

## UC Davis Syllabus

### Economics 01AV: Online Principles of Microeconomics

Instructor: **Dr. Derek Stimel**

Office Hours: **TBA in Zoom**

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We have one TA assigned to this course, **TBA**. They will be holding their own Zoom office hours **TBA** in Zoom. Of course they can be e-mailed questions as well. Please only ask the TA course material questions (e.g. can you explain more about comparative advantage?). Other types of course questions in addition to course material can be e-mailed to the professor.

#### Scope and Objectives

This class is designed to introduce you to key topics in microeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of individual decision-making, business decision-making, and the interactions of buyers and sellers in markets. This class is fully online including exams. However, while it is fully online it is not a completely self-paced course and you will have deadlines throughout the course to keep you on track.

#### Learning Outcomes

Assuming a student satisfactorily completes this course, they will be able to do the following.

- 1) Demonstrate ability to use quantitative tools of microeconomics at a principles level.
- 2) Analyze microeconomic concepts at a principles level.
- 3) Critique current events including government policy using microeconomic models at a principles level.

#### Required Reading

Greg Mankiw's *Principles of Microeconomics*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Cengage Publishing.

Any edition of this textbook is fine. If you can find a less expensive older edition (e.g 8<sup>th</sup> edition) please feel free to do so. There are required articles for written assignments with links provided in Canvas

#### Course Materials

All course materials are posted in Canvas <http://canvas.ucdavis.edu>. Assignment Due Dates are posted in Canvas. Students are responsible for being aware of all assignment due dates.

#### Technology

Some class assignments such as exams require students to use Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor. This technology requires you to download proprietary software to your computer and use their browser to take Canvas exams. This requires a functional webcam and microphone as well as sufficient computing power. You will check your computer and get used to this system early in the quarter. For example, the software does not work with Chromebooks. Using this technology is a requirement for the course. If you cannot do so or do not want to do so, you will need to enroll in an alternative course.

#### Office Hours

Office hours are scheduled and conducted using Zoom video conferencing software. You can find the schedule for them in the Zoom link in Canvas. Feel free to turn off your video and microphone if you want when you join a Zoom session. You can still ask questions with the Chat feature inside Zoom. **IMPORTANT:** If your video is on or audio it is possible that other students in the class may see you or hear you. That's ok but just be aware that you are potentially being viewed by others. Again, feel free to turn that off if you want. Office hours are not recorded at all.

*Grading Note:* All Due dates are in Canvas.

### **Syllabus Quiz 2%**

This quiz will be taken in Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor. This quiz may be repeated as many times as you want before the due date and the highest score will count in your grade. The purpose of this quiz is to familiarize you with course structure and the use of the lockdown browser as well as check your computer system's compatibility.

### **Video Lecture Quizzes 15%**

Lectures for this course consist of a series of short (approximately 10-minute) pre-recorded videos. In those lecture videos usually near the middle and/or the end, there will be popup multiple choice questions. These are not timed but you must answer the question and cannot skip questions. Each video has 1 or 2 questions. Please allow the video to play all the way until it stops on its own. That will allow your score on the quiz questions to be automatically pushed into Canvas.

### **Homework 20%**

There is one assignment for each module (8 total). These assignments are a mix of multiple choice questions and questions that have multiple parts where you choose your answers from dropdown menus. You may use your notes and the book. You may also work with other students in the course to complete the assignments. Using outside resources (e.g. Chegg, Coursehero, people not in the course, etc.) is prohibited. Potential misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs. Answers will be provided after the due date. Please ask the professor or the TA clarification questions or questions about the answers after they are released.

### **Brief Opinions 15%**

There is one assignment for each module (8 total). For each assignment you will compose a relatively short response (100-300 words) to a question or prompt based on the module topic. Your response should demonstrate accurate use and understanding of a course concept from the module. A rubric for these assignments is provided in Canvas.

### **Practice Exams 8%**

There are 2 additional practice assignments. Each is 40 multiple choice questions and provides extra practice questions similar to the homework questions. You may work with other students in the course and use any course material. Using outside resources (e.g. Chegg, Coursehero, people not in the course, etc.) is prohibited. Potential misconduct will be reported to the Office of Student Support and Judicial Affairs. You can repeat the assignments as many times as you want up until the due date. One practice exam covers Modules 1-4 and the other one covers Modules 5-8.

### **Exams 40%**

There are 2 exams to be completed in Canvas. These exams are timed with a 60-minute time limit. Exams are 40 multiple-choice questions each. The exams are open notes and course material. You may also use a handheld calculator. You may not use your cell phone as a calculator and you will not be able to access course materials online during exams so you will want notes and other material in hard copy form. You may not use any internet enabled device beyond the computer you are taking the exam on. Students must work alone and may not consult each other or outside resources (e.g. Chegg, Coursehero, people not in the course, etc.). Exams must be completed within the window of time given in Canvas. will take exams using Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor. Also, we do not provide answers or access to the exams after the fact. The exams are for assessment purposes only. Exams are not offered at alternative days/times. Exam #1 covers Modules 1-4 and Exam #2 covers Modules 5-8.

