



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE™

ECON A602 801: Introduction to Economics for Managers
Fall Semester 2025
via Blackboard

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00AM-12:00PM or by appointment

Office Hours

I will host Office Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00AM-12:00PM. They will be online via Zoom or in RH 205K. The Zoom link will be available on the course Blackboard page.

Additional appointments can be made by email at instructor's discretion.

Correspondence Policy

I will attempt to respond to all correspondence within a reasonable amount of time. I will not prioritize responding to last minute questions on assignments.

Catalog Description

Introduces economic theory and issues for private and public sector managers. Topics include national income and business cycle analysis, money and banking, and the role of government, theory of prices and markets, and international economics.

Course Description

Economics is the social science of human decision making. This course gives you an introduction to micro and macroeconomics by addressing the basic concepts and techniques of analysis used by economists.

You will learn that economics is the study of 1) how people, firms, and governments respond to incentives, and 2) how they allocate resources in a context of scarcity. You will also develop economic models that help us study a range of topics such as supply and demand, consumer and firm decision making, and government intervention. By the end of the course, you should be able to think critically about the tradeoffs that people, firms, and governments face. You will also be able to apply the formal principles you learn to real world issues.

We will also examine fluctuations in the macro economy and government policy responses. Topics of particular interest include productivity and unemployment. Further topics include the interactions between inflation, exchange rates, national debt and deficits and fiscal and monetary policy. We will focus on how these topics explain what people mean when they talk about the economy, recessions, and other "economic" topics.

Course Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is to encourage students to become engaged and informed skeptics, and to analyze economic news and policy in the world around them. Students will have a basic understanding of how to use economic models to analyze and predict outcomes of government policy. Students will learn to interpret the impact of events on macroeconomic variables and individual economic welfare. Critical thinking will be emphasized, and students will be expected to learn rather than simply memorize.

Broadly put, the goal of this course is to make you a more informed citizen and a more skillful decision maker. Some more specific course objectives are given below:

1. Compare price and quantity outcomes resulting from shifts in supply and demand.
2. Compute and interpret elasticity measures.
3. Compute solutions to profit maximization and cost minimization problems of firms.
4. Identify cases where markets fail to deliver socially optimal outcomes.
5. Discuss economic goals, activities, and outcomes of government.
6. Discuss major macroeconomic theories.
7. Explain major macroeconomic results and implications.
8. Explain and analyze how public policy actions affect the macroeconomy.
9. Integrate the global economy into discussions and examinations.

Instructional Goals. The Instructor will:

1. Present all topics relevant to the class during lectures.
2. Suggest additional reading where appropriate.
3. Be available during office hours and outside of class to answer questions.
4. Encourage remote participation.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:	How will this outcome be assessed:
1. Describe alternative approaches to the economic problem of scarcity using the production possibilities frontier model	1. Discussions, written assignments, and written exams
2. Analyze a variety of real world markets using supply-demand analysis	2. Discussions, written assignments, and written exams
3. Apply the methodology of national accounting analysis to an examination of the business cycle, demonstrating an awareness of alternative approaches to macroeconomic stabilization	3. Discussions, written assignments, and written exams

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:	How will this outcome be assessed:
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the theories of the household and firm, and the theory of industrial organization	4. Discussions, written assignments, and written exams
5. Apply the theory of industrial organization to a variety of real world output (product) and input (factor) markets, demonstrating awareness of alternative public policies towards markets and business	5. Discussions, written assignments, and written exams
6. Identify and describe the sources of economic growth and the basis for international trade	6. Discussions, written assignment, and written exams
7. Describe, analyze, and critically evaluate a major work in economics literature	7. Discussions and written assignments

Prerequisites

Minimum one year of high school algebra required.

Textbook

- Textbook: Cowen and Tabarrok. Modern Principles of Economics. Sixth Edition.
 - I recommend that you get a copy of this textbook (any edition should be fine). However, if you are unable to purchase the text, one copy of the text will be available in the UAA Library's Course Reserves.
- Course Website on Blackboard: The site will be used to distribute course materials (other than the textbook). Please check it regularly.

