



Microeconomic Theory
ECON 323
Summer 2022
MF 12:00 – 1:35pm HECC 207

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jiee Zhong

Office: Liberal Arts Social Sciences Building (LASB), Room 225

Email: jieezhong@tamu.edu

Office Hours: Monday 4-5 PM, Tuesday 4-5 PM, zoom (<https://tamu.zoom.us/j/2353283098>)

TA: Tongtong Hu

Email: tongtong.hu@tamu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 3-5PM via zoom(<https://tamu.zoom.us/j/91203957338>)

Office Hours Policy

Office hours are available to everyone! You do not need to schedule a time to come see me – just join the zoom.

Email Policy

You are more than welcome to send me an email – even at night or on the weekends (though I do not guarantee an immediate reply). When doing so, please follow the guidelines below:

- Please read the syllabus and check Canvas before sending me an email. Often, the information you are looking for is in one of those two places.
- In the subject line, include **ECON 323-Your Name - Subject of Email**. Emails easily get lost in the shuffle, and this helps me keep track of everything. **I cannot guarantee that I will reply to your email if your subject line does not follow the format above.**
- In most cases, you should expect an email reply from me within 48 hours. However, if you email on a Friday afternoon or over the weekend, I cannot guarantee a reply within that time frame.

Course Description

In this class we will build on the foundation of microeconomics in studying the behavior of individuals, households, and firms. This class gives a deeper understanding of concepts in microeconomics through the use of intuition, mathematical tools, and applications.

Prerequisites

ECON 202; MATH 142

Learning Outcomes

Texas A&M University has identified student learning outcomes that describe our institutional commitment to your education goals. These include the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, effective communication, and social, cultural, and global competence. With regard to this course, specific student learning outcomes include:

- Understand supply and demand and solve for equilibrium price and quantity with comparative statics.
- Calculate elasticity and explain the economic meaning of it.

- Explain public goods and externalities.
- Understand the consumer's optimization problem.
- Understand the producer's optimization problem.
- Identify different market types and behaviors.

Course Material

Textbook

The required text is **Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson, 3rd edition**, and is available at the TAMU bookstore or on Macmillan's website. **The textbook is bundled with Achieve Essentials.** Homework will be assigned regularly through Achieve Essentials. See below for signup instructions.

There are two textbook and Achieve Essentials bundles from which you can choose:

- E-book only + Achieve Essentials Access Card: ISBN 9781319386054
- Print + E-book + Achieve Essentials Access Card: ISBN 9781319443535

Grading Policy

Final letter grades will be given as follows without exception:

Letter Grade	Score
A	$\geq 89.50\%$
B	79.50% to 89.49%
C	69.50% to 79.49%
D	59.50% to 69.49%
F	$< 59.50\%$

Grades are based on weekly homework assignments, the midterm exam, and the final exam.

Grading Scheme

Grading Scheme	
Assignments	Percentage
Achieve Homeworks	35%
Participation (Poll Everywhere)	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Achieve Homework

Homework will be due on the specific day at 11:59pm unless otherwise noted. It will be an online assignment through Achieve Essentials. For each question you will have unlimited attempts to get the correct answer. For each incorrect attempt, however, you will incur a 5% penalty on that question. For

example, if the question is worth 100 points and it takes you two attempts to select the correct answer, you will receive a 95 on that question.

How to register:

- **You must sign up for Achieve Essentials through Canvas in order for your grades to sync properly.** Follow the instructions listed [here](#).
 - The Achieve assignment you need to click on is located in Canvas >> Assignments >> Achieve Homework >> Link Achieve to Canvas.
 - You can enroll in this course using one of the following options:
 - Enrolling using an access code: If you have already purchased an access code from the TAMU bookstore, use this option.
 - Enrolling by purchasing access online: If you would prefer to purchase an access code through Achieve, use this option.
 - Enrolling with a grace period: If you need to start working but cannot purchase right away, select this option.
 - Our course code for Achieve Essentials is **MTWThF**

Please see the Getting Started Guide for Students (located [here](#)) for more instructions on gaining access, assignments, the e-book, and grades.

Participation with Poll Everywhere

Your grade from participation depends on the percentage of times (no matter right or wrong) that you response to the in-class questions using Poll Everywhere.

How to register:

1. Go to <https://pollev.com/home>
2. Select "login" on the left side
3. Input your school email and then click Next. On the next screen, select "Forgot Password" if this is your first time logging in.
4. It will ask for your email again. Type it here and select "Reset password"
5. Check your email to get your reset link and click it
6. Log in with your new password.

