



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

ECON 2302:003, **Principles of Microeconomics**, Fall 2024, CRN: 10312
Department of Accounting & Finance, College of Business

Course Syllabus

Class Meeting Time and Place: Tue, Thu 11:00 am - 12:15 pm, Science and Technology 166
Class Duration: 08/26 - 12/13
Instructor: Dr. Amir Fekrazad
Office: BLH 241-L
Tel: 210-784-2334

E-Mail: afekrazad@tamusa.edu.

Students can expect a reply to their emails within one business day.

Please include the course number (ECON 2302-003) in your communications.

Course Website: <https://tamusa.blackboard.com>

Office Hours: **In person:** Tue, Thu, 9:30 am – 11:00 am
Online (via Zoom): Wed, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
<https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/84893468095>
Or email the instructor to schedule an appointment.

Catalog Course Description:

The objective of this course is to understand the modern tools and methods used in economic decision-making. The course is designed for students with limited or no background in economics. The focus of the course is on the study of supply and demand, price theory, competition, market structure, market failure, and the role of government in addressing economic issues. This course satisfies the social behavioral sciences requirement under the core curriculum.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with fundamental economic concepts, such as opportunity cost, demand/supply, and elasticity. Additionally, the course will introduce the economic way of thinking, which includes simplifying assumptions and modeling techniques. Through this course, students will gain the analytical tools necessary to understand how both individuals and firms make decisions and how various factors influence these decisions.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, MATH 1314 or MATH 1324. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing.
Students who do not meet the pre-requisites must contact their advisor.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the thought processes of economists;
2. Understand demand and supply, describe how markets achieve equilibrium, and identify factors influencing this equilibrium;
3. Define elasticity and demonstrate how to calculate it;
4. Define and calculate both consumer and producer surplus;
5. Identify externalities, public goods, and common resources, and discuss appropriate market optimization policies when these factors are present;
6. Analyze the impacts of price controls and taxes on market dynamics.

Required Materials:

- **Textbook:** *Greg Mankiw, Principles of Microeconomics. Any edition. Cengage Learning. Custom e-book.* The e-book and included material are available to purchase at the university's book store.
- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have lecture notes, solutions to problems, multimedia materials and other supplementary materials in Blackboard.
- **Computer Hardware:** In order to participate in the tutoring sessions you will need a computer with an internet connection, a microphone and speakers/headphones.
- **Time Expectation for coursework:** You are expected to dedicate 3-5 hours per week to this course. Depending on their background, some students may require additional time. Please note that the time commitment might increase when assignments or exams are due.
- **Other Optional Material:**
 - Khan Academy Microeconomics lessons: <https://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/microeconomics>
 - "Free to Choose" documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dngqR9gcDDw&list=PLt271KoC5LS4wbD28Jkv95UUm9H7wbVO4&ab_channel=FreeToChooseNetwork

Course Requirements: To succeed in this course, every student must:

1. Check emails or the Announcements section on Blackboard daily.
2. Stay up-to-date with all course assignments, quizzes, and exams.
3. Actively ask questions, engage in discussions, and communicate with the instructor—whether in class, online, offline, or during office hours.
4. If completing classwork, exams, or quizzes off-campus, students are responsible for ensuring their own internet connectivity. Extensions will not be provided due to internet connectivity issues.
5. Both the midterm and final exams are proctored. Students should either attend the in-class exams or, if unable to do so, communicate with the instructor to schedule an exam at the university testing center.

Grading Policy: The final course grade will be determined by your performance in quizzes, exams, and presentations using the following weights:

Quizzes (6 online assignments)	25%
Mid-term Exam	32%
Final Exam	33%
Presentation	10%
Total	100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% \Rightarrow A; 80 – 89% \Rightarrow B; 70 – 79% \Rightarrow C; 60 – 69% \Rightarrow D; Below 60% \Rightarrow F.

Examinations and Quizzes: Each quiz will be accessible online for a duration of 6 days, allowing you the flexibility to take it at a time and location that suits you. Both the midterm and the final, however, will be conducted in class. If you have a legitimate reason preventing you from attending an exam in person, it's imperative that you notify the instructor at least one week in advance. With the instructor's approval, you may then opt to take the exam at the University Testing Center or through an online proctoring service.