Grading Policy and Requirements

You will receive the grade you earn based on your performance on assignments, quizzes, and exams. The final letter grade you will receive will be based on the following scale: 90% – 100% = A; 80% – 89.9% = B; 70% – 79.9% = C; 60% – 69.9% = D; below 60% = F using the weighting scheme outlined below, and where each category grade is an average of the percentage grade on all assignments in that category.

Category	Percentage of final grade (%)
Participation Assignments	10%

Best (n – 1) of (n) Weekly Quizzes	10%
Best 5 of 6 Problem Sets	20%
Best 2 of 3 Exam Scores	60%

Participation Assignments (PA)

At the end of each course module (roughly corresponds to each chapter of the textbook) you will be asked several review questions. These will be graded for completion, not accuracy. They are an opportunity for you to assess how well you are digesting the material. These participation assignments will also allow you to provide feedback on the pace of the course.

In addition to the assignments at the end of each module, I may assign discussion questions on Blackboard. These will also be graded on completion. The goal of these will be to engage with your classmates and apply the material to real world examples.

These assignments will be due by 11:59 PM on Sundays after they are made available.

Weekly Quizzes (WQ)

At the end of most weeks there will be a short, closed note quiz of about 10 multiple choice questions. These quizzes will be designed to be representative of easier exam questions. For your final grade, I will drop your lowest quiz score. For example, if we end up having 12 quizzes throughout the term, I will only count your 11 highest scores in your final grade.

I will try to post the quizzes no later than Thursday evening each week and they will be due at 11:59 PM on Sundays after they are made available. If I am not going to post quiz for the week, I will let you know by Thursday evening. If I am delayed in post the quiz to Blackboard, I will push the due date back to reflect that. Quizzes will be administered using [Honorlock](#).

Problem Sets (PS)

There will be a problem set due roughly every other week (see course outline on pages 8 and 9 for tentative dates). These problem sets will consist of between 15 and 30 multiple choice questions. The problem sets are open note and untimed. I encourage you to work on them with your classmates. These questions will be designed to be representative of more challenging exam questions.

I will try to post the problem sets on Tuesday the week that they are due. The problem sets will be due on Sunday at 11:59 PM the week that they are assigned. As with the quizzes, I will push the due dates back if I am delayed posting the problem sets.

Exams

The course will have three exams; all scored from 0 to 100. Each exam will be weighed toward material covered since the previous exam but will be cumulative by nature. Exams will be available in the week after we have covered all the material for that exam. I will make the exam available for the whole week, but you will only have a fixed amount of time to complete the exam in one sitting. See course outline on pages 8 and 9 for tentative dates.

- **Structure:** Each of the exams will consist of between 30 and 50 multiple-choice questions. Questions will be based on the readings and lectures, and on problem sets: about one-third of an exam will come straight from the readings and lectures, one-third will come straight from the problem sets, and one-third will be extensions of the problem sets. The exams are closed note and will be proctored with the [Honorlock system](#).
- **Alternative Exam Policy:** Students are responsible for taking all exams at the scheduled times. If you have an anticipated and valid excuse for missing an exam (university-sponsored activities, religious observances, and other valid issues), an alternative exam can be scheduled. Any alternative exams will take place before the exam. To have an alternative exam scheduled you must contact the instructor at least two weeks before the scheduled date of the exam. If something unanticipated comes up, see the instructor right away. The exam policy discussed below is specifically meant to help resolve any issues in such situations.
- **No Make-Up Exams After an Exam.** Instead we will use a grading scale that will help accommodate some unforeseen complications. This works for only up to one exam. If you believe you have had issues with multiple exams that require special consideration, you must have complete documentation and schedule an appointment with the instructor. Unless there were legitimate and documented excuses that have kept you from multiple exams (a situation that will be rare), further accommodations will NOT be provided. If you choose to miss an exam and then have a legitimate excuse for missing a subsequent exam, your situation does NOT meet the criteria for special accommodation.

