Course: ECO 3310-001 Intermediate Microeconomics  
Term: Fall 2012  
Class Time: 9:30 – 10:50 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday  
Class Room: COB 151  
Professor: Dr. Tara Larson Brown

Professor Contact Information
Office Location: College of Business, Office 320  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-12:15pm and Thursdays 2-3pm or email to set up an appointment  
when Emailing me, please put which class you are in!  
Email: tara@uta.edu

Course Description
Economics 3310 is a course in microeconomic theory. We will analyze the theory of consumer behavior and firms and the markets that result from the interactions between them. Market structures to be analyzed include perfect competition, monopoly, and imperfect competition. The course will provide the opportunity to use the tools and methods of microeconomic analysis and reason out economic questions in a careful, systematic way. The emphasis in this course is on reasoning and understanding through problem-solving, not on memorization. The analytical skills you learn will be useful in further economics courses and are highly valued by employers. While the topics should be familiar from your introductory course in Microeconomics, you’ll discover that Intermediate Microeconomics makes much greater use of mathematical tools. Although this adds a layer of complexity to the analysis, it increases the richness with which we can examine the topics.

Prerequisites
ECON 2306 (Principles of Microeconomics) and 60 credit hours

Required Textbook
*Intermediate Microeconomics 8th edition* by Hal Varian

A note about the text book: Class lectures may have additional material than the text book. The text book should be used for critical background reading to complement class lectures and activities.
Chapter Reading Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Chapters and Sections In Varian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction/ Math Review</td>
<td>1.1-1.5; Mathematical Appendix A1-A9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Curves</td>
<td>3.1-3.3; 3.4 (only section on Perfect Complements); 3.5-3.8; 4.3 (only section on Perfect Complements); 4.4-4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility maximization</td>
<td>2.1-2.4; 5.1; 5.3 (only section on Perfect Complements); 5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in Income and Prices of Good</td>
<td>8.1-8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Things we learn from the Demand Curve</td>
<td>5.2; 6.1; 6.2; 6.3 (only section on Perfect Complements); 6.4; 6.5</td>
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EXAM 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Chapters and Sections In Varian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk and Uncertainty</td>
<td>12.2-12.5; 12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>18.1; 18.2; 18.5-18.8; 18.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Minimization</td>
<td>20.1(don’t get confused with all the math, try to get the general idea like we will discuss in class); 21.1; 21.2; 21.3 (ignore the example); 21.5-21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to General Equilibrium</td>
<td>31.1-31.3; 31.12; 31.13(ignores the tax discussion)</td>
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EXAM 2

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Chapters and Sections In Varian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Game Theory</td>
<td>28.1-28.4; 28.7-28.8; 29.2; 29.6 (for examples on simultaneous games); (if you are interested in other types of games, read 29.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit Maximization</td>
<td>22.2-22.3; 23.5; 24.1; 24.4-24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligopoly</td>
<td>27.1; 27.5; 27.6; 27.9; 29.1</td>
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FINAL EXAM

Blackboard:
Please note there is a blackboard page set up for this class. Blackboard is available at http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/. You can log into the site using your UTA id and password (the id and password you use to log into your email). I will post announcements on this site and power point presentations for each of the topics above. These power point presentations will have graphs and other crucial material missing. Their purpose is to allow you to focus on the lecture without worrying about getting every detail written down. I will also post the homework assignment for you to print out and turn in to me. After each homework assignment and pop quiz, I will post an answer key.

Grading Policy
The grading for this course will consist of: homework assignments and 3 exams. The following weights and due dates apply:

2 Homework Assignments: 21% (worth 7% each)
- HW 1: Available on blackboard now Due: Thursday, September 20, 2012
- HW 2: Available on blackboard on October 2nd Due: Thursday, October 18, 2012
HW 3: Available on blackboard on October 30th Due: Tuesday, November 27, 2012
(please note this is the Tuesday after returning from Thanksgiving break)

Exam 1: (Thursday, September 27, 2012) 26%
Exam 2: (Thursday, October 25, 2012) 26%
Exam 3: (Thursday, December 6, 2012, 8:00-10:30am) 27%

If you know of a conflict with one of these dates, tell me asap.

Homework Assignments
There will be regular homework assignments worth 21% of your total grade. Economics can be a challenging subject, and one of the best ways to understand it is to work through a lot of problems. The homework assignments will be a completion grade. For every problem you attempt to the best of your ability, you will earn credit for that problem. If you attempt each problem on the assignment, you will earn a 100 for the assignment. I reserve the right to make judgment decisions on what is attempting each problem to the best of your ability. You will have sufficient time to complete the assignments and can attend office hours or the study center for assistance.

The problems assigned will be a good indicator of what will be covered on the exams. All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Only a prior agreement with me will allow homework assignments to be accepted after the beginning of class on the due date.

You are welcome to work with other students in the class on the assignments, but you must turn in your own assignment. Note I define work with as all members of the group contributing to solving the assignment. Working with is NOT dividing up questions and doing them separately, blatant copying of other’s assignments or switching off to solve assignments. I reserve the right to check for understanding of an answer and there will be consequences should I find any dishonest work on assignments.

Examinations
There will be two in-class midterm exams and one final exam. The majority of the exams will cover material discussed in class. Since this may diverge from the textbook, it behooves you to attend class regularly. The exams are not cumulative so each exam will cover material from the previous test on.

Attendance
To encourage regular attendance, there will be 10 pop quizzes throughout the semester and being in class to take them can help your final exam grade. These pop quizzes are open book and note and will not be graded. The purpose of them is two fold. First, it gives me feedback on the class’s understanding of the concepts covered. Second, it gives you an idea of what I think is important in class and a preview of some of the concepts that will be covered in homework, midterm and final questions.

I will keep track of how many pop quizzes you were in class to take. If you take all 10 pop quizzes, 10 points will be added to your final exam. If you take 8 or 9 pop quizzes, 5 points will be added to your final exam. Anything less, you will receive 0 additional points on your final exam. Pop quizzes may be administered at any point in the class time.
There will be ways to earn additional pop quiz credits which will be explained throughout the class. So it is possible to earn more than 10 pop quizzes. In this case, 1 point for every pop quiz over 10 will be added to your final exam grade. So, if you earn 0-7 pop quizzes, you receive 0 extra points on your final exam. If you earn 8-9 pop quizzes, you receive 5 extra points on your final exam. If you earn 10+ pop quizzes, you receive the number of pop quizzes you have earned extra on the final exam. Note: to get credit for a pop quiz, you must be in class at the start of the pop quiz. Since pop quizzes can and will be given at the beginning of the class time, it would greatly benefit you to be on time to class.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams are available if you miss an exam for a valid reason. I reserve the right to determine validity and require proof for the absence. Please see me to schedule a make-up exam as soon as possible. Unless there is an emergency, I require you schedule a make-up exam with me 2 weeks prior to the exam date.

Grade Grievances: Any grade grievance other than a mis-adding of points or a similar “human error” type of mistake on any assignment or test may be taken up with me during the review week at the end of the semester. I will not change any grades for any other reason before then. In addition, the only grade which I will change after the review week is that of the final exam.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Note: October 31, 2012 is the last day to drop the class.
Also Note: there has been a policy change and there will be no drops allowed after this date for any reason or under any circumstance.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another
person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at [http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/](http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/). There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit [https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/](https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/). If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu.