

ECON 244-001: Introduction to Economic Analysis

The University of Akron, College of Business, Department of Economics

Syllabus Spring 2026

The course meets the General Education — Social Science Requirement.

Instructor: Mengxi Sun

Email: msun@uakron.edu.

Use your UA email account and include “ECON 244-001” in the subject line; otherwise I may accidentally overlook your email.

Response time is within 24 hours. Emails received after 5 PM Friday, on weekends, or school off days will be answered on the next workday.

Class Time: Tue. & Thu. 10:45 am - 12:00 am

Class Location: Room 402 Polsky Building (POL)

This is an in-person class and attendance is expected.

Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 9:00 - 10:00 am in CBA 308 or by appointment if you can't make it to any of the office hours. (Hours are tentative.)

Time commitment: 7.5 hours/week.

Important dates:

First day of the class is on Tuesday, January 13th 2026.

Midterm takes place in class on Thursday, March 12th 2026 (tentative).

Final is comprehensive during May 4 – 10th 2026 (scheduled by university).

Learning Objectives

Students who have completed this course should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic economic principles and apply them to daily life.
2. To find and evaluate informational resources about the economy.
3. To understand the balance between allocative efficiency and distributional equity.
4. To solve economic problems using quantitative and qualitative analysis.
5. To communicate basic economic analysis effectively to a lay audience.

Textbook

The course lectures will be based on the textbook. Attending the class, participating, and taking notes will be important. All course materials are accessible on Brightspace. To get to the login page of Brightspace, go to: <https://brightspace.uakron.edu/d2l/home>. Achieve is embedded in Brightspace and used for access of the textbook and online assignments.

- Modern Principles of Economics (6th edition). Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok

Schedule of Course Materials

1. Chapter 1: The Big Ideas
2. Chapter 2: The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage
3. Chapter 3: Supply and Demand
4. Chapter 4: Equilibrium
5. Chapter 5: Elasticity and Its Applications
6. Chapter 8: Price Ceilings and Floors
7. Chapter 9: International Trade and the Impact of Tariff
8. Chapter 10: Externalities: When the Price Is Not Right

9. Chapter 11: Cost and Profit Maximization Under Competition
10. Chapter 12: Competition and the Invisible Hand
11. Chapter 13: Monopoly
12. *Chapter 19: Public goods and the Tragedy of the Commons
13. Chapter 26: GDP and the Measurement of Progress
14. Chapter 30: Unemployment and Labor Force Participation
15. Chapter 31: Inflation
16. Chapter 32: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

*These chapters are optional and may be covered depending on the course's progress.

Grades

- About 10 online assignments (30%), and 2 writing assignments (20%):
 - Online assignments: 12 assignments in total. Your 10 highest scores will count toward the final grade. Each worth 3% towards final grade. Homework assignments are released along the teaching progress and typically open for 9 days. Please check the specific due dates on Brightspace or Achieve as these assignment approaches.
 - Writing assignment: each worth 10% towards final grade. Writing assignments are released at least two weeks before the due date. You would upload your answers on Brightspace.
- 2 exams (50%): the midterm (25%) and the final (25%).

All exams are in-class closed-book, closed-note, and individual effort. Most of the exam questions will be a straightforward review of the material, closely parallel to in-class examples and online assignments. A few questions unlike those you have seen are there to test deeper comprehension of the material.

| Week | Date/Topic | Date/Topic | Assignment Release |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 1/13 | 1/15 | |
| | Ch.1 | Ch.2 | |
| 2 | 1/20 | 1/22 | HW1 (Ch. 2 & 3) |
| | Ch.3 | Ch.3 | |
| 3 | 1/27 | 1/29 | HW2 (Ch. 3 & 4) |
| | Ch.4 | Ch.5 | |
| 4 | 2/3 | 2/5 | HW3 (Ch. 5) |
| | Ch.5 | Ch.8 | |
| 5 | 2/10 | 2/12 | HW4 (Ch. 8 & 9) |
| | Ch.8 | Ch.9 | |
| 6 | 2/17 | 2/19 | Writing Assignment 1 |
| | No class | Ch.10 | |
| 7 | 2/24 | 2/26 | HW5 (Ch. 10 & 19) |
| | Ch.10 | Ch.19 | |
| 8 | 3/3 | 3/5 | HW6 (Ch. 11) |
| | Ch.11 | Ch.11 | |
| 9 | 3/10 | 3/12 | HW7 (Ch. 12) |
| | Ch.12 | Midterm | |
| 10 | 3/17 | 3/19 | HW8 (Ch. 13) |
| | Ch.12 | Ch.13 | |
| 11 | 3/24 | 3/26 | |
| | Spring Break (no class) | | |
| 12 | 3/31 | 4/2 | HW9 (Ch. 26) |
| | Ch.13 | Ch.26 | |
| 13 | 4/7 | 4/9 | HW10 (Ch. 30) |
| | Ch.26 | Ch.30 | |
| 14 | 4/14 | 4/16 | HW11 (Ch. 31) |
| | Ch.30 | Ch.31 | |
| 15 | 4/21 | 4/23 | Writing Assignment 2 |
| | Ch.31 | Ch.32 | |
| 16 | 4/28 | 4/30 | HW12 (Ch. 32) |
| | Ch.32 | Ch.32 | |
| 17 | 5/5 | 5/7 | |
| | Final Exam Week | | |

Note: This schedule is tentative. Topics, homework release dates, and deadlines may be adjusted depending on the pace of the course.

