

SYLLABUS - RESOURCES

Economics 20200

The Elements of Economic Analysis III
Winter Quarter 2023

ECONOMICS DEPT. RESOURCES



Department Advising Hours

Every quarter, the economics instructional professors, including myself, have weekly advising hours for potential, current, or past economics majors. You may come and speak with any of us during these times even if you are not currently enrolled (or have never been enrolled) in a class we are teaching. Times and locations are emailed out to the econ majors email list (see "Helpful Email Lists" below).

Letters of Recommendation

Send me an email that includes: (1) a link to the program, (2) your current resume, (3) your unofficial transcript, (4) a brief statement listing 3-4 things that *my* letter can convey. I usually do not write letters for students I've only had in one class or for students who cannot articulate an answer to item 4. I will occasionally make exceptions if you were a frequent, engaged participant in class or active on the discussion boards.

Helpful Email Lists

At the bottom of the [Undergraduate Econ webpage](#)¹ are email sign-ups for undergraduate econ-targeted announcements about available internships, research assistant jobs, opportunities for majors (for example, joining the Fed Challenge team), and graduate school preparation.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The [CCRF research opportunity database](#)², lists paid and unpaid on-campus research opportunities while [predoc.org](#)³ includes part and full-time economics research assistant positions nationwide.

Economics RSO's

[Oeconomica](#)⁴ has year-round cohorts focused on reading and synthesizing economic research articles. They also have review sessions and run the Econometrics Game. Let me know if there are other RSOs and I will add them to this section.

I know UChicago courses are difficult and challenging, which is why this course syllabus has a section dedicated to resources which will support your learning success on campus, in this department, and in this class.

The information here is of equal importance to the Syllabus Core & Syllabus Policies documents, all of which are posted to Canvas.

CLASS RESOURCES

Course Appointment and Course Drop-In Hours

Everything in this course is "blind-graded" (students' identities are concealed during the grading process) therefore, attending office hours to incur favorable grading will not work.

- Appointment and drop-in hours are open for meetings and discussion with any student currently enrolled in my classes. I see multiple students at the same time during drop-in hours. To sign-up for appointment-based office hours, go to the "calendar" option on the main Canvas page (left hand bar) and click on "Find Appointment". Appointment hours are on Zoom, drop-in hours are in my office. See the Logistics syllabus for details.
- During these meetings, I or the TA answer or guide questions about the homework material; re-teach material in a different way for students who were in class but feel they do not understand it as it was presented; or elaborate on extensions/implications of the material. We will not check your homework answers but will help you with concepts. The difference between the two is in how you phrase your question... drop by during office hours to learn the difference!
- The office hours closest to the homework due date are the busiest and focused on that week's homework, the office hours furthest away are the quietest. Choose the office hours that match your goal. Bring your class notes or homework progress for reference.
- I have separate office hours for general advising, economics discussions, or meetings about topics not related to course material (see "Department Advising Hours" above).
- Outside of class and office hours, my time is already allocated to other aspects of my job. I am generally not available for impromptu meetings.



Discussion Boards

I use Ed Discussion boards for this course which can be accessed through Canvas. Feel free to post AND ANSWER questions on the boards. **I do not mind if people use them to share or discuss homework answers before an assignment is due**, though I will not respond and say whether the posted answer is right or wrong. No extra credit is given for participating on the boards, but I prioritize answering questions on them above answering email.



Course Recordings

If technology and university policy allow, I will record the iPad screen during the live class session. Office hours will not be recorded. **For the privacy of others (FERPA and privacy laws), you should not record office hours, classroom discussion, or any one-on-one meetings without permission.**

Teaching Notes

I will post the slides, a 2-page summary of each class, and solved practice problems for each class. No additional notes will be posted.

Mental Health Services 773-702-4156

It is easy to think that you should “just push through” and finish assignments, even if you are exhausted. This is bad. Your brain is responsible for your future success, and it needs to be taken care of—that means taking care of yourself. If you are exhausted you can neither think creatively, nor reason soundly. Taking a break is not laziness; it is self-preservation to make sure you will thrive for future years. Learn how to set and enforce these boundaries: plan blocks of “recovery and rejuvenation time” in whatever form that works for you.

Students differ in how much they know about mental health services. In the USA, your use of mental health services is not linked to your academic file; it is confidential. In general, psychiatrists prescribe medication while psychologists provide counseling. Both are trained to help you receive the specific assistance you need.

There are no rewards for “toughing it out”. If you experience mental, physical, or other problems, immediately contact [Student Health and Counseling Services](#)⁵ (SHCS). I provide all accommodations officially requested by SHCS. I know students participate in the following 3 programs:

- [Let’s Talk](#)⁶: Drop-in; no appointment required.
- [Therapy Groups](#)⁷: For people experiencing similar life situations.
- [Counseling](#)⁸: Focused discussions on a specific issue, with a short-term goal.

SHCS offers Health and Wellness initiatives as well, including the [Academic Skills Assessment Program \(ASAP\)](#)⁹, which helps students improve their academic performance by addressing a number of issues that can interfere with effective learning, including time management, learning and memory, test anxiety, reading effectiveness, effective exam preparation, and general study skills. The ASAP program offers quarterly workshops and brief one-on-one appointments.

Disabilities and SDS Accommodations

My goal is to evaluate your understanding of the material in this course, NOT your understanding of the material in this course while you simultaneously undergo a panic attack / work through dyslexia / are unable to take notes / etc. I have no medical background and am unable to determine appropriate accommodations. However, [Student Disability Services](#)¹⁰ (SDS) can evaluate your needs and secure the necessary arrangements. **I cannot provide ANY accommodation until SDS has officially approved your case and informed me of the accommodations you are allowed.** Once approved, I will provide all the accommodations officially requested by [SDS](#).