## Important Policies

- 1) Students have a responsibility for reading this syllabus, course announcements in Canvas, due dates of assignments in Canvas, and any announcements made in recorded lectures. These are all part of the course policies.
- 2) I will determine grades at the end of the quarter. Any curve, if there is one, is set at that time. There are no grades on individual assignments. UC Davis Economics Department policy is that the average grade in courses should normally be a B-. However, there is no set amount of any one grade (i.e. in theory everyone can earn an “A” just as everyone could in theory earn a “C”, though neither is likely to happen).
- 3) In general, there are no makeup exams. Any excused absence is at my discretion. The few potentially acceptable reasons to miss an exam include illness or death of an immediate family member. Immediate family members are your parents, siblings, spouse/domestic partner, and children. You must be able to provide verification (e.g., doctor’s note). In the case of an excused absence, the remedy may be a re-weight of other exam scores rather than a makeup exam. A makeup exam might also be an oral exam taken via Zoom with Professor Stimel. If you miss an exam, to qualify for an excuse, I must be notified by e-mail either in advance or within 24 hours of the exam time.
- 4) Failing to take an exam for an unexcused reason will result in failing the course automatically. The final exam is not offered at any other time. Failing to take the final for any reason can result in an automatic failing of the course.
- 5) Exam Regrade Policy. As this is a remote course where exams are graded by Canvas there will be no regrades at all.
- 6) Assignment Policy. Late assignments are not accepted for any reason. Please note that copying verbatim from an answer key or other source is considered plagiarism under UC Davis’s definition. Plagiarism will result in a zero homework score. There is no inherent reason to wait until the last minute before an assignment is due to complete it. Most assignments can be completed well in advance of their due dates.
- 7) Use of online “homework help” sites like Chegg or CourseHero is prohibited. Posting to these sites or reading these sites for help on course assignments is a violation of course policies.
- 8) Course material such as slides, lecture videos, assignments including homework, answer keys, exam questions, and other material are Professor Stimel and Professor Wilson’s intellectual property. Posting them online (e.g. Chegg or CourseHero and similar sites) without permission is a violation of UC Davis’s student code of conduct and applicable copyright law.
- 9) Technology problems are not the responsibility of the professor or the TA, they are solely the responsibility of the student. Technology issues uploading or completing assignments in Canvas (e.g. failure to upload, wi-fi connections, etc.) are not considered for excuses. When you upload a file be sure to double-check that it successfully was submitted.
- 10) Per UC Davis policy, there are no final grade changes allowed except in the case of adding or other calculation error.
- 11) Academic honesty is expected. Any suspected cheating will be taken seriously and may result in failing the assignment or the course, as well as discipline by UC Davis itself. See the following for the academic code of conduct. <https://supportjudicialaffairs.sf.ucdavis.edu/code-academic-conduct>
- 12) Waitlists. In the economics department professors cannot issue PTAs or sign any forms related to enrolling in the course. This includes open campus forms. All enrollment is based on the order of the waitlist and is controlled centrally by the Economics Undergraduate Advising Office. They also are the ones that review and decide courses petitions about prerequisites.
- 13) Treat your fellow classmates, teaching assistants, and myself with respect at all times.

## **Course Outline**

### Week 1 (March 29-April 2)

Module 1: Introduction (Production possibility frontier and gains from trade)

Read Chapters 2 & 3

Watch Introduction Videos #1-5, Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday April 2, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #1 by Friday April 2, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #1 by Friday April 2, 11:59 PM (PST)

### Week 2 (April 5-April 9)

Module 2: Supply & Demand

Read Chapter 4

Watch Supply & Demand Videos #1-8, Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday April 9, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #2 by Friday April 9, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #2 by Friday April 9, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Syllabus Quiz using Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor by Friday April 9, 11:59 PM (PST)

### Week 3 (April 12-April 16)

Module 3: Elasticity

Read Chapter 5

Watch Elasticity Videos #1-12, Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday April 16, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #3 by Friday April 16, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #3 by Friday April 16, 11:59 PM (PST)

### Week 4 (April 19-April 23)

Module 4: Efficiency vs Equity

Read Chapter 7

Watch Efficiency vs Equity Videos #1-7, Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday April 23, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #4 by Friday April 23, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #4 by Friday April 23, 11:59 PM (PST)

### Week 5 (April 26-April 30)

Do Practice Exam #1 by Thursday April 29, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Exam #1 using Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor by Friday April 30, 11:59 PM (PST)

[Exam unlocks at 8 AM (PST) and is 60-minutes timed, open printed or handwritten note, calculator]

### Week 6 (May 3-May 7)

Module 5: Government Policy

Read Chapters 6 & 8

Watch Government Policy Videos #1-7, Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday May 7, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #5 by Friday May 7, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #5 by Friday May 7, 11:59 PM (PST)

### Week 7 (May 10-May 14)

Module 6: Costs of Production

Read Chapters 13

Watch Costs of Production Videos #1-8, Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday May 14, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #6 by Friday May 14, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #6 by Friday May 14, 11:59 PM (PST)

Week 8 (May 17-May 21)

Module 7: Perfect Competition

Read Chapters 14

Watch Perfect Competition #1-5 and Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday May 21, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #7 by Friday May 21, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #7 by Friday May 21, 11:59 PM (PST)

Week 9 (May 24-May 28)

Module 8: Monopoly

Read Chapters 15

Watch Monopoly Videos #1-5 and Do Video Lecture Quizzes by Friday May 28, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Homework #8 by Friday May 28, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Brief Opinion #8 by Friday May 28, 11:59 PM (PST)

Week 10 (May 31-June 3)

Do Practice Exam #2 by Thursday June 3, 11:59 PM (PST)

Do Exam #2 using Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor by Friday June 4, 11:59 PM (PST)

[Exam unlocks at 8 AM (PST) and is 60-minutes timed, open printed or handwritten note, calculator]

[Note that June 4 would be the day of the final exam scheduled by the Registrar.]