

SYLLABUS - POLICIES Economics 20100

The Elements of Economic Analysis II
Autumn Quarter 2022

Guests/Class Visitors

Economics is awesome! If you have a friend who wants to sit in on this class to see what Economics is about (or visiting family, etc.) they are welcome to sit in on the class provided: (1) you accompany them, (2) they do not disrupt or distract the class, and (3) they fully abide by the campus COVID policy. Feel free to introduce them to me before the class starts so I don't accidentally call on them.



Email

If the thought of emailing a professor makes you anxious or you find yourself spending hours composing an email, this [guide](#)¹ provides a recipe that errs on the slightly-too-formal side for any faculty emails you may need to write. I respond to email within two **business days** (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm), so while you should not expect a response faster than that, or outside of those hours, it also means that if I don't respond within this time frame I did not receive or notice your email, so please send a follow-up. I reserve the right to not respond to a question that is answered on the (1) core, policy, or resources syllabus, (2) assignment sheet, (3) discussion board, (4) in-class or (5) Canvas announcements; so be sure you clearly communicate in your email that you have checked those.

Technology Statement

You may use electronic devices (laptop, tablet, etc.) in class, but you may not use a device for any purpose unrelated to our class. Do not impede the learning environment of others by watching videos, reading emails, scrolling through social media, etc. All devices should be silenced and cell phones put away, except for instances when I ask you to use them for an activity. I am easily distracted by the sound of a vibrating cellphone.

If there is an urgent need to leave your cell phone on, such as for a family emergency or an internship/ job interview, feel free to still attend class, but kindly sit near the back of the class so that you can step outside with minimum disruption.

I am deeply committed to facilitating your learning process and, in support of that, evaluating your progress. The following pages contain detailed course policies and expectations, which have been refined to support your learning success. The information here is of equal importance to the Syllabus Core & Syllabus Resources documents, all of which are posted to Canvas. These policies are meant to demystify the learning process and to clarify my expectations, which may be different or may not be explicit in your other courses.

Attendance & Participation Expectations

"Not attending class is like renting a hotel room then sleeping on the street."

- Unknown

I am not personally disappointed or offended if you choose to not attend class. As an economist, I recognize that your time is a scarce and limited resource, and on occasion, optimizing time may require substituting class attendance with other things (like sleep or take a mental health day!). Because of this, I expect you to be committed to your education when you are in class: engage and participate in class and discussion sections as much as you are able. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to review class material or obtain lecture notes in a timely manner. Recognize that the time of the teaching team for the course is also scarce and limited, and we will not provide you with personal teaching time if you skip.

Be aware that sleeping, checking email, doing homework for another class, or texting with a friend during lecture and discussion sessions is a version of "busy work" that allows you the illusion of spending time on this class, but is the equivalent of not attending at all. If you have tasks that you deem more important than being fully present in class, optimize and do not attend.

Course Announcements & Additional Materials

Announcements are sent through Canvas; all additional material (readings, problem sets, etc.) will be placed on their indicated "Pages" on Canvas. All registered students are automatically enrolled in Canvas. **To automatically receive emails when I post an announcement "go to account> notifications" and set the relevant sections to "notify me right away"**. Please keep in mind that Canvas has a surveillance component that tracks and logs all your activity.

Expectations for online behavior

Behaviors such as Zoom bombing and trolling are violations of both privacy and campus standards of conduct. I expect the same standard of behavior as we would have in a classroom. Do not spam private or public chat windows.

Sharing of Images, Videos, or Files

If you share documents, files or emails associated with the course without permission (including, but not limited to slides and answer keys), you may be violating privacy laws, copyright laws, Illinois eavesdropping laws, and/or FERPA. These laws may also apply to any manipulated videos, images, or files.

Bug Bounties

If you find an error in the course documents, I will give you 0.5 points on the associated homework. For example, if there is a typo on Class Slide 1 which is covered in Homework 1 you get a bonus of 0.5 points on Homework 1. Bounties are available until the end of the class final exam time slot and can increase this homework score outside of the seven-day regrade window for everyone in your homework group. You **must** be the first to post the bug to the dedicated Bug Bounty discussion board so that (1) everyone knows that it has been found & claimed or (2) if it is not an error, everyone can understand why. I will decide whether the error is of sufficient size to warrant a bounty.