Late Work Policy

All participation assignments, problem sets, and weekly quizzes that are submitted late will automatically be deducted 30% the total score possible. Each additional day past the deadline will subtract an additional 10% of the total score. For example, an assignment turned in a day late can, at most, receive 70% of the total possible points. An assignment submitted three days late can, at most, receive 50% of the total possible points.

See the above discussion of make-up exams for the relevant late policy for exams.

Group Work Policy

Collaboration is encouraged on the participation assignments and problem sets. However, you must take the quizzes and exams on your own with no outside assistance.

Generative AI and assignments

Using Generative AI when not explicitly permitted is academic dishonesty and will be considered plagiarism.

Attendance Policy

All lectures and course materials will be available on the course Blackboard page.

“Classroom” Behavior

Do not be rude or disrespectful to the instructor or your fellow students. The instructor is the final authority on what rude or disrespectful behavior consists of, but examples include: texting, talking over others, offensive language, packing up or leaving early, or mocking others.

Regular and Substantive Interaction Statement

This course is fully asynchronous and has no set meeting times; you will have course activities and due dates throughout the term. I will substantively interact with you through regular class discussion boards, announcements that provide class feedback and direction, office hours, and optional study sessions.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to any part of this syllabus. Should such instances arise; students will be notified in advance on the course Blackboard page.

Student Services

If you have a disability that may affect your academic experience and are seeking accommodations, it is your responsibility to inform Disability Support Services (DSS) as soon as possible. They are located in Rasmuson Hall 105 and can be reached by phone at 786-4530 or by email at aydss@uaa.alaska.edu. It is important to request accommodations early enough to give DSS adequate time to consider your request. Reasonable accommodations will be approved once students have provided appropriate documentation. Information is available at <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/disability-support-services/index-old.cshtml>.

Academic Policies and Procedures

It is the responsibility of the individual student to become familiar with the policies and regulations of the University of Alaska Anchorage in this catalog. Select the following link for more information: <https://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/>.

UAA Student Code of Conduct, Ethical Behavior & Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a basic principle, which requires that students take credit only for ideas and efforts that are their own. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are defined as the submission of materials in assignments, exams, or other academic work that is based on sources prohibited by the faculty member. **Using online answer keys or solutions manuals from this course, or any other course will be considered academic dishonesty.** Homework and out of class assignments are intended to demonstrate your understanding, not your ability to search the internet. Visit the Academic Integrity website at: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/dean-of-students/academic-integrity/index.cshtml> Visit

the UAA Student Affairs Policy website
at: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/about/policy/studentaffairs/index.cshtml>

Academic Dishonesty

Information on plagiarism is located at the UAA Library website:
<https://consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/ahi/plagiarism/>. Relevant policies are included at the UAA & APU Consortium Library website: <https://consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/ahi/uaa-apu-policies-and-procedures/>.

Plagiarism includes using sources not approved by the instructor, and after confirmation by the Dean of Students Office will result in a failing grade (0%) on the assignment it occurred on and a failing grade (0%) in the course, in addition to any university sanctions. **Online answer keys or solutions manuals from this course or any other course will be considered academic dishonesty.**

UAA Care Team

If you or someone you know needs support, is distressed, or exhibits concerning behavior, make a referral to the Care team. The UAA Care Team's purpose is to promote a safe and productive learning, living and working environment by addressing the needs of students. As your faculty, I may contact the Care Team to seek support for you. I encourage you to fill out a referral if you or a classmate may be in need of help. Select the following link for more information: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/care-team>

Title IX

The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination

College DEI Statement:

The College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP) embraces Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across all our teaching, research, service, and working activities and environments. CBPP welcomes students, staff, and faculty from around Alaska, the nation, and the globe, and their unique perspectives and experiences which will serve to enhance and strengthen the work of the college. Inclusive learning, research, service, and work environments alongside diverse perspectives enrich and enhance student learning outcomes and research products. Learn more by reviewing CBPP's strategic initiative on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Lauren's Promise – I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct 22, 2018 by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. **We must all take actions to ensure that this never happens again.**

If you are in immediate danger, call **911**.

