

**HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**ENR 4890-40
ENR TOPICS: MINI MICROECONOMICS
1-CREDIT, ONLINE COURSE
J-TERM 2019
MON, JAN 14 – SUN, JAN 27**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Aaron Enriquez

Email: aenriqu1@uwyo.edu

Office Hours: By appointment – just send me an email, and we'll set something up. Office hours will be held online through Zoom. To access the technology, see the "Course Home" module on WyoCourses.

Background: As an undergrad, I majored in both biology and economics. I then received a master's degree in economics and environment and natural resources (ENR). I did the ENR part of the degree through the Haub School, so I'm a proud Haubie. Currently, I'm a PhD candidate at the Department of Economics here at UW. My dissertation is on the bioeconomics of grizzly bear management. In my free time, I love playing soccer, traveling, hiking, snowshoeing, and doing just about anything else outdoors.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prerequisites: None

Course Homepage: All course materials, assignments, grades, and more will be accessible from our course shell in WyoCourses. You will find most of what you need in the "Modules" section of the course page, where material will be separated by unit.

Course Description: This introductory course is designed for students who have never been exposed to economics. The condensed nature of the course is well suited for those with busy schedules who may otherwise not have had the chance to learn about the field. We will learn about the most important microeconomic principles, which are actually the foundation for all economic analysis of human behavior. We will learn how human behavior is influenced by factors that include the economic environment, human values, and environmental conditions. The course helps you establish an analytical framework that will allow you to understand the roots of both consumer and producer behavior. We will analyze the role of markets in society by examining how this behavior plays out in a market setting. Finally, we will investigate what happens when market failure occurs. Doing so allows us to focus on interesting environment and natural resource applications.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic awareness and understanding of the field of economics. For example, students will learn what economics is and what kind of applications are relevant to economics. Learning will be centered around microeconomic principles, and extra attention will be given to ENR applications throughout the duration of the course.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of economic analysis. For example, students will learn how to explain, in words, graphs, and/or simple algebra, concepts such as: opportunity cost, trade-offs, comparative advantage, demand, supply, economic efficiency, consumer and producer surplus, elasticity, externalities, and more. Students will develop the foundations necessary to use an analytical approach to help solve complex ENR problems (rather than using value judgements to draw conclusions). This analytical approach will consist of a mix of graphing and algebra. Students will learn about both strengths and shortcomings of economic analysis.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of optimization, which is perhaps the most important principle in all of economics. For example, students will learn how most economic decisions tie to optimization in some way. Students will be exposed to both optimization in levels and optimization in differences. By learning about optimization in differences, students will learn how economists use marginal analysis to reach important conclusions.
4. Demonstrate a basic understanding of economic equilibrium, which is another hugely important principle in economics. For example, students will learn how changes in human, economic, or environmental factors influence equilibrium outcomes.
5. Demonstrate a basic understanding of policies used to influence economic outcomes. For example, students will learn an analytical framework for evaluating the effects of price controls, taxes, subsidies, command and control policies, and more.

Course Structure: This course will be divided into six major units:

1. Overview of Economics
2. Optimization
3. Consumers
4. Producers
5. Equilibrium
6. Market Failure

COURSE MATERIALS

Lecture Videos: Mini Microeconomics, by Aaron Enriquez. YouTube.

- These videos are our main course material. You can access them in two ways:

- A. You can access the videos through WyoCourses.
 - Each unit has assigned videos, and you can find external links to those videos under the appropriate Modules.
- B. You can access the videos through the direct link.
 - To get to the playlist, click on the following link: [Mini Micro](#)

Textbook: Microeconomics (1st Edition) by Daron Acemoglu, David Laibson, and John List. Pearson.

- We will be using select chapters from the above textbook. This is by no means required, but if you so desire, you can buy the entire textbook or look for it online.
- In an attempt to help you save money, I have created a custom Pearson eBook for our course that only includes the relevant chapters from the above textbook. The total cost is \$47.20. There are two options for how to purchase the eBook.
 - A. You can purchase the custom eBook online.
 - Go to the following site:
 - <https://console.pearsoned.com/enrollment/0p1w6r>
 - Once there, sign in or create a new Pearson account.
 - B. You can purchase the custom eBook through the University of Wyoming bookstore.
 - You may buy an access code with this ISBN: 9781323929858
 - Then, redeem the access code by visiting:
 - <https://console.pearsoned.com/enrollment/0p1w6r>
 - Once there, sign in or create a new Pearson account.