SUBMISSIONS & REGRADES

Submitting Work on Gradescope



GENERAL: All graded work will be submitted online through Gradescope. **The deadlines for various assignments are listed in the class schedule.** A “how-to-submit” video and detailed guide are available [here](#)², while “submitting assignments as a group” is [here](#).³

Submissions are graded per question with student answers randomized and identities hidden. This makes it impossible to “refer to answer for the preceding question”. If you find yourself referring to your answer for a prior question, include the graph/picture/etc. again.

HOMEWORK: The homework due date is **Friday 7:59pm Chicago time**. We will no longer answer questions about the homework after this time, however you can still turn in the homework late and without penalty until **Saturday 7:59am Chicago time**. After this, we will not accept additional late assignments. There will be no exceptions to this rule for any individual student. **You are allowed to submit homework assignments in groups of any size.** Upload a single assignment and add group members using the built-in Gradescope features.

Gradescope has native TeX integration: if you type x_i^2 it will appear as x_i^2 — the dollar signs indicate an equation environment. Make sure your pictures are clearly visible and correctly oriented. You should only submit the images relevant to the question you are answering (not answers to other questions): crop images to ensure this.

QUICK RESPONSE EXERCISES: Your short answers should be submitted on Gradescope by **9:00pm Chicago time** on the day of class.

TESTS: Given the high frequency of cheating on online tests, all tests will be in-person unless *all* teaching is remote. You may not take a test online even if travelling, regardless of cause. Tests will be scanned and uploaded to Gradescope for grading and return. If you do not sign up for your proctored SDS exam through the SDS AIMS portal at least 7 days in advance of a test, you have defaulted your accommodation for that test and will take it under default class conditions.

General Regrades

Grading errors occur in a class of this size! Any possible grading errors must be brought to my attention using the Gradescope “Request Regrade” feature for the relevant question **within 7 days of the return of the assignment**. If necessary, this will trigger the regrade for the entire class. After 7 days, regrades will not be allowed. This policy encourages you to review your assignment immediately.

Submitting a regrade request places the burden on you to prove an error was made in grading. Specifically, you must demonstrate that your answer satisfied all the components in the answer key or presented a reasonable different interpretation of the question. There will be no discussion about the number of points that were deducted.

To improve the chance of a successful regrade request, you must give a concise explanation as to why your answer is consistent with the correct answer from the posted answer key. If it is not clear that you have thought about your answer in the context of the answer key, your regrade request will automatically be denied without further consideration.

Technical Error Regrades

You can claim regrades on two assignments where questions were given a grade of zero for “Technical Errors”. The key aspects of a technical error request are that we have your answer and it was submitted by the required deadline, but due to an error you made during the submission we couldn’t grade your answer. *Examples:* swapping two image files for a question within the same assignment (ie. placing the graph for question 1 on question 2 and vice versa), submitting your images upside down or forgetting to add a group member to your assignment. **Important: We will not regrade any portion of work that is not submitted by the deadline.** If you submit the same image for every question, you cannot use a technical regrade to submit the correct image for each question later. Late or forgotten assignments are not covered under technical regrades.

Policy on Technical Difficulties

Waiting until the last minute to submit the work is inevitably when things go wrong. Examples of technical difficulties include but are not limited to: being unable to reduce the file size sufficiently, not knowing how to submit assignments, forgetting to upload a file, internet going down, etc. The teaching team cannot help you with technical difficulties, so do not email us. Consider the following resources:

- The “**help**” or “**report a problem**” feature on Canvas (in the grey sidebar) for Canvas-specific issues. The Canvas Support staff are available 24/7/365.
- The “contact us” email in **Gradescope’s** FAQ section.

