

ECON 203-5 MICROECONOMICS

O'Malley School of Business
Manhattan University
Fall 2024

Instructor:	Dr. Jimena González	Time:	MR 12:00 - 1:15 pm
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Office:	DLS 413		

1 Course Description

An introductory study of the behavior of households and business firms in the marketplace, including households as consumers and resource suppliers, business firms as producers of goods and services and buyers of resources, market structures for outputs and inputs, the role of the government, and free trade vs. protection.

2 Learning Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. understand opportunity cost and the production possibilities frontier (PPF).
2. use analytical concepts and tools to explain contemporary economic problems in a supply and demand framework
3. demonstrate an understanding of the role of government in the market.
4. compute, using the midpoint method, various measures of elasticity, and understand how they are used in microeconomic applications.
5. solve economic problems relating to pricing, efficiency, resource allocation, and profit maximization for firms in various market structures.

3 Office Hours

My office hours are **in-person** in my office (DLS 413) on **Mondays and Thursdays** from **10:30 - 11:30 am**. You have two options to set an appointment. To schedule an office hours appointment, please follow the instructions below. After the appointment is set up, you will find the appointment in your Google Calendar. Hence, I expect every student to use Google Calendar (See [Google Calendar Video Tutorial](#)).

- **Option 1 (try this first):** Go to [Dr. González' Google Calendar Appointments](#) that have 20-minute office hours time slots. If you decide to stop by my office hours at the last minute (i.e. 5 minutes before they start or while they are happening, check the same link to verify that there is an opening.
- **Option 2:** If the appointment slots don't work, please send me a calendar invitation. Follow these [instructions](#). Through this method, you have to wait until I accept the calendar invitation. Depending on my schedule, these appointments may be virtual.

4 Course Materials

Required:

1. Cengage Unlimited that provides access to MindTap and the e-textbook: Mankiw, Gregory. *Principles of Microeconomics* 10th Edition. CENGAGE Learning
 - The materials required for this class—and any other classes using Cengage products—are included in ONE Cengage Unlimited subscription. You get access to ALL your Cengage eTextbooks and online homework in ONE place. FREE hardcopy textbook rentals are also available for select titles (you only have to pay the S&H costs).
 - **Register for your MindTap Course:**
 - Use the course registration link <https://student.cengage.com/course-link/MTPPTGD3VJTC>.
 - Follow the instructions on screen to create your Cengage account and register for this MindTap course. Make sure you use your Manhattan email address.
 - Begin your temporary access* period.
 - Need help? Visit the Cengage Start Strong Website (<https://startstrong.cengage.com>) for step-by-step instructions.
 - ***Temporary Access:** You can access your MindTap course until 4:00 AM (UTC) on 9/9/2024 for free. At the end of the temporary access period, you will be prompted to purchase access. Your work will be saved and will be available to you again once you've completed your purchase.
 - **Technical Support & Troubleshooting**
 - * US-based support team delivers answers and advice via 24/7 online chat, Twitter, live phone support (1-800-354-9706), and through support.cengage.com, which includes helpful articles, and tutorials.
 - * If you are having trouble loading MindTap, run the MindTap ([browser check](#)) to make sure your browser is compatible or refer to the MindTap System Requirements ([MindTap System Requirements](#)).
 - * If MindTap isn't loading, be sure to visit Techcheck (<https://techcheck.cengage.com>) to see if there is an outage.
2. Other materials required by the instructor.
3. **Calculator Policy:** The calculator permitted for closed book tests and exams in the O'Malley School of Business is the **Texas Instrument BA II Plus** or simpler (Engineering students: you may use the non-graphing calculator permitted at your school). Phones, tablets, and smartwatches are never permissible for calculators during an exam. They must be turned off and put away for the duration of the exam.

Recommended:

I strongly encourage you to read about current events and try to connect and apply the course material to them. Important sources of articles include:

- The New York Times (As an MU student, you can [subscribe](#) for free)
- [NPR Planet Money Podcast](#)
- [NPR The Indicator from Planet Money Podcast](#)
- [Freakonomics Podcast](#)

5 Technology

- **Moodle:** Students are responsible for checking Moodle since information about assignments, readings, and the class plan is posted there.
- **MU Email:** Every student must have a Manhattan email account. Course announcements will occasionally be sent to your Manhattan email. Therefore, students must check their email accounts regularly.
- **MindTap Course:** Students will solve and submit homework assignments through MindTap. Registration instructions are posted on Moodle.
- **Electronic Device with Wireless Capabilities:** For most classes, students should bring a device with wireless capabilities (e.g., ideally: a laptop or tablet, but phone works). Students who can't bring such a device should speak to me, via email, after the first class.
- **ITS Personal PC & Technology Recommendations:** These can be found on the ITS website, [here](#).
- **Recommended:**
 - **Google Drive File Stream:** Download Google Drive to your laptop as this will allow you to back up any files (not only Google Suite files) to your computer. See [instructions](#).
 - **Microsoft Office:** as an MU student, you may install Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc) on up to 5 personal devices. See [instructions](#).

