

**Preliminary Syllabus**  
**Economics BC 3035y: Intermediate Microeconomics**  
Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 10:35-11:50 302 Barnard

Professor

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**Course description:** This course is designed to extend your knowledge of the basic microeconomic principles that will provide the foundation for your future work in economics, and give you insight into how economic models can help us think about important real world phenomena. Topics include the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, perfectly competitive markets, monopoly, imperfect competition, game theory, externalities and public goods, and equity versus efficiency.

**Prerequisites:** An introductory course in microeconomics (ECON BC 1002, W1105, or the equivalent).

**Class meetings:** This class will meet Monday and Wednesday from 10:35-11:50. There will be two identical TA sessions per week - you need only attend one - on Monday and Thursday evenings, time and location to be arranged. *Note about the TA session:* the first hour of the TA session is a group meeting, where the TA will do problems and examples similar to the lecture material and to the assigned problem set. The second hour is the TA's office hour - this is the time for your individual questions and one-on-one interaction. I strongly recommend that you attend the TA session, but if you want to skip the TA session and only attend the office hour, you may come in at the 1-hour mark.

**Course web page:** Problem sets, handouts, announcements, and other information will be posted on the courseworks page for this class at <https://courseworks.columbia.edu>, or go to the url: [https://courseworks.columbia.edu/cms/outview/courseenter.cfm?no=ECONX3035\\_001\\_2006\\_1](https://courseworks.columbia.edu/cms/outview/courseenter.cfm?no=ECONX3035_001_2006_1).

I will also email announcements to the class occasionally via the class email on Courseworks. Note that Courseworks can send email only to your [columbia.edu](mailto:columbia.edu) address. You are responsible for information in these announcements, so please use email forwarding if you wish to receive email to your Barnard address or any other address – instructions can be found at <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/email/delivery/forward.html>.

**Textbook:** The required text for this class is Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Microeconomics, 6th edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, ISBN: 0-13-144563-4. It is available at the Columbia University Book Store.

**Evaluation:** You will earn your grade in this course based on the following requirements:

- 1) (approximately) weekly problem sets (20%)
- 2) one midterm (35%) – Wednesday March 8.
- 3) a cumulative final (45%) - to be scheduled by the registrar during the exam period.

**Academic honesty:** is expected as detailed in the Barnard Honor Code at <http://www.barnard.edu/dos/honor.html>. I take cheating very seriously; dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course if circumstances warrant.

**Note regarding special accommodations:** Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Also, stop by the Office of Disability Services in 105 Hewitt to register for support services if you have not already done so. If you need special accommodations for an exam you must email me for an appointment at least 3 weeks prior to the exam and bring your Test Accommodations form. Make a copy of the form for me to keep for my records. You need to do this separately for both the midterm and the final. The form is available at [http://www.barnard.edu/ods/forms/14\\_testaccomm1.html](http://www.barnard.edu/ods/forms/14_testaccomm1.html).

**Course Outline** – this is a rough guide and subject to change during the semester. Exact page numbers for readings will be posted on the course webpage as we go along.

## **I. What is the case for the "free market"?**

*Week 1: Introduction and Review of Supply and Demand*  
Chapter 1 (all); Chapter 2, Sections 2.1 - 2.5

*Weeks 2-5: The Theory of Consumer Behavior*  
Chapter 3, Section 3.1-3.5; Chapter 4, Sections 4.1 - 4.4  
Katz and Rosen, *Microeconomics*, 3rd Edition, pp. 101 - 118 of Chapter 4, "Price Changes and Consumer Welfare," on reserve and also posted on the lectures page

*Weeks 6-8: The Theory of the Firm*  
Chapter 6 (all); Chapter 7, Sections 7.1 - 7.4; Chapter 14, Sections 14.1-14.2

**Midterm:** Wednesday March 8 before midterm break

*Weeks 9 -11: Putting Consumers and Firms Together - The Perfectly Competitive Model*  
Chapters 8 (all), 9 (all), and 16 (omit Section 16.5)

## **II. What is the case for government intervention?**

*Week 12: Externalities and Public Goods*  
Chapter 18

*Weeks 13-14: Monopoly, Imperfect Competition and Game Theory*  
Chapters 10 and other readings to be announced

*Weeks 14-15: Extra topics and Catch-up*