

**Econ 303 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory**  
**4 Units | Fall 2023**

**Section 26083R - M,W - 4-5:20**

**Z: 971 0308 4710**

**Section 26085R – T,Th - 4-5:20**

**Z: 941 1477 1913**

**Instructor: Ergin Bayrak**

**Office:** KAP 116C

**Office Hours:** Mon, Tue 2:30-3:30

[ebayrak@usc.edu](mailto:ebayrak@usc.edu) | [www.erginbayrak.com](http://www.erginbayrak.com)

**Teaching Assistant:**

[Alessandro Giambrone](#) Office hours: TBA

The course will be held in-person.

Students who are on campus should be present in the classroom for the best learning experience.

Zoom recordings will be made available to students who are not able to attend in-person for medical or other emergencies.

### **Course Description**

This is an intermediate level course in microeconomic theory. Topics that will be covered include the theory of the consumer (utility maximization and demand), the theory of the firm (cost minimization/profit maximization and supply), market structure (competition, monopoly, oligopoly), game theory (strategic interaction between economics agents) and market failures (asymmetric information, externalities and public goods). This course will build on the aptitudes attained in Econ 203-205 and Math118 and is intended to improve the essential economic thinking skills of the students, enabling them to discern, comprehend and confront the major microeconomic issues.

### **Learning Objectives**

Successful completion of this course will result in a) Ability to intelligently observe and explain the functioning of markets, failures therein, justifications and consequences of various types of economic policies, and b) Ability to apply the critical economic thinking skills to analysis of consumer and firm behavior and their interactions.

**Prerequisite(s):** Econ 203, 205 Math 118

### **Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

Goolsbee, Levitt and Syverson (2nd Ed.) ISBN:1319045669. Prior edition of the textbook is sufficient as well. In addition to the chapter assignments from the textbook, additional readings, and audio/visual supplementary material may be provided for critical analysis and discussion. Materials will be available on the class website.

### **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

The final grade in this course will be based on 4 homework assignments, (administered in approximately 4 week intervals) one midterm and one final. These tests will include short answer questions that are designed to test your ability to concisely and effectively articulate your understanding of the course material, and analytical problems that are designed to test your mathematical and analytical understanding of the course material. A legible and organized deliverable of the assignment will need to be submitted in the beginning of the class on the day it is due. Late submissions will not be accepted. A formal written excuse for an absence is required to arrange for make-up tests.

	<b>% of Grade</b>
4 Assignments	4x10%
Midterm	25%
Final	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1.	Course overview and Introduction	CH 1
Week 2.	Understanding Markets: Demand, Supply and Equilibrium.	CH 2
Week 3.	Analysis of Markets	CH 3
Week 4.	Understanding Consumer Behavior I Preferences and Constraints	CH 4
Week 5.	Understanding Consumer Behavior II From Consumer Choice to Market Demand	CH 5
Week 6.	Understanding Firm Behavior I Productivity and Costs	CH 6-7
Week 7-8.	Understanding Firm Behavior II Profit Maximization and Competitive Supply	CH 8
Week 9.	Review and Midterm	
Week 10.	Market Power and its Consequences I Monopoly	CH9
Week 11.	Market Power and its Consequences II Pricing with Market Power	CH 10
Week 12.	Market Power and its Consequences III Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	CH11
Week 13.	Market Failures I Asymmetric Information, Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard	CH 16
Week 14.	Market Failures II Externalities and Public Goods	CH 17
Week 15.	Course Review	

Final Examinations:

26083R M,W section: Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm same classroom

26085R: T,Th Section: Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm same classroom

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

### Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### Support Systems:

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086*  
[eeotix.usc.edu](http://eeotix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*  
[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776*  
[osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu)

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

[campussupport.usc.edu](http://campussupport.usc.edu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)*

[ombuds.usc.edu](http://ombuds.usc.edu)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

*Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)*

[chan.usc.edu/otfp](http://chan.usc.edu/otfp)

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.