

ECON 203: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Spring 2024

TA Information

Name: Max Greenberg

Email: maxgreenberg@umass.edu

Office: Gordon Hall 105

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Section Information

Time: Fri 9:05 AM – 9:55 AM

Room: Machmer Hall W-26

If you aren't able to make the regularly scheduled office hours in a given week, you may schedule a separate meeting by reaching out via email!

Introduction

Welcome to ECON 203: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory! In this document, you will find all of the information you will need relating to the discussion section in which you are enrolled (203-01AD).

The purpose of our discussion sections will be to review conceptually challenging aspects of the course material, to give you guided experience working through formally-stated (i.e. mathematical) practice problems in microeconomic theory, and to prepare you for the quizzes and exams which will ultimately determine your final grade. Due to the broad scope of the course and the difficulty of the material, Professor Katzner's lectures will almost certainly go too quickly for you to master the material on the first go around: it's my job to bridge the pedagogical gap that will necessarily arise.

Do not feel discouraged if you find the initial exposition of this course's material in the twice-weekly lectures to be confusing or even overwhelming — given the substantial leap in rigor between your introductory courses and this course, this is a common (and to some extent expected) sentiment among students. As a teaching assistant, I will do my best to minimize these feelings by identifying areas where you may be struggling conceptually and to help you reach a point where you feel comfortable with the material.

Discussion Section Expectations

During most of our meetings, we will spend our time together reviewing concepts from lecture and working through a handful of that week's study questions. I highly encourage you to look over the study questions before coming to section (better yet, try to solve a couple!) so you can give me some idea of which questions you find the most conceptually challenging, and we can use our time more efficiently. Given that the questions on the graded quizzes will be drawn exclusively

from the bank of study questions covered up to that point, doing so will surely be worth the time commitment required.

Additional meetings may be scheduled prior to the midterm and final exams to serve as review sessions. We will determine the date and time for these sessions based on our collective availability.

While attendance at every section is not strictly required, it is *very highly* recommended. As I mentioned above, much of our time will be spent on exercises meant to prepare you for the graded quizzes and exams: our discussion sections will therefore be more akin to guided study sessions than a third weekly lecture.

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes over the course of the semester. These will cumulatively count for 25% of your final grade, and will be administered in our weekly sections. Specifically, the dates to mark in your calendars are:

- **Quiz 1:** Friday, February 23rd
- **Quiz 2:** Friday, March 8th
- **Quiz 3:** Friday, April 19th
- **Quiz 4:** Friday, April 26th

Please make sure not to miss section on any of the dates above if humanly possible. If you know in advance that you will not be able to attend section on one of the above dates, let me know as early as you can and I will do my best to schedule a make-up.

Communication

As Professor Katzner wrote in his syllabus, questions about the material covered in this class are better directed to me than to him. Do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any course-relevant question. You can expect a prompt answer from me — within 24 hours, unless I'm traveling or otherwise unavailable (I will do my best to let you know in advance when I expect to be harder to contact). While it's not impossible that the occasional email will get lost in the shuffle, please give me at least that long to respond before following up.