Econ 520: Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus - Spring 2016
Professor David Slusky (david.slusky@ku.edu)
Office hours: TR 2-3 in Snow 335 -- Please come talk to me with any questions or concerns!
Department of Economics, University of Kansas

Goals
- To gain a mastery of the mathematical and graphical representations of microeconomics
- To be able to quantitatively evaluate and recommend public policies
- To be prepared for Econ 600-level courses in trade, sports, resource & environment, public finance, science & technology, labor, financial markets, industrial organization, regulation, welfare, and health
- To be prepared for Econ 700 (masters-level micro theory), required for the B.S. major

Prerequisites: Math 116 (or 122), Econ 142, Econ 144 (or equivalents in calculus/micro/macro)

Required Textbook: Goolsbee, Levitt and Syverson, Microeconomics, Worth, 2013 (1st Ed).
You may rent, buy (new/used/ebook) or use one of several copies which will be on reserve at Anschutz Library. Please let me know if you ever find that all reserve copies are all in use.

Tentative lecture schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapters covered</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapters covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: 1/19, 1/21</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>9: 3/15, 3/17(spring break)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>2: 1/26, 1/28</td>
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<td>10: 3/22, 3/24</td>
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<td>3: 2/2, 2/4</td>
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<td>11: 3/29, 3/31</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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<td>4: 2/9, 2/11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12: 4/5, 4/7</td>
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<td>5: 2/16, 2/18</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>13: 4/12, 4/14</td>
<td>Midterm 2, 13-14</td>
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<td>6: 2/23, 2/25</td>
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<td>14: 4/19, 4/21</td>
<td>14-15</td>
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<td>7: 3/1, 3/3</td>
<td>Midterm 1, 9</td>
<td>15: 4/26, 4/28</td>
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<td>8: 3/8, 3/10</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>16: 5/3, 5/5</td>
<td>17</td>
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Grading: The course is graded on a standard A-F +/- scale (e.g., A=93%+), though I reserve the right to curve the grade distribution in your favor (e.g., A=91%+). Any grade less than a D- is failing. For credit/no credit, any grade less than a C is considered as no credit.

Grade percentages:

- Attendance: 10%
- Homework: 15%
- Midterm exam 1: 20%
- Midterm exam 2: 20%
- Final exam: 35%

Attendance: Lecture attendance is required. If you cannot attend a lecture (for any reason), you can receive credit by emailing me an original typed single spaced page summarizing in your own words the chapter(s) covered in that lecture by 24 hours after the class time of the lecture.
**Homework:** Problems will be assigned on Thursdays and due the following Tuesday (in class or in my mailbox) by the beginning of lecture. Late homework will not be accepted. Each problem set will also include an assigned podcast from NPR’s Planet Money, questions about which will be on the exams. You may work with up to 2 other people, but must turn in your own answers. Please write on the top of your homework the names of the individuals you worked with.

**Piazza:** This course has a Piazza forum (search for Econ 520 at [https://piazza.com/ku](https://piazza.com/ku)). Use is optional but encouraged. Please do not post answers to homework until the day after it is due.

**Exams:** Exams will be in-person during prescheduled times (e.g., 9-10:15), closed book, no electronic devices (including calculators). Please speak to me if you are a varsity athlete who will be traveling and in need of a proctor. If you believe I have made an error in grading your exam send me a detailed email within 48 hours of me returning the exam and then come to my office hours to discuss. I will re-grade your entire exam -- your score may increase or decrease.

**Make-up exams:** Make-up exams for religious holidays will be provided with documentation from a religious official. Please speak to me by February 1. Last minute make-up exams will only be provided in extreme situations, such as incapacitating illness or a death in the family. Please come speak to me and bring official documentation. Otherwise, see “rewighting” below.

**Reweighting:** If you do substantially better on the final exam than on either/both midterms, I will reweight your final grade toward the final exam. For example, if your exam scores are 85, 65, 80, then I will calculate your average as 0.2 * 85 + 0.55 * 80 and drop midterm 2. This can also be used if you have to miss an exam due to a reason that does not qualify for a make-up.

**Extra credit presentations:** You may earn up to 3 percentage points of extra credit on your final grade by doing a 5-minute in-class presentation. In it, you will summarize a news article or opinion piece and then draw on the board a microeconomics graph that could have been included with the article but was not. Please email me to schedule your presentation if you’re interested.

**Electronic devices:** We are all (me included) addicted to our smartphones/laptops/tablets, and using them has a negative externality on other students (see Sana et al. 2013. “Laptop multitasking hinders classroom learning for both users and nearby peers,” Computers & Education 62: 24-31.) This class will therefore have a “no electronic devices” policy. If I see you using an electronic device in class, I reserve the right to void your attendance for that lecture. If there is an emergency and you need to answer a phone call please leave the classroom first. Video or audio recording of lectures without my prior consent is also prohibited.

**Disability Requirements:** If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the Disabilities Resources Office at the University of Kansas ([http://disability.ku.edu](http://disability.ku.edu))

**Academic Integrity:** The rules of academic integrity will be strictly enforced (please refer to the University of Kansas’s guidelines). Breaches will not be tolerated under any circumstances. For example, consulting solution guides for problem sets before they are due is considered a breach.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to modify this syllabus in the event of an unforeseen situation.