6 Course Structure

Team-based Learning (TBL) is a teaching strategy designed to promote active, collaborative learning and to improve understanding of course materials. The TBL framework and its effectiveness have been documented in published research.

Teams are formed in the first class and students work in these permanent teams throughout the semester. Teams are formed to distribute our class resources across teams.

For every chapter, five steps are always followed: 1) Students must read outside of class **prior** to the coverage of the assigned chapter; 2) Students take a preparation/reading quiz (more information below); 3) A shorter lecture on the chapter is provided after we go over the quiz; 4) Students work on team activities to apply course material (more information below); and 5) students practice their understanding through MindTap homework assignments.

Each topic is covered following the same steps:

1. **Pre-class Preparation:** Before class, students read the assigned textbook sections, listen to podcasts, and/or watch videos.
2. **Quizzes (RATs):** A Readiness Assessment Test or reading quiz is given at the **beginning** of every class that covers a new chapter. These quizzes are closed-book, closed-notes, and are taken on Moodle. These quizzes are taken individually first. After individual quizzes are submitted, each team takes and submits the exact quiz again as a group. **To get credit for the team quiz, you must be in class and take the quiz with your team. No make-ups are allowed on quizzes.** I drop your lowest **individual** quiz score at the end of the course.

3. **Shorter lecture:** Within Team-Based Learning, most class time is allocated towards application exercises. As a result, a shorter lecture follows every readiness assessment quiz and is used to complement the pre-class preparation.
4. **In-Class Activities (ICAs):** Students are given in-class activities that include multiple-choice questions. These ICAs are meant for students to apply and master course materials. These ICAs are only given during class and must be completed as a team during class time. Unless specified otherwise, only one set of answers must be submitted per team. **There are no makeup in-class activities.** Failure to attend class, without a valid excuse (see #8), will result in zero points for the assignment.
5. **Team Application Exercises (AEs) and MobLab Activities:** From time to time, there are team application exercises (AEs) and MobLab games/experiments that are graded based on participation. Some of these activities are based on podcasts. Students get credit if they come prepared for class. **There are no makeup in-class activities.** Failure to attend class, without a valid excuse (see #8), will result in zero points for the assignment.
6. **MindTap Homework:** Homework assignments will allow you to apply course material individually and to make sure you understand it. Homework is assigned and completed through **MindTap**, and may include multiple choice, true/false, or short answer analytical and conceptual questions. **You are responsible for checking MindTap regularly and for submitting your homework on time. No individual extensions will be granted to any student unless there is a valid excuse. Failure to submit an assignment will result in zero credit for the assignment.**
7. **Exams:** There are two midterm exams and a final cumulative exam. The first midterm exam is on **Thursday, September 26th** and the second midterm exam is on **Thursday, October 24th**. The final exam is cumulative and it is on **Thursday, December 12th from 8:30 to 10:30 am**. Please mark your calendars now. Each exam is in-person and is closed-book and closed-notes. For me to assign accurate grades, all students in the class must take the same examination at the same time. Absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam, except in highly unusual circumstances (travel arrangements are not considered valid excuses for not taking an exam). If you miss an exam and believe unusual circumstances apply in your case, you must explain your excuse in writing and provide convincing documentation, as soon as possible, after the time of the exam. **In other words, except for emergencies, all students must take the exams at the scheduled times. Unless there are extenuating and unavoidable circumstances, there is no makeup for exams. The burden of proof for these circumstances is on the student.**
8. **Attendance Policy and Expectations:** Following university policy, I will keep careful attendance records and file a report to the Dean's office when a student has four unexcused absences. Extended absences (unexcused) should be reported to your Academic Advisor who will inform all of your professors. According to [Manhattan University's attendance policy](#), all students are expected to attend all classes. More important than simply attending, however, is being present for the active process of learning that occurs in class. You should expect and be prepared to be called on and to participate in discussions and activities.
9. **Valid Excuses:** If a medical emergency, a serious illness, or a family emergency causes you to miss class, you must inform me of the emergency before class with an explanation. You shouldn't include any medical or family details. For exams and quizzes, you will need to provide documentation. For example, you may ask a doctor or nurse to write a note excusing you (without details about the medical condition). To facilitate the communication, use this [Google Form](#) which keeps records of absences and failure to submit assignments due to valid excuses. Students must submit this form on the date of the absence or of the failure to submit the assignment (unless the absence prevents the student from doing so). Late forms are not accepted unless there is a valid reason. The form also allows students to submit documentation.