Computer Software: Microsoft Excel

- Periodically, we will be using Excel to complete assignments. If you do not currently have access to Excel, you can download it for free (for either PC or Mac) through the University of Wyoming. Click on the following link for download instructions: <https://uwyo.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/KB/ArticleDet?ID=6297>

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Quizzes: For each day of lecture videos, there is a timed quiz to be completed on WyoCourses. These quizzes will act as a check to see if you've watched the lecture videos. At the end of the course, I will drop your lowest quiz score.

Assignments: For each unit, there is one assignment. In these assignments, you'll be asked to recreate some of the things you've learned from the lecture videos. Some assignments will be done through Excel, and you can upload your completed Excel files directly on WyoCourses. The other assignments will be "pen and paper" assignments. There are a couple of different options for how you can submit these types of assignments:

- A. If you have a scanner at home, you can scan your work and then submit it on WyoCourses.
- B. You can take pictures of your homework solutions with a camera (a phone-camera is fine) and then submit the pictures on WyoCourses. If you do it this way, please

label each image with your last name and a page number. For example, if I were submitting a four-page assignment, I would take four pictures and then label them “Enriquez_1” through “Enriquez_4”. Please make sure to write neatly. Also, be sure to write dark enough so that I can read the writing in the images.

ENR Mini Project: You will pick any ENR issue of your choosing. If you need some ideas, watch “MiniMicro 0,” open the “MiniProject” file on the course website (in the “ENR Mini Project” module), or make an office hours appointment with me. Then, you will sign up for a Zoom video session – the “MiniProject” file on the course website lists three possible session times. The sessions will take place towards the middle of the class. During your session, you’ll be asked to describe your topic to me and the other students that signed up for the same session. In about 5 minutes, I’m looking for you to describe your issue (in a non-opinionated way) to someone who you should assume knows nothing about the issue. In your discussion, please:

- Introduce yourself (e.g., your name, educational background, etc.).
- Introduce the issue (e.g., tell us what your issue is and why you picked it).
- Provide background information (e.g., give us a brief history of the issue).
- Discuss the main stakeholders involved (e.g., what groups are involved, what do they want, and is there potential for conflict among the different stakeholders?).
- Briefly discuss how you think economics applies to your issue. Note that there are no right or wrong ideas, I’m just interested to see how you think economics could be useful in analyzing the issue.
- Attempt to answer questions your classmates or I may have after your talk.

Exam: There will be one cumulative exam due online before midnight of the last day of class. The exam is open-video, open-textbook, and open-notes. Some questions will be similar to the style of questions on the assignments, some questions will tie to your ENR Mini Project, and some questions will be application-based (e.g., read an article about an ENR application and discuss the economic implications).

Grading Scale/Breakdown: I will be using the standard grading scale, in which A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, and F = 0-59%. The grading breakdown will be as follows:

- Quizzes: 30%
- Assignments: 40%
- ENR Mini Project: 10%
- Exam: 20%

COURSE TIMELINE & MATERIAL BY TOPIC

Course Timeline: We will cover the first half of the material (Units 1-3) in the first week of the course, and we will cover the second half of the material (Units 4-6) in the second week of the course. The course is mostly self-paced, so there are only two deadlines in this course.

- **Deadline 1:** Sunday, January 20th, before midnight.
 - This applies to Quizzes 1-5 and Assignments 1-3.

- **Deadline 2:** Sunday, January 27th, before midnight.
 - This applies to Quizzes 6-9, Assignments 4-6, and the Exam.
- Note: once material is available, you can complete and submit that material any time before the deadline. This means that you could be completely done with the course before the final day of the course.

