appointment

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description

This course will provide you with an overview of the foundational topics of economic analysis that can equip you with a basis for informed decision-making and improve your understanding of economic policy. Through a mixture of discussion and problem-solving, we will learn about microeconomics – the study of how individuals and firms behave and make choices through the lens of economic decision-making. Building up to a broader scope, we will learn about macroeconomics – the study of the behavior of aggregate markets and economies.

During class, we will cover foundational topics and discuss their application to current events. Outside of class, you are expected to review the literature and practice problem solving by applying the topics discussed in class. By the conclusion of the course, you should be able to provide intuition for economically informed choices, rationalize the state of markets and economies, and apply economic tools to predict the consequences of economic policies.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to...

1. Recognize and explain the concepts of microeconomic decision-making
 - a. Define and describe scarcity, opportunity cost, and comparative advantage
 - b. Define and describe market structure and market equilibrium
2. Calculate market characteristics and interpret microeconomic observations
 - a. Calculate market characteristics and market equilibrium both analytically and graphically
 - b. Discuss and comment on the influence of economic incentives and institutions
3. Recognize and explain the fundamental concepts of macroeconomics
 - a. Explain the role of government in market intervention
 - b. Explain the dynamics of economic growth and international trade
4. Interpret macroeconomic observations and identify policy interventions
 - a. Compute macroeconomic equilibria and describe the monetary system
 - b. Discuss and prescribe government economic interventions

COURSE MATERIALS

Default Text: “Economics” 2nd edition by Acemoglu, Laibson, and List, Pearson Publishing ISBN-13 w/MyLab Econ: 9780134519418.

Online Software: MyLab Econ, MobLab (\$5)

Availability: The course text and software can be purchased online.

Course website: Canvas will be used to post announcements, lecture videos and slides, analysis essays, and exams. Homework will be posted and administered on MyLab Econ.

Optional Supplementary Resources: Marginal Revolution University, <https://mru.org/>. Marginal Revolution University provides free and excellent supplementary text and video resources as well as interesting real world examples of the topics we cover in this course. If you are struggling to understand a particular concept I recommend using this resource.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS + GRADING

Course Assignments

Assignment	Dates	Weight (Percentage)	Description
Homework	Weekly	30% (~2% per hw)	Due Mondays at 8am
Attendance	Daily	10%	Canvas Activity
Analysis Essays (x5)	9/9, 9/30, 10/14, 11/4, 12/2	20% (5% each)	One page summary and analysis Highest 4 scores
Exams (x3)	9/16, 10/21, 11/25	20% (10% each)	50 minutes Highest 2 scores
Final Exam	TBA	20%	1 Hour 50 minutes

Description of Graded Components

Homework: There will be one homework assigned each week on MyLab Econ. Each assignment will assess the material introduced in class that week and will be due at 8am the Monday after it is assigned. For example, after Week 1, Homework 1 will assess your understanding of the topics covered in the first 3 classes and will be due on Monday, August 24, at 8am.

Analysis essays: One-page (500 word) summary and analysis of the assigned materials. Analysis essays are due the Monday after they are assigned by the start of the listed class time (9:30am). Essays will be graded according to the rubric supplied with the assignment. The highest four discussion assignment grades will be counted, however, you are required to submit all five assignments.

Exams: Midterms are 50 minutes and Final Exam is 2 hours. Exams will be administered through Canvas and will be open for a 24 hour window on the day of the exam. Once you begin the exam you will have the respective time to complete it. Midterms cover material since the last exam. The Final Exam is cumulative. Exams are open book/note. The highest two midterm grades will be counted, however, you are required to take all three Midterm Exams.

Attendance: To get full points for attendance you are required to submit your own responses for the in-class activity each class on Canvas by midnight the day after class. For example, the attendance assignment for the class on Wednesday 8/19 is due by 11:59pm on Thursday 8/21.

Office Hours

Office hours will be on Fridays 10am-12pm or by appointment. They will be held on a BlueJeans conference call that can be accessed at <https://bluejeans.com/2497063028/>.

