

# ECON 4200: Intermediate Theory (Microeconomics)

Spring 2009

Tuesday & Thursday from 2:30 – 3:57 PM

Instructor: Dr. Houk  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00 AM, Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-2:15 PM.  
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Course Website: <http://www.csustan.edu/Econ/EHouk/4200.htm>

Textbook: Katz and Rosen. *Microeconomics, 3rd edition*, Irwin McGraw-Hill 1998. (text is required).

Students will be responsible for the material covered in class and the material in the assigned chapters of the text. Students will receive the greatest benefit if they read the assigned chapters before class. Additional readings may be assigned when appropriate.

## Course Description

Provides an examination of the theory of consumer behavior and market demand; production costs, and the theory of the firm; theories of competition and monopoly; concentration and antitrust policies; models of oligopoly and monopolistic competition; resource pricing and income distribution; elements of welfare economics. Prerequisite: ECON 2500 and 2510. (Grading option: Letter grade only)

## Course Objectives/Learning Goals

Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills in the area of microeconomics; understand how consumers and firms make decisions in a market economy; understand how markets operate under different market structures; understand how and why markets fail; and further develop quantitative and analytical reasoning skills.

## Course Policies

- *Behavior: Respect your classmates.* Questions and comments are encouraged; your questions will not only help yourself, but others as well. Do not distract others by talking, reading newspapers, coming into class late or leaving early, and turn off all cell phones before coming to class. In addition, you are expected to follow all guidelines established in your student handbook.
- *Diversity:* I want everyone to feel welcome in class; therefore no disparaging remarks will be tolerated in regards to ethnic background, sex, sexual preference, age, religion, disability, socioeconomic background, educational background, etc.
- *Read the syllabus and course outline to be aware of all requirements and deadlines.* I expect that you will make the effort to learn microeconomics, attend class, and read the textbook.
- *Please ask for help if you need it.* I am available outside of class.

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty (plagiarizing, cheating, or helping someone else violate the standards of academic behavior) will be dealt with at the instructor's discretion, with the likely penalties including an "F" for the course. It will also be reported to the student affairs disciplinary office for additional actions as outlined in your student handbook.

## Late Policy

Students are responsible for handing in assignments when they are due. Homework will be accepted late for partial credit (grade reduced by 50%) up to the date of the next exam. Make-up exams will only be allowed with written verification of an unavoidable circumstance and must be approved. Make-up exams are strongly discouraged and may be more difficult.

## Grades

Grades are based on exams, homework's, paper, and the final.

1. Exam 1	100
2. Exam 2	100
3. Homework/Problem Sets (3-5)	100
4. Short Paper	25
5. <u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100</u>
Total:	425 points

### *Grade Scale*

93% - 100% = A	87% - 89.9% = B+	77% - 79.9% = C+	67% - 69.9% = D+	Less than 60% = F
90% - 92.9% = A-	83% - 86.9% = B	73% - 76.9% = C	63% - 66.9% = D	
	80% - 82.9% = B-	70% - 72.9% = C-	60% - 62.9% = D-	

## Exams/Final Exam

You will have the entire class period for each exam. Exams may involve essays, short essays, short problems, and multiple choice questions. You may use a simple calculator during exams, but no programmable calculators, laptops, cell phones, or PDA's. You will have the entire two hours scheduled for the final exam. The final exam will resemble the other exams, but will be longer and will include cumulative material.

## Short Paper

The paper must be 2 pages, double spaced and typed. It will require you to demonstrate your understanding of Microeconomic Theory as it relates to a current issue (Within last 12 months). The paper should briefly summarize a recent newspaper, magazine, or journal article, and discuss how it relates to microeconomic theory. A copy of the article must be submitted with the paper.

## Homework/Problem Sets

Homework/Problem sets will be given throughout the semester (3-5 times), these assignments are intended to help you learn, feel free to refer to your text or ask questions as needed.

\* Last day to drop the course without special permission is March 13, 2009 (Census Date).