The following will automatically result in a zero score for either the homework assignment or question as applicable (non-negotiable, no exceptions except as described in Technical Regrades):

- You do not turn in the assessment through Gradescope (if you email it to the TA or me, it will not be considered submitted).
- Uploaded files that will not open or cannot be read due to poor quality.
- You submit the wrong file. We will grade the version of the file you submitted even if it is not the version you intended to submit. You can re-upload and change your answers until the assignment deadline.
- You do not submit the answer associated with the question. For example: submitting your entire homework file for every question.

ACCOMODATIONS

Disruption Accommodation

The design of this course allows you to skip two weeks with no negative impact on your grade so that everyone has built-in accommodation for planned or unplanned negative events (Examples: illness, bad weather, religious requirements, job interviews, sports, political disruption, a bad break-up, etc.). Because this represents your accommodation for *unplanned* events you should not skip assessments under the assumption you will not need them. Specifically:

- **HOMEWORK AND QREs:** I provide excess points throughout the quarter so neither will be re-scheduled.
- **TESTS:** You have the opportunity to take multiple tests but have only a subset count. This gives you the freedom to skip tests for any reason. In my experience, taking a fifth quiz can make a difference for *some* people (due to disruption or a difficult start), but by Quiz 6 scores are reflective of skill and predictable by the scores on prior quizzes.

Requests for accommodation beyond these must clearly explain why the above accommodations are not enough. In *almost* all circumstances, there will be no additional accommodations provided. Granting accommodations not only requires “obvious” resources, but extra work from the TA, the grader, and myself. Without enough advance notice (usually 2 weeks), we may be *physically unable* to grant accommodations even if we want to (insufficient time to write a comparable exam, violation of labor contracts, etc.).

SDS Accommodation

See the “Resources” syllabus for SDS and disabilities accommodations. It is your

responsibility to sign up for proctoring at SDS’s facilities for testing accommodation.

COLLABORATION/CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

As a general guideline, submitting any portion of someone else’s work as your own is considered academic dishonesty. Non-exhaustive examples include: using answer keys, exams, or homework assignments from other classes (past or concurrent) to study or derive your answers and obtaining answers from someone not currently enrolled in the course (i.e., buying a homework or quiz aide, farming the answer on a non-class discussion board, etc.).

- **HOMEWORK:** The use of past homework assignments is cheating, however, the use of provided practice problems is encouraged. Homework collaboration, discussion section and office hours attendance may all result in identical answers across different groups, so we will not report identical homework answers. Collaboration and discussion of homework assignments with currently enrolled members of the class is allowed and encouraged! I will not assign or supervise groups – if anything goes wrong, you need to sort it out. For example, if a member of your group uses an answer key from a past assignment and is caught, you will all be flagged. Homework cannot be used as evidence of understanding material when contesting grades.
- **QUICK RESPONSE EXERCISES (QRE):** You may not simply submit a screen capture or photo of a solution presented in class. Since QREs are intended to be collaboratively solved during live class, it is impossible to distinguish collaboration from plagiarism, so we will not report identical answers.
- **TESTS:** Given the collaborative nature of the other assignments, tests represent the only measure of an *individual’s* ability to satisfy the measured objectives of this class. **Your tests must represent only your own mastery of the material free of any unapproved external resources (including unwarranted extra time).** Any unapproved external resource that can distort your measure of understanding relative to the class is strictly prohibited. See the Quiz information sheet for more detail. If you are discovered to have used an unapproved external resource, I will assume it was done with the intention to cheat and report you without further consultation: if you plan to use an unapproved resource, discuss it with me first.
- **CONSEQUENCES:** If you are caught trying to distort measurement, I will assign you (and group members) a 0 for that assessment *and every prior assessment of the same type* (for example, all group members get a zero for every prior homework assignment). Your case will also immediately be referred to the Dean of Students for additional, formal University of Chicago disciplinary action – I will not warn you of my referral. For extreme first-time or repeat offenses, the disciplinary committee can decide that the consequence of your choice to cheat is expulsion from the University. That can mean deportation from the country for students on visas, failure to graduate for last quarter seniors, or repayment of financial aid. No matter how much sympathy I may hold for your reasons, I will report any-and-all instances of cheating regardless of the potential cost to you.