The University of Alaska Anchorage Police Department (UPD) is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and available via the non-emergency number **907-786-1120**. UPD officers can provide safety escorts on campus and vehicle jumpstarts.

The University of Alaska Anchorage Police Department holds the following values:

- To always act with honesty, integrity and fairness
- To treat everyone with respect and patience
- To be dependable and accountable to a strong work ethic
- To provide quality service to others as a responsibility not a task

UPD manages the UAA SAFE app, available in the Apple App Store and Google Play which turns your phone into a Mobile BlueLight phone while on campus, allowing UPD dispatchers to see your location. The app includes the Virtual Walk Home and Friend Walk features, which allows a UPD dispatcher, friend, or family member to monitor your progress and be able to quickly answer if you need assistance. It is also possible to anonymously report incidents via the UPD website's Silent Witness link.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, please report it to me and I will connect you to resources or call the **Student Health and Counseling Center 907-786-4040** to schedule an appointment. For confidential counseling services, call **907-786-1795**.

The **Center for Advocacy, Relationships, and Sexual Violence** is a confidential on-campus resource for students staffed by the community organization **Standing Together Against Rape**. Students can get relationship help, discuss domestic violence, sexual assault, or harassment and learn more about available resources. The office is open from 1pm-5pm Monday through Thursday and located in Rasmuson Hall 120. **Students can also call the 24-hour hotline number at 907-276-7273 or 800-478-8999**. The hotline is available to discuss crisis intervention and support, answer questions about recovering from sexual assault, provide information about medical issues, explain the criminal justice system and what to expect when reporting a crime, referrals to resources, and information for family and friends of victims.

Additional community resources include the **Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)** which provides a 24-hour crisis and support line at **907-272-0100**. The crisis line is available for people who would like to talk about their situation and for family and friends hoping to find a more effective way to support their loved ones. AWAIC maintains a shelter where victims of domestic violence and their children may seek help any time they are in danger. Domestic violence victims may stay up to one month while they make decisions about what they will do next.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Dates and content are subject to updates.

Week	Dates	Ch(s)	Topic(s)
1	Aug 25- Aug 31	1, 2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Big Ideas • The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage • Supply and Demand
2	Sep 1 – Sep 7	4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equilibrium • Elasticity and Its Applications • Problem Set 1
3	Sep 8 – Sep 14	6, 7, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxes and Subsidies • The Price System • Price Ceilings and Floors
4	Sep 15 – Sep 21	10, 19, 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externalities: When the Price is Not Right • Public Goods and the Tragedy of the Commons • Asymmetric Information: Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection • Problem Set 2
5	Sep 22 – Sep 28	11, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 • Costs and Profit Maximization Under Competition • Competition and the Invisible Hand
6	Sep 29 – Oct 5	13, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monopoly • Price Discrimination and Pricing Strategy • Problem Set 3
7	Oct 6 – Oct 12	15, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligopoly and Game Theory • Networks, Platforms, and the Economics of “Free Goods”
8	Oct 13 – Oct 19	17, 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monopolistic Competition and Advertising • Labor Markets
9	Oct 20 – Oct 26	22, 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Incentives • Stock Markets and Personal Finance • Problem Set 4
10	Oct 27 – Nov 2	26, 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 • GDP and the Measurement of Progress

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wealth of Nations and Economic Growth
11	Nov 3 – Nov 9	28, 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth, Capital Accumulation, and the Economics of Ideas • Saving, Investment, and the Financial System
12	Nov 10 – Nov 16	30, 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment and Labor Force Participation • Inflation and the Quantity Theory of Money • Problem Set 5
13	Nov 17 – Nov 23	32, 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Fluctuations: Aggregate Demand and Supply • Monetary Policy
14	Nov 24 – Nov 30	36, 37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal Budget: Taxes and Spending • Fiscal Policy
15	Dec 1 – Dec 7	9, 38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Trade • International Finance • Problem Set 6
16	Dec 8 – Dec 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 3