Grading Scale (with scientific rounding of percentages to the first decimal place):

| Letter Grade | Start % | End % |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| A | 93 | 100 |
| A- | 90 | 92.9 |
| B+ | 87 | 89.9 |
| B | 83 | 86.9 |
| B- | 80 | 82.9 |
| C+ | 77 | 79.9 |
| C | 73 | 76.9 |
| C- | 70 | 72.9 |
| D+ | 67 | 69.9 |
| D | 63 | 66.9 |
| D- | 60 | 62.9 |
| F | 0 | 59.9 |

Communication

If you anticipate or experience any difficulty fulfilling the requirements of the course, please inform me as soon as possible so that we have time to figure out the best solution. Contacting me about such issues at the end of the semester when your grade is lower than what you would like it to be will unlikely change anything.

- **Accessibility Services:** Pursuant to University policy #3359–38–01, The University of Akron recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional atmosphere in which students with disabilities have the opportunity to be successful. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Accessibility at 330-972-7928 or access@uakron.edu. The office is located in Simmons Hall Room 105. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will be applied prospectively from the point in time at which all relevant paperwork is received in full.
- **Late assignments:** You will be given enough time to finish each assignment. Late assignments would **not** be accepted to make it fair to all students.
- **Missing Midterm:** There is **no** makeup exams. If you have to miss midterm, the weight will be redistributed to the final.

Attendance Policy

Attendance refers to being present during scheduled class sessions. It's the foundation for active learning. Here's what is expected:

- **Regular Attendance:** As this is a in person course, you are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions in POL 402 on time.
- **Impact on Grade:** Attendance will be recorded but will not directly affect your grade unless chronic absences are observed, which may lead to academic consequences.

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the standards of academic honesty and all university policies. Any student engaged in cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic misconduct would be subject to disciplinary action. For additional information, please contact the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

- **Academic Misconduct** will be reported to the university. The first violation leads to the loss of 5 points from the grand total. The second violation leads to the reduction of two letter grades (e.g. A to C). For regulation and definition of academic misconduct, please refer to: [University Code of Conduct](#), [Avoiding Plagiarism](#), [Academic Integrity](#).

- **Use of AI/ChatGPT**

Ethical use of AI tools is allowed in this course. I define ethical use as follows:

- **Permitted Use:** AI tools may be used for brainstorming ideas or refining drafts of written work, provided their use is disclosed in your submission. You may (and should) use programs such as Microsoft Word's Editor and Grammarly's editing tools. Keep in mind that you should not automatically and thoughtlessly make all changes that these tools suggest.
- **Prohibited Use:** You are not permitted to use any work product or submit any assignment that has been generated in whole or in part using artificial intelligence or the equivalent.

- Academic Integrity: Undisclosed or inappropriate use of AI tools will be treated as an Honor Code violation and will result in administrative removal from the course, entry of an F for the course, and referral to the disciplinary committee.
- Sharing class materials, including problem sets and exams on the internet is a violation of academic integrity.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence

The University of Akron is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination, including sexual violence and sexual harassment. This includes instances of attempted and/or completed sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, gender-based stalking, and sexual harassment. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences sexual violence or sexual harassment, know that you are not alone. Help is available, regardless of when the violence or harassment occurred, and even if the person who did this is not a student, faculty, or staff member.

Confidential help is available. If you wish to speak to a professional, in confidence, please contact:

- Rape Crisis Center, 24-hour Hotline: 330-434-7273. Office located in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center 246. The on-campus office number is 330-972-6328. For help for victims of sexual misconduct, refer to [Title IX: Help for Victims of Sexual Misconduct homepage](#).
- University Counseling Service: refer to [Counseling & Testing Center homepage](#).
- Student Health Services: refer to [Student Health Services homepage](#).

Please know the majority of other University of Akron employees, including faculty members, are considered to be “responsible employees” under the law and are required to report sexual harassment and sexual violence. If you tell a responsible employee about a situation, that employee will be required to report it to the Title IX Coordinator and possibly the police.

Code of Student Conduct

Violations of Code of Student Conduct, including Offenses Against Others, Unauthorized Recording, Hazing, are not allowed. For more details on Code of Student Conduct and

consequence of violation, please refer to <https://www.uakron.edu/studentconduct/code-of-conduct.dot>.

Student Resources

ZipAssist is designed to share available resources and provide support and assistance to help students be successful at The University of Akron. For more information, please refer to <https://www.uakron.edu/zipassist/>.

University Policies

Detailed information on the University of Akron's policies, including the Student Code of Conduct, academic misconduct rules, ethical use of AI tools like ChatGPT, add/drop/withdrawal and refund policies, inclusive excellence, Title IX, sexual harassment and violence policies, disability accommodations, religious accommodations, support programs like ZipAssist, and first-day course materials fee can be accessed here: <https://www.uakron.edu/oa/faculty-affairs/What-students-need-to-know>.