Response to the in-class question:

1. Go to <https://pollev.com/home>
2. Put JIEZHONG549 into the username, then click Join. You will can respond to the question as long as Jiee activates the question.

Exams

You will have two exams throughout the semester. The midterm exam will cover the first parts and the final exam will cover the second part.

Attendance and Lecture Recordings

The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. While attendance is not mandatory, **I highly recommend that you attend class**, as attendance is essential to completing the course successfully.

This course is a face-to-face class; there is no remote option. Given the high likelihood of students having to miss class due to COVID exposures, however, I will be sharing recordings of the lecture. **Lecture recordings will be shared with your TAMU email account via Google Drive.** I will share the

recorded lecture with you within 24 hours of the particular class, and you will have access to this recording for one week. To access the recording, go to the Google Drive associated with your TAMU account and look under the “Shared with Me” tab. **You may not save, download, or share the lecture recording.**

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

Apart from a university excused absence, no late assignments will be accepted. If you miss an exam due to a university excused absence then **you must notify me within 24 hours and present written documentation** in order to receive a make-up exam. For more information, see [University Policies](#) below.

Tentative Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change as the semester progresses. Depending on how we are doing on time, I may adjust the schedule and will notify everyone in the class and on Canvas of any changes. Homework assignments must be submitted by **11:59 pm** on the due date.

Tentative Course Schedule*

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Reading
Week 1			
May 31(Tue)	Introduction	Register with Achieve Essentials	Introduction
June 1 (Wed)	Supply & Demand		Chapter 2
June 2 (Thu)	Supply & Demand		Chapter 2
June 3 (Fri)	Review Supply & Demand	TA recitation	Chapter 2
Week 2			
June 6 (Mon)	Using Supply & Demand to Analyze Markets	HW #1 (Ch 2) due by 11:59 PM	Chapter 3
June 7 (Tue)	Using Supply & Demand to Analyze Markets		Chapter 3
June 8 (Wed)	Consumer Behavior		Chapter 4
June 9 (Thu)	Consumer Behavior		Chapter 4
June 10 (Fri)	Review Chapter 3&4	TA recitation;	Chapter 3&4
Week 3			
June 13 (Mon)	Individual and Market Demand	HW #2 (Ch 3 &4) due by 11:59 PM	Chapter 5
June 14 (Tue)	Individual and Market Demand		Chapter 5
June 15 (Wed)	Midterm Review Chs 2, 3,4		
June 16 (Thu)	Midterm Exam		Test covers Chapters 2, 3,4
June 17 (Fri)	Review Individual and Market Demand	TA recitation;	Chapter 5
Week 4			
June 20 (Mon)	Producer Behavior	HW #3 (Ch 5) due by 11:59 PM	Chapter 6
June 21 (Tue)	Producer Behavior		Chapter 6
June 22 (Wed)	Costs		Chapter 7
June 23 (Thu)	Costs, Supply in the Competitive Market		Chapter 7,8
June 24 (Fri)	Review Chs 6-7	TA recitation;	Chapter 8,
Week 5			
June 27 (Mon)	Supply in the Competitive Market, Market Power and Monopoly	HW #4 (Ch 6, 7) due by 11:59 PM	Chapter 8, 9

June 28 (Tue)	Market Power and Monopoly		Chapter 9
June 29 (Wed)	Externalities		Chapter 9,17
June 30 (Thu)	Externalities; Review 5-9, 17	TA recitation	Chapter 17
July 1 (Fri)	Review 5-9, 17	TA recitation; HW #5 (Ch 8, 9) due by 11:59 PM	
Week 6			
July 5 (Tue)	Office hours (12:00-1:35 PM, HECC 207)		
July 6 (Wed)	Final Exam	Wednesday, July 6 th , 12:00-1:35 PM HECC 207	Cumulative with emphasis on 5-9, 17

**This schedule is subject to change as the semester progresses.* Depending on how we are doing on time, I may make adjustments to the schedule. If I make adjustments, I will either announce them in my lectures or send an email as well as update the syllabus on Canvas.

University Policies

Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that

student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below). 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 Resources and their instructors as soon as possible. Disability Resources is located in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, a person who is subjected to the alleged conduct will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care by utilizing available resources and services on your campus

Students who need someone to talk to can contact Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) or call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

While I am not a licensed counselor, I am more than happy to listen. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would ever like to talk. I am also happy to connect you to on- and off-campus resources.