Timely notifications are needed to ensure your accommodations can be implemented: some accommodations require advance staffing or technical adaptations that can take time to implement or acquire.

Using any accommodation from SDS is confidential and not recorded on your transcript. I do not need to know why you received accommodation and am prohibited from discussing it with anyone without reason. Remember that **SDS may take some time (1-3 weeks)** to process your request; perhaps longer in the current environment. Apply early in the

quarter if there is *any* chance that you will need accommodation. You are not required to use the accommodation you receive.

College Core Tutoring Program

There is a [volunteer tutor program](#)¹¹ available for many econ courses. I do not coordinate or interact with the tutoring program in any way.

Center for College Student Success

[CCSS](#)¹² provides mentoring services to help first-generation, lower-income, and immigrant students succeed in environments like at The University of Chicago. Note: “first-generation students” is a broader definition than many realize and can include students whose parents have degrees but did not have a university experience that translates to The University of Chicago.

Technology Rentals

If you find that your computer is slow or too old to work efficiently, you may be able to borrow a laptop at no charge for up to 8 hours from the [Tech Bar at Regenstein](#)¹³. At the time of writing, it is not known if the program will be available.

Many public libraries in the United States offer a similar service for their patrons. For example, [Chicago Public Library](#)¹⁴ has laptops, scanners, and Internet-to-Go-WIFI available for lending.

cVPN & vLAB

Many campus network resources require you to be on-campus to access them. If you are not on campus, you should use the (free) university-provided VPN ([cVPN](#))¹⁵ to gain access. Essentially, this makes online university services treat you “as-if” you were using a computer on campus.

[vLAB](#)¹⁶ (Virtual Lab) creates a virtual desktop that can be used to access programs typically installed on campus computers from off-campus using the cVPN. is accessed Programs include everything from Excel to Stata, R to MATLAB. Explorer and Firefox are also included and may be useful for interacting with certain websites. vLAB can be the only way for Mac users to use some portions of MATLAB.

Career Advancement

[Career Advancement](#)¹⁷ has substantial experience working with economics undergraduates to find careers that match their interests – they have far more resources to advise you than I do. Visiting them early will help you make informed choices about classes and/or majors.

SYLLABUS TOPICS

SYLLABUS: LOGISTICS.....L1

Prerequisites
Measured Learning Objectives
Description
Textbooks

STRUCTUREL2

GRADES CALCULATIONL2

Aggregate Individual Score
Grade Cutoffs
Other Grading Notes

CALENDAR.....L3

SYLLABUS: POLICIES P1

Guests/Class Visitors
Email
Technology Statement
Attendance & Participation
Course Announcements & Additional Materials
Online Behavior
Bug Bounties

SUBMISSIONS..... P2

Submitting work on Gradescope
General Regrades
Technical Error Do-over
Policy on Technical Difficulties

ACCOMMODATIONS..... P3

Disruption Accommodation
SDS Accommodation (See R2)

COLLABORATION/CHEATING/ PLAGIARISM P3

CAMPUS POLICIES..... P4

Workload Statement
Sharing of Documents
Recording/Distributing Audio, Video or Photographs
FERPA
Responsible Employees
Diversity Statement
COVID-19

POLICIES: WEB LINK VISUAL REF P4

SYLLABUS RESOURCES

ECONOMICS DEPT. RESOURCES..... R1

Department Advising Hours
Letters of Recommendation
Helpful Email Lists
Undergraduate Research Opportunities
Economics RSO's

CLASS RESOURCES R1

Course Appointment and Course Drop-In Hours
Discussion Boards
Course Recordings
Teaching Notes

CAMPUS RESOURCES..... R2

Mental Health Services
Disabilities and SDS Accommodation
College-Core Tutoring Program
Center for College Student Success
Technology Rentals
cVPN & vLAB
Career Advancement

SYLLABUS TOPICS..... R3

RESOURCES: WEB LINK VISUAL REF R3

WEB LINK VISUAL REFERENCE

¹ Undergraduate Econ <https://economics.uchicago.edu/content/undergraduate-program>

² CCRF Research Opportunity Database <https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/research-opportunity-search>

³ Predoc.org: <https://predoc.org/>

⁴ Oeconomica <https://voices.uchicago.edu/oeconomica/>

⁵ Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/>

⁶ SHCS Let's Talk <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/lets-talk/>

⁷ SHCS Therapy Groups <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/therapy-groups/>

⁸ SHCS Counseling <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/counseling/>

⁹ Academic Skills Assessment Program (ASAP) <https://wellness.uchicago.edu/mental-health/academic-skills-assessment-program/>

¹⁰ Student Disability Services (SDS) <https://disabilities.uchicago.edu/>

¹¹ Tutor Program <https://college.uchicago.edu/academics/college-core-tutor-program>

¹² Center for College Student Success <https://college.uchicago.edu/student-services/center-college-student-success>

¹³ Tech Bar at Regenstein: <https://its.uchicago.edu/techbar/techbar-equipment-lending-terms-and-conditions/>

¹⁴ Chicago Public Library <https://www.chipublib.org/library-laptop-use-guidelines/>

¹⁵ cVPN <https://its.uchicago.edu/2018/09/11/training-tip-cvpn/>

¹⁶ vLAB <https://academictech.uchicago.edu/vlab/>

¹⁷ Career Advancement <https://careeradvancement.uchicago.edu/about>