Student Presentations: During the course, students will be grouped together, and each group will be tasked with presenting an economic topic to the class. These topics will be selected by the instructor and assigned to groups at random. Such presentations will contribute to 10% of the final grade. Exceptional presentations have the potential to earn an additional 5% bonus, bringing the total possible contribution to 15%.

Class Schedule

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Chapter and Topic</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1	Aug 27 Aug 29	Syllabus, Introduction Chapter 1 (Overview of Economic Principles)	
2	Sep 3 Sep 5	Chapter 2 (How to think like an economist)	Quiz 1 posted on Sep 5, due by Sep 11
3	Sep 10 Sep 12	Chapter 2 (How to think like an economist)	
4	Sep 17 Sep 19	Chapter 4 (Demand and Supply)	Quiz 2 posted on Sep 19, due by Sep 25
5	Sep 24 Sep 26	Chapter 4 (Demand and Supply, Equilibrium)	
6	Oct 1 Oct 3	Chapter 4 (Demand and Supply, Equilibrium)	Quiz 3 posted on Oct 3, due by Oct 9
7	Oct 8 Oct 10	Chapter 6 (Government Policies) Midterm Review	
8	Oct 15 Oct 17	Mid-term Exam on Oct 15 Chaptee 5 (Elasticity)	
9	Oct 22 Oct 24	Chaptee 5 (Elasticity)	Quiz 4 posted on Oct 24, due by Oct 30
10	Oct 29 Oct 31	Chapter 7 (Consumer/Producer surplus)	
11	Nov 5 Nov 7	Chapter 10 (Externality)	Quiz 5 posted on Nov 7, due by Nov 13
12	Nov 12 Nov 14	Chapter 11 (Public goods and common resources) Chapter 12 (Tax System)	
13	Nov 19 Nov 21	Student Presentations	Quiz 6 posted on Nov 21, due by Nov 27
14	Nov 26 Nov 28	Student Presentations <u>No class – Thanksgiving</u>	
15	Dec 3 Dec 5	Student Presentations Final Exam Review	
16	Dec 10	Final Exam	

Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy: Late submissions and make-up exams are not allowed unless the student provides verifiable evidence of an emergency situation.

Class conduct and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or the end of the class.

2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
3. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide it to the instructor, if necessary. Keep own copies of all computer files and e-mails till final grade is received.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned OFF and headphones removed.
6. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, well in advance of the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 2 business days (Monday-Friday).
8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and time. Submission window may close or marked late, even if late by one second.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Class attendance and Participation: A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions, participate in class discussions and problem solving, and visit/contact the instructor during office hours in case of questions or concerns. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

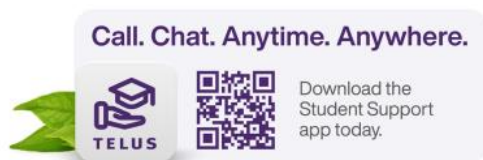
The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important, and may vary considerably based on student background. However, a **minimum** of two hours of work outside the class is expected for every one hour of class period per week. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite

210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. **Counseling/Mental Health Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any

student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender

expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission: There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor

for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Key Dates For Fall 2024 Semester

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/documents/AY2025-Academic-Calendar.pdf>

March 25	Monday	Registration opens
August 19	Monday	Tuition & fee payment deadline
August 22	Thursday	Drop for non-payment
August 23	Friday	Last day for students withdrawing to receive 100% refund (0% responsibility) for tuition
August 26	Monday	First class day
September 2	Monday	Labor Day Holiday - No classes
September 3	Tuesday	Last day to register
September 11	Wednesday	Census Date
September 12	Thursday	Drop for non-payment
October 7 - October 18	Monday - Friday	Midterm grading period
November 11	Monday	Last day to drop with an automatic grade of "W"
November 19	Tuesday	Last day to withdraw from the university
November 27	Wednesday	Study day - No classes
November 28 - November 30	Thursday - Saturday	Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes
December 5	Thursday	Last day of scheduled classes for weekday classes
December 6	Friday	Study day - No classes
December 7 - December 13	Saturday - Friday	Final examinations
December 13	Friday	End of term
December 16	Monday	All grades due by noon
December 17	Tuesday	Commencement
December 19	Thursday	Grades available in JagWire
December 24 - January 1	Tuesday - Wednesday	Winter Break