

## ECON 520: Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus – Fall 2017

Professor David Slusky ([david.slusky@ku.edu](mailto:david.slusky@ku.edu))

Office hours: TR 1-2 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, 2016 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

Week	Chapters covered	Week	Chapters covered
1: 8/22, 8/24	1-2	9: 10/17, 10/19	(Fall Break), 11
2: 8/29, 8/31	3	10: 10/24, 10/26	11,12
3: 9/5, 9/7	4	11: 10/31, 11/2	12, <b>Midterm 2 (8-11)</b>
4: 9/12, 9/14	5	12: 11/7, 11/9	13-14
5: 9/19, 9/21	6-7	13: 11/14, 11/16	14-15
6: 9/26, 9/28	8	14: 11/21, 11/23	16, (Thanksgiving)
7: 10/3, 10/5	<b>Midterm 1 (2-7), 9</b>	15: 11/28, 11/30	17
8: 10/10, 10/12	10	16: 12/5, 12/7	18
		17: 12/15, 7:30 AM	<b>Final Exam (2-17)</b>

**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 generally will be assigned on Thursdays and due the following Tuesday (in class or my mailbox) by the start of lecture. In addition to the assigned problems, please also do a “starred” problem from the chapter(s) of your choosing. 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 students, but must turn in your own answers. Please write the others’ names on the top of your homework.

**Piazza:** This course has a Piazza forum (search for Econ 520 at <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., 9:30-10:45), 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 September 7. 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 “reweighting” 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 addicted to our smartphones. Using them has a negative effect on grades (Carter, S. P., et al. 2016. “The Impact of Computer Usage on Academic Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Trial at the United States Military Academy.” SEII Discussion Paper #2016.02.) This class will therefore have a “no electronic devices” policy. If I see you using one in class, I may void your attendance. If there is an emergency, please leave the room before answering your phone. 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>)

**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. Please see <https://studentaffairs.ku.edu/academic-integrity> for more information.

**Concealed carry:** Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with [state and federal laws](#) and [KU weapons policy](#). Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier's custody and control.
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an un-cocked position
- Must have the safety on, and have no round in the chamber

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

**Problem Set 1, Due Tuesday, August 29**

1. Goolsbee, Levitt and Syverson (GLS) 2nd Edition Problems (Not Review Questions) 2.8, 2.12, 2.15
2. One additional starred problem from chapter 2
3. <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2016/05/04/476799218/episode-699-why-did-the-job-cross-the-road>

**Problem Set 2, Due Tuesday, September 5**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 3.1, 3.6, 3.14, 3.18
2. One additional starred problem from chapter 3
3. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/09/05/346105063/episode-566-the-zoo-economy>

**Problem Set 3, Due Tuesday, September 12**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 4.5, 4.10, 4.19
2. One additional problem from the appendix of chapter 4 (pages 153-154)
3. <http://freakonomics.com/podcast/uber-economists-dream/>

**Problem Set 4, Due Tuesday, September 19**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 5.3, 5.11, 5A.1
2. Show Slutsky equation is satisfied for rentals for 5A.1
3. One additional starred problem from chapter 5
4. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/02/14/276973956/episode-517-the-fastest-growing-least-popular-airline-in-america>

**Problem Set 5, Due Tuesday, September 26**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 6.2, 6.10, 6A.3, 7A.2
2. One additional starred problem from chapter 6 or 7
3. <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2016/08/03/488611449/episode-715-the-sewing-robot>

**Problem Set 6, Due Tuesday, October 10**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 8.4, 8.22, 9.13, 9.21, 9.A.3
2. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2012/06/22/155596305/episode-381-why-its-illegal-to-braid-hair-without-a-license>

**Problem Set 7, Due THURSDAY, October 26**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 10.9, 10.10, 10.15, 10.18, 11.17 (assume  $MC=0$ ), 11.19
3. <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2016/03/23/471633490/episode-691-the-great-unbundling>

**Problem Set 8, Due Tuesday, November 7**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 12.10 (a and b only, and find a mixed strategy Nash Equilibrium algebraically), 12.12, 12.19 (and find the minimum discount rate to make the collusion outcome the infinitely repeated NE)
2. One additional starred problem from Chapter 12
3. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/09/17/349034928/episode-569-how-to-divide-an-imaginary-pie>

**Problem Set 9, Due Tuesday, November 14**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 13.13, 13.15, 14.6 (c and d assume using the kia from part a), 14.17
2. One additional starred problem from chapter 13 or 14
3. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/10/31/360176715/episode-579-is-the-ncaa-an-illegal-cartel>

**Problem Set 10, Due Tuesday, November 21**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 15.6, 15.8, 15.12, 15.20
2. One additional starred problem from chapter 15
3. <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2016/09/07/492988779/episode-723-the-risk-farmers>

**Problem Set 11, Due Tuesday, December 5**

1. GLS 2nd Edition 16.1, 16.14, 17.2, 17.17
2. One additional starred problem from chapter 16 or 17
3. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2014/10/03/353300404/episode-573-why-textbook-prices-keep-climbing>