7 Grading

Grade Breakdown:

	Activity	Weight
Individual Points	Textbook Reading Quizzes	10%
	Socratic Activities (Podcasts & videos)	4%
	MindTap Homework	10%
	Exam 1	16%
	Exam 2	16%
	Final Exam	25%
	Team Maintenance Points	5%
Team Points	Team Quizzes	4%
	In-Class Activities (ICAs)	10%

Grade Guideline:

Range	Grade
93.00% - 100.00%	A
90.00% - 92.99%	A-
87.00% - 89.99%	B+
83.00% - 86.99%	B
80.00% - 82.99%	B-
77.00% - 79.99%	C+
73.00% - 76.99%	C
70.00% - 72.99%	C-
67.00% - 69.99%	D+
60.00% - 66.99%	D
< 60.00%	F

I reserve the right to curve.

If you disagree with any grading of any homework, exam, or activity, you (if individual activity) or your team (if team activity) must submit an appeal. To appeal, you or your team must submit to me the following information **in-writing via email**: which question(s) you are appealing and why. If you are able to make a logical, well-reasoned, well-written argument for your case, you or your team will be granted the points upon appeal. **Appeals must be made within 1 week after the graded assignment has been returned to you.**

8 Course Outline

This is a tentative schedule for the course and might change during the course. I will inform you about any changes in the outline for the course or the schedule

1. Module 1: Introduction to Economics

- 1.1. Math Review
- 1.2. Chapter 2: Production Possibility Frontier
- 1.3. Chapter 3: Interdependence and the Gains from Trade

2. Module 2: Markets

- 2.1. Chapter 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
- 2.2. Chapter 5: Elasticity and Its Applications
- 2.3. Chapter 6: Supply, Demand, and Government Policies

Exam 1 on Thursday, September 26th

3. Module 3: Welfare Analysis

- 3.1. Chapter 7: Consumer, Producer, and the Efficiency of Markets
- 3.2. Chapter 8: Application: The Cost of Taxation
- 3.3. Chapter 9: Application: International Trade

4. Module 4: Market Failure and the Economics of the Public Sector

- 4.1. Chapter 10: Externalities
- 4.2. Chapter 11: Public Goods and Common Resources

Exam 2 on Thursday, October 24th

5. Module 5: Producer Theory

- 5.1. Chapter 13: The Costs of Production
- 5.2. Chapter 14: Firms in Competitive Markets
- 5.3. Chapter 15: Monopoly
- 5.4. Chapter 16: Monopolistic Competition
- 5.5. Chapter 17: Oligopoly

Final Exam on Thursday, December 12th from 8:30-10:30 am

Besides these chapters, some Podcasts and videos are assigned from time to time. Instructions on how to access each podcast will be listed on Moodle. Also, for each class meeting, detailed reading and podcast assignments will be listed on Moodle.

Other Important Dates:

- **August 30th**: Late Registration & Add/Drop ends
- **September 2nd**: Labor Day - No classes
- **October 14th**: Fall Break - No classes
- **October 15th (Tuesday)**: Monday schedule
- **October 15th**: Midterm grades are due
- **November 15th**: Last day to withdraw
- **November 27th - 29th**: Thanksgiving Break - No Classes

9 Class Policies

To provide an excellent learning environment to everyone, some basic rules must be followed:

