

COURSE SPECIFICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to address the issue of resource allocation in the presence of monopoly, imperfect competition, risk-aversion, imperfect information, and externalities. Students will use calculus, algebra, and graphing to demonstrate understanding of concepts including: Pareto efficiency, resource allocation in the four major types of markets, game theory, decision-making under uncertainty and asymmetric information, and models and policies regarding externalities and public goods.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Instructor: Prof. Hannah L. Randolph
- Email: randolphh@cua.edu
- Office hours: Mondays, 12-2pm EST, or by appointment (just email me!)
- Preferred Communication Method: Email
- Bio: I'm currently finishing up my PhD in gender and development economics at American University. I've taught this course for the last couple of years, and have also taught intro to micro and macro, a core course on social problems, and statistics for business. My research focuses on migration in developing countries and global care work. To find out more about me and my research, visit [my webpage](#).

CLASS MEETINGS

- MW 2:10 - 3:25pm EST via Zoom

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

- TBD

PREREQUISITES

- ECON 242

COURSE GOALS

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Name the structure and assumptions of models of the firm and market failures, and draw relevant graphs;
2. Use calculus to solve microeconomic models of the firm and market failures;
3. Compare and contrast the equilibria of microeconomic models of firm behavior under different assumptions;
4. Calculate equilibria under market failure conditions and compare and contrast solutions to market failures;
5. Evaluate basic empirical evidence regarding microeconomic models;
6. Review and use relevant literature to answer a microeconomic research question in essay format.

INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

Synchronous online sessions will take place during scheduled class times. Course communication outside of class time should go through email or Blackboard. All Blackboard announcements from me will also go to your emails; please make sure that you check your email regularly. If you do not check your CUA email often, change your settings in Blackboard so that announcements will go to an email address you do check.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

In the event that something happens that prevents you from full participation in the course, please let me know ASAP and continue to update me on your status. You should also communicate with CUA; please consult with your academic adviser for the appropriate office to contact in the event of illness or other event.

If I am unable to teach the course for some period of time, we will switch to an asynchronous model where you complete work individually or in groups without synchronous class meetings. We will discuss this plan more during the first week of class.

COURSE MATERIALS AND REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Required: Serrano, R., & Feldman, A. (2018). *A Short Course in Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus* (2nd Ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108539340

The first edition is also fine, but you are responsible for any differences in the text. Any problems will be assigned via an assignment sheet, not directly from the book, so your main task when ensuring that you are using the first edition is to check that the chapter numbers match up. I'll include chapter titles on the schedule and calendar so it's clear if the numbering is different.

EXPECTATIONS FOR COURSE PARTICIPATION

Attendance at online sessions is expected, although I will be flexible in cases of extreme time zone differences, internet problems, etc. Participation is not graded, but is strongly encouraged as the best way to engage with the class. Part of good participation is being prepared for class, including doing any assigned readings. I prepare lessons under the assumption that you have read over the chapter before you get to class, and not doing so will leave you feeling lost in class.

LATE WORK POLICY

Homework and intermediate term paper steps are accepted up to three days late, with a 10% penalty per day late. No make-up exams will be given, although the lowest exam grade at the end of the semester will be dropped. No final term paper submissions will be accepted late; any final term paper not submitted by the due date and time will receive the same grade as the draft.

COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK

I will communicate through Blackboard announcements, which should also come to your AU email account. I expect you to check your email daily.

Please use the Blackboard email tool to send course-related messages; I open Bb messages first because it is clear that they are from my current students. If you use Bb, I will respond to your question within one business day.

Feedback on term paper assignments will be given within three business days. You can access feedback on assignments by clicking on the name of the assignment in the Grade Center to view your submission, then opening the rubric to see specific and overall comments. You should set aside time after each assignment to review my comments and incorporate them into the next step of the term paper.

Problem set solutions will be posted three days after the due date (or sooner if everyone turns their homework in on time); I recommend that you go over my comments and the solutions on your own time to make sure you understand them, especially on parts where you missed points.

TIME COMMITMENT

This is an important, yet difficult, course in your major, and may require more work than you are accustomed to spending on a course. A good rule of thumb is that you should spend twice as much time working on the course outside of class time as you do in class. For this course, we have 2.5 hours of class time each week, so you should expect to spend about 5 hours each week doing work on your own time.

