ECON 3140 Intermediate Microeconomics, Fall 2025, Sections 006 and 007

Section 006:	Mon and Wed,	4:00 – 5:15 pm,	Powers 207
Section 007:	Mon and Wed,	2:30 – 3:45 pm,	Powers 207
Instructor:	Y. Christy Zhou	@Powers 320M,	yichen2@clemson.edu (no g. in the email)
	Office hours:	Mon 5:15 pm – 6:15 pm, or by appointment	
TA for 006 (4:00 pm):	Adarsha Subedi	@Powers 316E,	adarsha@clemson.edu (no g. in the email)
	Office hours:	Fri 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, or by appointment	
TA for 007 (2:30 pm):	Xiaoduo Zhang	@Powers 314C,	xiaoduz@g.clemson.edu
	Office hours:	Tue 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm, or by appointment	

Course Objective

This course aims to equip you with analytical tools to model economic decision-making, market outcomes, and the effects of economic policies. You will learn to formalize economic reasoning into simple models to explain agent decisions, as well as how economic conditions and policies influence individual choices and market results. Moreover, this course will also serve as a foundation for advanced electives (e.g., Economics of Markets, Competition and Strategy, Environmental Economics, Economics of Health, Game Theory, International Microeconomics, and Sports Economics).

Textbook

This class will use **Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application, 13th Edition, by Walter Nicholson and Christopher Snyder (hereafter NS)**, Cengage Publication. There are three options to get your textbook:

- Option 1: Get an **eTextbook.** This is the easiest electronic version to access. You can get it by clicking "(1) eTextbook: Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Applications" on Canvas.
- Option 2: Use **eChapters** by Cengage's MindTap Platform. This version also has access to e-chapters. You can get it by clicking "(2) MindTap Platform with eChapters" on Canvas.
- Option 3: Get a **hard copy**. You can obtain the current edition (13th) or a previous edition from Amazon or other vendors. The 12th and 11th editions are 99.9% as good as the latest edition.
- Price comparison: eTextbook < MindTap < hardcopy (see prices here). MindTap is likely only appealing to students who have other classes on MindTap and choose to buy a "Cengage Unlimited" subscription.

Pre-requisite courses

- ECON 2110 Principle of Microeconomics or equivalent + MATH 1020/1060 Calculus I or equivalent

Grading

- Letter grades:
  - A   850—1,000 points
  - B   750—850 points
  - C   650—750 points
  - D   550—650 points
  - F   <550 points
- Grades for this course will be calculated based on:
  - In-class quizzes   200 points
  - Group presentations   80 points (40 points x 2)
  - Three exams (2 midterms + final)   720 points (240 points x 3)
- In-class quizzes:
  - While the quizzes are unscheduled pop quizzes, typically, I give quizzes <u>almost every class</u>.

- o **Re-do opportunity**: For all quizzes, students will have an opportunity to redo them and score another 80% on the improved amount:
  - If total = 5 pts, you get 0 initially and 5 in redo, then you will get 0 + 5*0.8 = 4 pts
  - If total = 5 pts, you get 4 initially and 5 in redo, then you will get 4 + 1*0.8 = 4.8 pts
  - o I do not offer late quizzes. However, students are encouraged to submit a redo (with 80% credit). Also, I will drop everyone's lowest 25% of quizzes.
- Group presentations:
  - o You will collaborate with your group to prepare and deliver the presentation in class.
  - o If you miss the first group presentation, you can join two groups in the following round.
- **Exam replacement policy**:
  - o Everyone has an off day occasionally. A later exam with better performance can replace earlier exams. But an earlier exam shall not replace a later one.
  - o E.g., if your exams are 160, 180, 200, they will be adjusted to 200, 200, 200.
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  - o E.g., if your exams are 160, 200, 180, they will be adjusted to 200, 200, 180.
- Late policy:
  - o Students are expected to understand the consequences of missing quizzes and exams.
  - o If a student needs accommodation for an exam or presentation, I will try to accommodate if a student makes a request in advance. Athletes needing accommodation due to away games are expected to have their advisor notify me in advance.
  - o For unanticipated emergencies (e.g., power and internet outages, natural disasters), you can request accommodation as long as you notify me promptly before the deadline. You are expected to keep supporting records and submit them later for paperwork.
- Attendance and absence
  - o If you need to miss a class and would like to follow up about course material, please let me know by using a "**Notification of Absence**" before class.
- Re-grading policy:
  - o If you request re-grading of a specific question on an exam, note that the TA might review the question you requested and all other questions in the exam.
- AI policy:
  - o Using generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) is allowed in this class for some items but requires **disclosure**.
  - o You can use AI for the following: group presentations and any type of re-do.
- University Regulation for Grade F/I and Students on Federal Aids:
  - o iROAR requires [instructor] to enter a student's last date of attendance when [an instructor] assigns a final grade of F or I. This is required for compliance with federal financial aid regulations. Students who receive federal financial aid, but who stop attending class, may be required to repay all or part of their student aid; therefore, it is important to differentiate between students who fail a class through poor academic performance and those who simply stop attending or never attend at all.