During office hours, I will also monitor Piazza. I encourage everyone to take advantage of my office hours. I'm here to help. If you can, please come with questions prepared. Additionally, prepared questions can be posted to the Office Hours discussion board at any time during the week. I will try to respond to posts when I can or during the subsequent designated office hours time.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale. Grades of C or higher are considered a pass for students taking the course pass/fail.

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is an outline of the schedule for this course. The timing of the material is subject to change if it will improve the quality of the course.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8/17-8/21	Read Ch 1	Read Ch 3	Drop Deadline
8/24-8/28	HW 1 Due, Read Ch 4	N/A	Read Ch 5
8/31-9/4	HW 2 Due	N/A	MobLab, Read Ch 6
9/7-9/11	HW 3 Due, AE 1 Due, Institute Holiday - No class	N/A	N/A
9/14-9/18	HW 4 Due, Exam 1	N/A	Read Ch 7
9/21-9/25	HW 5 Due	Read Ch 12	N/A
9/28-10/2	HW 6 Due, Read Ch 8	N/A	MobLab
10/5-10/9	HW 7 Due, AE 2 Due	Read Ch 9	N/A
10/12-10/16	HW 8 Due	N/A	MobLab
10/19-10/23	HW 9 Due, Exam 2	Read Ch 10	Grade Mode/Withdraw Deadline
10/26-10/30	HW 10 Due, AE 3 Due, Read Ch 19	N/A	Read Ch 21
11/2-11/6	HW 11 Due	Read Ch 23	MobLab
11/9-11/13	HW 12 Due, AE 4 Due, Read Ch 24	N/A	Read Ch 25
11/16-11/20	HW 13 Due	Read Ch 26	MobLab
11/23-11/27	HW 14 Due, AE 5 Due, Last Day of Class, Exam 3	Institute Holiday - No class	Institute Holiday - No class
TBD	Final Exam		

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

Attendance

Class participation and discussion is an integral part of the learning process. To encourage participation, attendance is required and represents a portion of the final grade. Full points for attendance will be given for submitting attendance activities on Canvas.

Extra Credit Opportunities

There will be NO extra credit assignments or bonus points. Course grades will not be curved.

Collaboration & Group Work

Collaboration in the learning process is encouraged. Students are permitted to work together on homework, however, each student must submit their own assignments.

Email Policy

I encourage students to contact me with their questions and expect frequent contact. To facilitate response in a timely manner, below are guidelines for sending me emails. If you have not received a response within 24 hours of your email, please make sure you have followed the guidelines below and send a follow-up email.

1. Start the subject line of the email with "[ECON-2100]"
2. Include your full name in the body of the email

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Make-up exams will be given only for documented reasons of illness, family emergency, or participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips and athletic events, see <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/12/> for more information). Late assignments will not be accepted and no extensions will be given except for reasons consistent with those stated above.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Cell Phones, Laptops, and Related Technology

In this class, we will be using TurningPoint to track attendance and allow the instructor to receive feedback on students' learning. This means you will need to bring a (charged) web-enabled device with you to class – a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or other similar devices will do. However, use of these devices outside of the designated times is prohibited. Please remember that your success in this class will hinge in part on your attention to in-class discussion and content. If your use of electronic devices causes a disturbance you will be asked to leave. incidents may result in a reduction of the final grade.

Food and Drink

Food and drink are permitted, but be respectful of the others in the classroom. If it becomes distracting to those around others, you will be asked to either put it away or take it outside the classroom.

CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Georgia Tech provides a variety of resources around campus to support students and their learning. These include resources such as The Counseling Center, The Communication Center, and The Center for Academic Success.

See http://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/campus_resources_students.pdf for a list of relevant campus resources available to Georgia Tech students.

Note

This syllabus is subject to change as the semester progresses if it will enhance the student learning and the overall quality of the course. (Syllabus v1.0: 9/23/2020)