A good time breakdown would be:

- Reading and review of chapters/notes: 1.5 hours
- Journal and/or discussion board assignments: 0.5 hours
- Homework (including review of solutions): 1.5 hours
- Term paper steps (including review of comments): 1.5 hours

These are averages per week; there may be some weeks that you have less to do, and some with more, especially depending on your time management. If you find that you are consistently spending significantly more time on the course, please let me know so we can address the issue together.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be submitted to the appropriate link on Blackboard. Handwritten work should be scanned as a PDF, JPG, or PNG file(s); typed work should be submitted either as a .doc or PDF file. It is your responsibility to check your work after submission to make sure that it is legible and that the file can be opened; illegible work or unsuitable file types will not be accepted.

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
100 - 96	95 - 91	90 - 86	85 - 81	80 - 76	75 - 71	70 - 66	65 - 60	59 - 55	<55

Final Grade Calculation

Assignment	Percentage of grade	Due date or frequency	Associated learning outcome(s)
Journals and discussion boards	10%	Weekly	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Homework	20%	Every two weeks	1, 2, 3, 4
Term paper (including intermediate steps)	30%	Every two weeks	5, 6
Exams	40%	Highest two exam grades out of three counted (equally weighted)—see calendar for dates and times	1, 2, 3, 4

COURSE SCHEDULE

A schedule of what we will cover in class, what you should do to prepare, and when all assignments are due is linked from the course orientation page on Blackboard. Due dates are also included on the Blackboard course calendar, accessible from the left-hand menu.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

All members of the Catholic University community have a shared responsibility to know and to abide by the University's policies, especially relating to:

- Academic Integrity
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Attendance
- Conduct
- Final Exams
- Grades and appeals

All of Catholic University's policies are detailed at <https://policies.catholic.edu/index.html>. Please follow up with the instructor if you have any policy-related questions.

Of particular note are the policies regarding Academic Integrity, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, and Final Exams, which are described below.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty at The Catholic University of America is not tolerated (<https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/integrityfull.html> and <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.html>)

As such, academic integrity is not merely avoiding plagiarism or cheating, but it certainly includes those things. Academic integrity means, above all else, taking responsibility for your work, your ideas, and your effort, and giving credit to others for their work, ideas, and effort. If you submit work that is not your own – whether test answers, whole papers, or something in-between – that is considered to be academic dishonesty. University procedures related to academic dishonesty are conducted with respect and dignity, while also preserving accountability, and they presuppose that all participants will treat each other with respect and dignity.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty:

"The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student's past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction."

At times, you may do group work for an in-class presentation or group project. For that *specific* assignment, you are allowed to share material, ideas and information; however, for any related work that is to be submitted on an individual basis, your submission is expected to be your own

in its entirety. If there is no group work in the class you should not collaborate with classmates on work that is to be submitted for an individual grade.

For more information about what academic integrity means at CUA, including your responsibilities and rights, visit <https://integrity.catholic.edu/index.html>.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need a reasonable accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (<https://dss.catholic.edu/index.html>) by email at CUA-DSS@cua.edu or call 202-319-5211 to make an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. DSS recommends that a student with a disability meet with DSS staff during the first week of every semester since accommodations are not retroactive. Please note that instructors will only provide those accommodations included in the DSS accommodation letter. DSS is located in PRYZ 127.

Final Exam: The final exam must be given on the day and time assigned by Enrollment Services. Please plan accordingly for travel, work, special events, or appointments.

A student having an exam scheduling conflict as defined in the policy must report to her/his school's Academic Dean's Office no later than fourteen calendar days before the end of classes. The dean will assist the student in rescheduling the exam(s) for the course having the lowest enrollment(s). All make-up exams must be completed at the earliest possible time during the final examination period.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- **Libraries** <https://libraries.catholic.edu/>
- **Center for Academic and Career Success** <https://success.catholic.edu/>
- **Math Center** <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/math-center/index.html>
- **Tutoring Services** <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/tutoring-services/index.html>
- **Writing Center** <https://success.catholic.edu/academic-support/writing-center/index.html>
- **Office of Disability Support Services** <https://dss.catholic.edu/index.html>
- **Counseling Center** <https://counseling.catholic.edu/index.html>
- **Student Health Services** <https://health.catholic.edu/index.html>
- **Dean of Students Office** <https://deanofstudents.catholic.edu/index.html>