

The TF, CAs, will each have hour long office hours, and the instructor will have 90 minute office hours. Use this opportunity to discuss the class material in a more personalized fashion. If you cannot make any of these, I may be available to hold short appointments with you one and one, as a last resort, to be scheduled via email to me.

Prerequisites

This course is intended for first-year MPA/ID students. If you are not in the MPA/ID program, you will be admitted only with the permission of the instructor and under extreme circumstances. If you are interested in taking a course on advanced microeconomic theory, you should consider taking API 111, which is cross-listed as ECON 2020a and HBS 4010, which is the analogous Ph.D. level course on microeconomic theory.

In terms of prerequisites for the course content, a comprehensive grasp of multivariate calculus is necessary. Familiarity with probability theory, optimization, and linear algebra are extremely helpful. Because mathematical proofs are a core part of microeconomic theory, a comfort level with this sort of reasoning will be extremely helpful for understanding the material, though students will not be asked to do proofs themselves. Otherwise, supplementary knowledge for handling the course material will be handled at the MPA/ID Math Camp.

Course Materials

I will teach primarily out of Nolan Miller's Notes on Microeconomic Theory (NM). These are publicly available and can be downloaded here: <https://nmiller.web.illinois.edu/notes.html>

The standard core textbook for advanced microeconomic theory is "Microeconomic Theory" By Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green (MWG). I will assign analogous passages from this textbook to each NM reading. Students are not required to purchase the textbook. This textbook is more mathematically rigorous and detailed compared to NM, and may be helpful for reviewing the material if you would like a more comprehensive understanding of the material. I will upload material to the Canvas website when these are required readings, along with lecture slides and any other supplementary readings recommended before each lecture.

Course Assignments:

The course will be graded based on six problem sets, a midterm, and a final exam.

Course grades will be adjusted based on overall performance, and in line with the grading curve of other HKS courses.

Grade Components:

Problem Sets (6 total): 30%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 45%

Letter Grades will be allocated based on the Dean's recommended grade distribution, as seen below:

A	A-	B+	B	B- or lower
15%	25%	35%	20%	5%

This means that the top 15% of students in terms of grades get an A, the top 15%-40% get an A-, etc.

Problem Sets

incorporate into your coursework text produced predominantly by generative AI. More information about Harvard's policies on academic integrity may be found in the Student Handbook.

Accessibility and Accommodations for Student Learning

Harvard University values inclusive excellence and providing equal educational opportunities for all students. Our goal is to remove bar

10/31	17	Natural Monopoly	NM 9.4	MWG
11/05	18	Partial Equilibrium I: Competitive Equilibrium	NM 7.1, 7.2	

11/28	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Recess		
12/03	24	Final Review 1		
12/05	25	Final Review 2		
12/18	FINAL	From 9am to noon		

Notes:need 3 more lectures, should add at least 1 to consumer theory, one to producer theory.