1. Students are expected to attend and participate during class. Students must come to class on time and leave the classroom after the class is over. Students arriving late or leaving early disrupt other students affecting the flow of the class. Please be considerate of your peers. If you must leave early for a valid reason, please speak to me before class. If you arrive late, please quietly enter the classroom.
2. During class, students are expected to be present and not to leave the classroom unless it is absolutely necessary (e.g., bathroom or family emergency). Leaving and entering the classroom is very disruptive and should be avoided.
3. Students are expected to come prepared to class.
4. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class.
5. I understand the advantages of using technology as a learning tool. However, technology can also be misused during class. Inappropriate usage of technology (such as web-surfing, texting, emailing, getting calls, checking Snapchat, TikTok, IG, twitter, etc, or any unauthorized activities) through laptops, smartwatches, tablets, cell phones, or any other mobile devices during class will not be tolerated. **A student who violates this policy will be penalized with a 1% grade point reduction for each violation.**
6. **AI Chats:**
 - Students are **NOT** allowed to use AI chats or tools during quizzes (iRATs and tRATs), team activities (ICAs), or exams. Usage of any AI chats or tools for these activities will result in a zero grade and will be reported for violating the academic integrity policies.
 - Students are allowed to use AI chats for homework and studying, such as asking the chats to further explain a concept. These activities are completed outside of class.
7. Students who miss a class are responsible for all the material covered during the class and are responsible for making the necessary arrangements to submit assignments.
8. Students should not engage in conversations or any distracting activities during the lecture.
9. Students are expected to listen and respect different viewpoints. There is zero tolerance for disrespectful behavior.

10 How to succeed in this course

- Read the textbook before class as the readings will help you be prepared for the Readiness Assurance Tests.
- Listen to/watch the podcasts/videos before class and try to connect them to course materials
- Attend every class.
- Be a good team member:
 - Come to class
 - Be prepared and have tried to understand concepts before class
 - Be willing to contribute to team discussions and decisions
 - Be positive, constructive, and respectful of others' opinions
 - Do not be overbearing or domineering
 - Be willing to help fellow team members
 - Be willing to be honest and admit when you don't understand a problem
 - Be committed to the success of the team
- Work on the in-class activities (ICAs) as a team. Don't divide the work as all the questions are designed to help you understand the material. You may attempt each problem individually or in pairs and then share your strategy/solution with your teammates. If you rely on your teammates to complete these activities, you will get a lower score on the peer evaluations and will not be prepared for the exams.
- Be engaged in discussions, MobLab activities, and Application Exercises (AEs)
- Work on the homework assignments carefully. They will help you apply course material and will boost your grade. You have 3 attempts per question. Plan your time carefully to take advantage of these attempts. In other words, don't start the homework just before it is due.
- If you are having trouble, please ask for help. Talk to me after class, send me an email, or come to my office hours. I want you to learn and master the material!

11 Academic Integrity

As a Manhattan University student, you are part of a community of scholars and learners guided by the basic values of civility, safety, and the discourse of ideas. Students are to be committed to the principles of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and respect for the human dignity of all persons. Students must abide by the Manhattan University Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, academic misconduct, and attempting or assisting with an academic integrity violation will not be tolerated. As the course instructor, if I become aware of a potential academic integrity violation, I will follow the rules and procedures outlined in the policy on Academic Integrity. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the university's policy on Academic Integrity.

12 Copyright of Course Materials and Resources

All course materials developed by the faculty for this course and not otherwise copyrighted, such as the textbook, case studies, and published articles, are proprietary to the faculty. Any dissemination or sharing of these materials on websites, social media accounts, via email, in private chats, etc., is not allowed without explicit permission of the faculty. Such posts can be considered a violation of Academic Integrity and will be dealt with accordingly. Related to that, any use of materials you may find, posted online or otherwise made available to you by previous students will be considered plagiarism, which is also a violation of Academic Integrity.

13 Student Academic Support Services — Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) is committed to providing student-centered and student-led programs and initiatives designed to enhance learning and promote success and persistence for all Manhattan University students. Students work collaboratively with qualified peers and professionals to develop knowledge, skills, and strategies needed to thrive in the classroom and beyond.

The CAS has three locations: the Learning Commons in Thomas Hall 3.11, the Leo Learning Center in Leo 117/118, and Lee Learning Commons 6th Floor. Services include online and in-person tutoring and writing center appointments, Supplemental Instruction, STEM and reading/writing professional Learning Specialist support, and English language support. All services are free of charge and available to all Manhattan University students. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome when available. To make an appointment, students can log into their [Jasper Connect](#) account or visit the CAS in Thomas Hall, 3.10. Students can also contact success@manhattan.edu with any questions.

14 Disabilities

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Manhattan University. If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Specialized Resource Center in Miguel Hall, Room 300.

*****Potential Changes: All details provided in this syllabus are subject to change at my discretion. All changes will be announced in class. If you have missed a lecture, please email me for any announcements.**