Suggested Course Timeline: Students that wish to spread the coursework evenly can think of the course as being split into eleven class days, where each day corresponds to the following material:

Day	Date	Unit	Videos	Textbook Sections*	Quiz	Assignment
1	Monday, Jan. 14th	1	0, 1A, 1B	1.1-1.6	1	
2	Tuesday, Jan. 15th	1	1C, 1D	8.1, 8.2, 8.3	2	1
3	Wednesday, Jan. 16th	2	2A, 2B	3.1, 3.2, 3.3	3	2
4	Thursday, Jan. 17th	3	3A, 3B	4.1, 4.2, 5.4	4	
5	Friday, Jan. 18th					ENR Mini Project
6	Saturday, Jan. 19th	3	3C, 3D, 3E	5.5, 5.1-5.3	5	3
7	Monday, Jan. 21st	4	4A, 4B	4.3, 6.1, 6.2	6	
8	Tuesday, Jan. 22nd	4	4C, 4D, 4E	6.3, 6.5, 6.6	7	4
9	Wednesday, Jan. 23rd	5	5A, 5B, 5C	4.4, 4.5, 10.1, 10.2	8	5
10	Thursday, Jan. 24th	6	6A, 6B	9.1-9.5	9	6
11	Friday, Jan. 25th					Exam

* **Note:** These sections correspond to the printed version of the textbook. The following is a key of how the chapter numbers in the printed textbook match up to the chapter names in the eBook:

- Chapter 1: The Principles and Practice of Economics
- Chapter 8: Trade
- Chapter 3: Optimization: Doing the Best You Can
- Chapter 4: Demand, Supply, and Equilibrium
- Chapter 5: Consumers and Incentives
- Chapter 6: Sellers and Incentives
- Chapter 10: The Government in the Economy: Taxation and Regulation
- Chapter 9: Externalities and Public Goods

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Help Policy: If you experience any difficulties with the material at any point, please clearly communicate these to me so that we can resolve them immediately.

Late Work Policy: You are expected to complete all quizzes, all assignments, and the exam prior to the applicable deadlines (see the two deadlines in the “COURSE TIMELINE & MATERIAL BY TOPIC” section above). Late work will not be accepted. For the ENR Mini Project, you are expected to be on the Zoom call during the session that you registered for.

Behavior Policy: You are expected to act professionally, keep up with the assigned course material, and complete all of your work in a timely and professional manner. You must be respectful towards your classmates and instructor. Spirited debate and disagreement are to be expected in any classroom, and all views will be heard fully, but at all times we will behave civilly and respect one another. Personal attacks, offensive language, name-calling, and dismissive gestures are not warranted in a learning atmosphere. As the instructor, I have the right to dismiss you from electronic forums, Zoom calls, and other areas where disruptive behavior occurs.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114. The penalties for academic dishonesty can include, at my discretion, an “F” on an exam, an “F” on a class exercise, and/or an “F” in the entire course. Academic dishonesty means anything that represents someone else’s ideas as your own without attribution. It is intellectual theft (AKA stealing) and includes, but is not limited to, unapproved assistance on examinations, plagiarism (AKA use of any amount of another person’s writings, blog posts, publications, and other materials without attributing that material to that person with citations), and fabrication of referenced information. Facilitation of another person’s academic dishonesty is also considered academic dishonesty and will be treated identically.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE & ACCOMODATION

Disability Support: The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disabilities, and you would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS). DSS is located in 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS by calling 307-766-3073 or by emailing udss@uwyo.edu. It is in the student’s best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, as accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information: www.uwyo.edu/udss.

Student Campus Resources:

- Counseling Center
 - Website: www.uwyo.edu/ucc
 - Address: 341 Knight Hall
 - Phone #: 307-766-2187, 307-766-8989 (after-hours)
 - Email: uccstaff@uwyo.edu

- Academic Affairs
 - Website: www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs
 - Address: 312 Old Main
 - Phone #: 307-766-4286
- Dean of Students Office
 - Website: www.uwyo.edu/dos
 - Address: 128 Knight Hall
 - Phone #: 307-766-3296
 - Email: dos@uwyo.edu
- UW Police Department
 - Website: www.uwyo.edu/uwspd
 - Address: 1426 E Flint St.
 - Phone #: 307-766-5179
 - Email: uwspd@uwyo.edu
- Student Code of Conduct
 - Website: www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS

Expectations: I will treat each of you fairly and with respect. I will answer any and all questions to the best of my availability. I will respond to emails in a timely manner. I will return assignments and the test in a timely manner. I welcome any suggestions for improvements, as I am always looking to improve my teaching approach.

Duty to Report: UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty member **MUST** report information you share about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>. You do not have to go through the experience alone. Assistance and resources are available, and you are not required to make a formal complaint or participate in an investigation to access them.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

All deadlines, requirements, and course structure elements are subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified via email or WyoCourses announcement if such changes occur.