

**ECON 80a: Intermediate Microeconomics**

Brandeis University IBS

**Summer 2018**

Session I: June 4 - July 6, 2018

Monday, Tuesday &amp; Thursday 11:00 AM - 1:20 PM

Location: Lemberg Academic Center 054

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Instructor: Mengnan Zhu (You can also call me Cliff)

Email: [cliffzhu@brandeis.edu](mailto:cliffzhu@brandeis.edu)

Office Hours: I will be available for 1-2 hours after class for discussion.

Teaching Assistant: There will be no TA.

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**Textbook:**

Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson, **Microeconomics 2nd Edition** (Worth Publishers, 2nd edition, ISBN-13: 978-1464187025 ISBN-10: 1464187029). Previous editions can also be used if currently owned, but the student will be responsible for assuring that the correct materials are studied, and correct homework exercises completed.

**Prerequisite:**

- Math requirement: You MUST have either (a) successfully completed Math 10A (C- or higher), (b) attained at least a 4 on the AP Math AB test, (c) received at least a 3 on the AP Math BC test, or (d) passed the calculus placement exam that is administered by the Economics Department.
- Economics requirements: You must have either (a) taken Econ 10A, or (b) taken Econ 2A and received a B+ or higher.

**Course Description:**

This course aims to provide a better understanding of microeconomic principles, including both theory and empirical applications. Students will (1) develop deeper intuition on behavior of economic entities within a market economy framework, and (2) understand models of individuals' decisions as demanders of goods and suppliers of resources, and firms' decisions as suppliers of goods and demanders of resources under various market structures.

**Course Planning:**

My goal is to cover most important topics given limited course time. I will not strictly maintain a steady pace through chapters as some of the materials are easily handled by student assigned readings and class discussion and review, while other topics will be developed in more detail in class. I will expect that you will read chapters in advance of the associated lectures.

**Learning Goals:**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to intermediate microeconomics topics which are often viewed as abstract and theoretical. Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to apply mathematical models to solve economic questions.

For students interested in economic, finance and business field, this course should prepare you with quantitative modeling skills which, when later combined with statistics/econometrics, can be used to understand market mechanism and economic entities' decision-making process.

**Evaluation:****- Class Attendance (5%):**

Learning intermediate microeconomics is cumulative; each topic builds on the previous one. As a result, attendance is extremely important. I strongly recommend that you attend every class. Attendance will be taken in every class. Up to two absences from class will have no effect on the grade.

**- Problem Sets (30%):**

Six problem sets will be assigned. Hard copy of complete problem sets must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date.

**- Midterm Exam (30%):**

There will be 1 midterm exam (in class and closed-book).

**- Final Exam (35%):**

There will be 1 final exam (in class and closed-book). The final exam will be cumulative, reflecting the content covered before the midterm exam as well as content after the midterm exam.

*Please note that there will be NO make-up exams given. Absence from an exam will be excused only for a serious illness or bereavement (which must be documented). A student who is unable to take the final exam for a legitimate reason MUST obtain advance authorization from the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to these rules.*

**Grading:**

The final numerical average for each student will be the larger of two calculations:

Midterm:	30%	Midterm:	0%
Final:	35%	Final:	65%
Problem Sets:	30%	Problem Sets:	30%
Class participation:	5%	Class participation:	5%

**Workload:**

Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, homework assignments, preparation for exams, etc.)

**Electronics in the Classroom:**

Laptops are permitted in the front row only. Even though, surfing the internet is prohibited – it is distracting to other students and to me, the instructor, thus impacting the learning environment. Until recently, this was intuitive speculation. [But now research shows it.](#)

Cellphones are not permitted and should be off. If you have any related special accommodation requests (for example are awaiting an important medical-related call), please come see me before the class, and we will find a solution.

**Disabilities:**

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

**Academic Integrity:**

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult [Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities](#) for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at [LTS - Library guides](#).