



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

ECON 2302:915, **Principles of Microeconomics**, Spring 2024, CRN: 22879
Department of Accounting & Finance, College of Business
Course Syllabus

Class Modality: Hybrid/Blended. In a hybrid course, in-person meetings will be supplemented with additional materials such as lecture videos.

Class Meeting Time and Place: Wed 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm, Classroom Hall 321

Class Duration: 01/16 - 05/07

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 2302-915) in your communications.

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

Office Hours: **In person:** Wed 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Online (via Zoom): Tue, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
<https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/86045051556>
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 courework:** 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=PLt27IKoC5LS4wbD28Jkv95UUm9H7wbVO4&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 (5 online assignments)	30%
Mid-term Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Total	100%

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

Week	Dates	Chapter and Topic	Assignments
1	Jan 17	Syllabus, Introduction	

		Chapter 1 (Overview of Economic Principles)	
2	Jan 24	Chapter 2 (How to think like an economist)	Quiz 1 posted on Jan 24, due by Jan 30
3	Jan 31	Chapter 2 (How to think like an economist)	
4	Feb 7	Chapter 4 (Demand)	Quiz 2 posted on Feb 7, due by Feb 13
5	Feb 14	Chapter 4 (Supply, Equilibrium)	
6	Feb 21	Chapter 4 (Equilibrium)	Quiz 3 posted on Feb 21, due by Feb 27
7	Feb 28	Chapter 6 (Price Controls and Tax) Midterm Exam Review	
8	Mar 6	Mid-term Exam	
9	Mar 13	Spring Break - No Class	
10	Mar 20	Chapter 5 (Elasticity)	
11	Mar 27	Chapter 7 (Elasticity)	Quiz 4 posted on Mar 27, due by Apr 2
12	Apr 3	Chapter 7 (Externalities)	
13	Apr 10	Chapter 10 (Externalities)	Quiz 5 posted on Apr 10, due by Apr 16
14	Apr 17	Chapter 11 (Public goods and common resources)	
15	Apr 24	Chapter 12 (Tax System) Final Exam Review	
16	May 1	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.

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.

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.

Counseling Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call [210-784-1331](tel:210-784-1331) between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday, to be seen by a clinician. For after-hours support, please call 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

Jaguar Writing Center

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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/college-of-arts-and-sciences/language-literature-arts/english/writing-center/index.html>. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@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 A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or 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.

Drop Policy

You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at www.tamusa.edu. The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website (www.tamusa.edu). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

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 procedure 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, genetic information, 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

5. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.

6. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
7. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

Violations of Academic Conduct (Section 14.5 Student Handbook)

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <https://www.tamusa.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities/index.html>.

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. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work given to student, or solutions, or discussion, on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

Key Dates for Spring 2024 Semester

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar/>

January 16

Tuesday

First class day

January 23	Wednesday	Last day to register for Spring 16-week Session
January 31	Wednesday	Last day for students to apply for Spring 2024 graduation
January 31	Wednesday	Deadline for students who have applied for Spring 2024 graduation to complete Change of Name and/or Change of Major form(s) at the Welcome Center
January 31	Wednesday	Census Date
February 1	Thursday	Drop for non-payment
February 14	Wednesday	Spring 2024 Graduation Application Fee payment deadline
February 26-March 8	Monday-Friday	Midterm grading period
March 11-17	Monday-Sunday	Spring Break - no classes
March 29	Friday	Study day - No classes
April 13	Saturday	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
April 20	Saturday	Last day to withdraw from the university
April 29	Monday	Last day of scheduled classes
April 30	Tuesday	Study day - no classes
May 1-7	Wednesday-Tuesday	Final examinations
May 7	Tuesday	End of Spring Semester
May 13	Monday	All grades for Spring 16-week session due by noon via Jagwire
May 13	Monday	Spring Commencement
May 16	Thursday	Grades available in JagWire