General policies:

- Laptop/tablet/phones/digital devices: Using devices quietly is accepted. If you need to make a phone call, you can excuse yourself and exit the classroom.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

- As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.

- All infractions of academic dishonesty by undergraduates will be reported to Undergraduate Studies for resolution through that office. See the Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy website for information and the current catalog for the policy.

Accessibility

- Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodation due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to this class should let the instructor know and are encouraged to request accommodations through SAS (Student Accessibility Services) as soon as possible. You can reach out to SAS by calling 864-656-6848, email CUSAS@clemson.edu, or visit SAS at the ASC Suite 239.

Title IX Statement

- Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy or related conditions (including pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, recovery from the foregoing, or medical conditions related to the foregoing), national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This Title IX policy is located on the Access and Equity website. Katherine Weathers is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator and VP of Inclusive Excellence. She can be reached at (864) 656-3413 or via email at kweath3@clemson.edu. Remember, email is not a fully secured method of communication and should not be used to discuss Title IX issues.

Emergency Preparedness Statement

- Emergency procedures have been posted in all buildings and on all elevators. Students should be reminded to review these procedures for their own safety. All students and employees should be familiar with the guidelines from Clemson University Public Safety.

Tentative Schedule and Outline

- Topics labeled with **(R)** are review materials for students to review themselves.
    - NS.1 **(R)** Basic econ models (esp. 1.4) and NS.2 **(R)** Some useful math (esp. 2.3)
- Topics labeled with **(A)** are optional additional topics we may explore.
- Notation for readings: E.g., "NS" refers to the textbook by Nicholson and Snyder; "NS.3 (6, 8-9)" refers to Chapter 3 Sections 6, 8, and 9 in Nicholson and Snyder.

Mondays		Wednesdays	
		8/20	NS.3 (7) Budget
8/25	NS.3 (7) Budget NS.3 (1-5) Indifference curve, MRS	8/27	NS.3 (6-7) Consume choice (utility max)
9/1	*** Labor Day, No Class ***	9/3	NS.3 (8) Consumer choice examples
9/8	NS.3 (8) Consumer choice examples NS.4 (1, 6, 8) Individual demand NS.4 (11-16) Elasticity	9/10	NS.4 (2-5) Effect of income, own-price, and cross-price
9/15	NS.4 (3) Decompose own-price effect (substitution effect and income effect) NS.4 (4) Lump-sum principles	9/17	NS.7 (1-2, 7a-b) Production, AP, MP
9/22	>>> Group Presentation #1 <<<	9/24	>>> Midterm #1 <<<
9/29	NS.7 (3, 5, 7c-d) Isoquant, MRTS NS.7 (4) Return to scale	10/1	NS.7 (6, 7e) Technology NS.8 (1) Isocost
10/6	NS.8 (2) Cost minimization (input choice)	10/8	NS.8 (3) Cost curves: TC, ATC, MC, etc. NS.8 (4-7) Cost curves: timing and shifts
10/13	*** Fall Break No Class ***	10/15	NS.9 (2-3) Profit maximization
10/20	NS.9 (4) Shut-down decision NS.9 (4) Supply of a price-taking firm	10/22	NS.9 (5) Profit max for a non-price taker NS.10 (1-8) perfect comp., competitive equilibrium
10/27	>>> Midterm #2 <<<	10/29	NS.10 (9) Surplus (CS and PS) NS.10 (10) Intervention: Q&P control, Tax, Subsidy
11/3	NS.10 (10) Policy intervention (cont.) NS.12 (1-3) Monopoly	11/5	NS.12 (1-3) Monopoly (cont.) NS.12 (4) Price setting, price discrimination
11/10	NS.12 (5) Natural monopoly NS.6 Game theory basics, NE, collusion	11/12	NS.13 (1-2) Imperfect competition, collusion, cartel
11/17	NS.13 (2) Cournot games, collusive outcome	11/19	NS.13 (2) Bertrand game NS.13 (3-7) (A) Other strategies
11/24	NS.17. (1-4) (A) Externality	11/26	*** Thanksgiving Break, No Class ***
12/1	>>> Group Presentation #2 <<<	12/3	NS.17. (1-4) (A) Externality (cont.)
>>> Final Exam <<< MW 4:00-5:15 pm Class (Section 006), Tuesday 12/9 at 7:00-9:30 pm MW 2:30-3:45 pm Class (Section 007), Thursday 12/11 at 3:00-5:30 pm Clemson's Exam Schedule: https://www.clemson.edu/registrar/registration-degreeworks/exams/exam-fall.html			