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act

FERPA is a federal statute that guarantees privacy over certain aspects of your educational records. You can view the details of the policy [here](#)⁴.

In some situations, photographing, recording, or broadcasting parts of class, discussion sections, or office hours without permission will violate not only privacy or eavesdropping laws, but also the FERPA statute. Your attendance means you agree that I can record you in class if necessary.

Responsible Employees

All University of Chicago faculty and TAs are classified as “responsible employees”; they are required to report any discussions of sexual misconduct, including the identities of the student making the complaint and alleged perpetrator. You will receive an email once a report is filed but are not obligated to meet with anyone or engage in the process. In contrast, Confidential Resource Individuals do not have to share identifying information. Find more information, including phone numbers, [here](#)⁵.

Workload Statement

This course adheres to The University of Chicago’s standard expectations for workload: students should spend an average of 10 hours a week outside of class time and discussion engaging with the material (including class time, **the expected total is approximately 14 hours per week**). Recognize this is an *average* expectation, and the deviation can be large.

Do not confuse “sitting with the book open” as “engaging the material”. Your course grade will not be adjusted based upon how many hours you report working on the material: you can spend many hours, and still not achieve the level of understanding required for a passing grade.

Diversity Statement

The University of Chicago is committed to diversity and rigorous inquiry that arises from multiple perspectives. I share this commitment: we have the highest quality interactions and solve problems more creatively when we recognize and share our diverse perspectives. I expect to maintain a productive learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination among students, teaching assistants, support staff, and myself as the lead instructor of the course, even as we may engage in strenuous and critical debates.

Any suggestions promoting a positive and open environment are appreciated and given serious consideration: there can always be a gap between my intention and reality. Correct me on your preferred name, pronunciation, and gender pronouns if needed. If we are meeting using Zoom, remember to update your display name on Zoom to reflect your preferred salutation. You can change the name displayed in Zoom by right-clicking on your video and selecting “rename”. Pronunciation guides are always appreciated.

Recording or Distributing Audio, Video, or Photographs

The Recording and Deletion Policies for the current academic year can be found in the Student Manual under [Petitions, Audio & Video Recording on Campus](#)⁶.

- Do not record, share, or disseminate any course sessions, videos, transcripts, audio, or chats. These actions can violate both FERPA and Privacy Laws.
- Do not share links for the course to those not currently enrolled in the course.
- Any Zoom cloud recordings will be automatically deleted 90 days after the completion of the recording.

COVID-19

I have designed this class so that no assignment or deadline needs to change if we must switch to hybrid or online-only instruction this quarter.

The University’s [GoForward website](#) has COVID updates relevant to the campus community. All students on campus are required to adhere to the guidelines in the [UChicago Health Pact](#). Any concerns over inappropriate PPE usage, physical distancing, cleaning/disinfection, or other COVID-19 related public health concerns should be directed to [UCAIR](#). If there is an emergency, call 773-702-8181 or dial 123 on any campus phone. If you are potentially exposed to COVID-19 or your COVID-19 test results come back positive, immediately send notification via email to: C19HealthReport@uchicago.edu.

Students who *have* been exposed to, or who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, should immediately contact both [UChicago Student Wellness](#) (for testing) and the area Dean of Students (to request accommodations for classes). These students are expected to follow current University quarantine and isolation policies to determine their return to class.



¹ Emailing guide <https://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>

² Gradescope (Get Started) https://www.gradescope.com/get_started#student-submission

³ Group Assignments on Gradescope <https://help.gradescope.com/article/m5qz2xsnjy-student-add-group-members>

⁴ FERPA <https://registrar.uchicago.edu/records/ferpa/>

⁵ Responsible Employees <https://equalopportunityprograms.uchicago.edu/title-ix/confidential-resources/>

⁶ Petitions, Audio, and video Recording on Campus <https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/administrative-policies/additional-administrative-regulations/petitions-audio-video-recording-on-campus/>