

# Microeconomic Theory with Calculus (Economics 415)-Fall 2023 Syllabus

Portland State University  
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Office Hours: Tue/Th 1:00-1:45 pm and by appointment

Text: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus* by Jeffrey Perloff (2nd Ed.).

## Course Objectives:

- 1) Learning fundamental economic principles.
- 2) Learning to express and solve economic problems using mathematical tools including calculus.
- 3) Learning to apply economic techniques to aid rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making.
- 4) Improving skills related to taking notes, distilling and synthesizing information, working in groups, and making presentations.

## Class Covid-19 Policy?

Homework assignments and related class discussions are a crucial part of this class. Economics and, especially, microeconomic theory cannot be learned without doing. Not doing assigned homework will result in a failing grade in this class. You are welcome to discuss economic ideas, careers, or other topics during office hours, or by appointment. Please note that detailed lists of topics and assignments, and a daily schedule are available on a "Tentative course schedule" Google doc. A link to that document will be e-mailed to you.

## Grade Determination:

Notes from videos, textbook, and other readings will account for 40% of your grade. A mid-term exam and the final will account for 25% each. Performance in classwork and group presentations will account for the remaining 10% of your grade.

## HAZARDOUS PRODUCT WARNING!!!

Economics is potentially hazardous to your social acceptability. Extensive exposure to economic analysis is dangerous for immature persons or any whose resistance to new understanding is not yet fully calcified. It may dispel illusions, reduce myth retention, deaden one to political

oratory, alienate friends, disrupt social conversations, allay or enhance fears of market systems, curb self-serving speech, and create possibly unknown dismal side effects. Initial dosage should be by prescription and careful surveillance of an expert. The producers disclaim liability from damages from misapplication or uses not in strict accordance with principles herein stated. (Rating: X). (Submitted to conform with consumer protection, product liability, and occupational hazard laws.) (from Alchian and Allen).

## Academic Honesty Policy:

**Academic honesty is expected and required of all students in this course. Suspected academic dishonesty will be handled according to the procedures set out in the *Student code of conduct*.**

## Disability resources at PSU:

Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) are responsible for contacting the faculty member prior to, or during, the first week of classes to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.

## Affirmative action:

Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.

## Title IX policy:

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of sexual harassment, know that help and support are available. PSU has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, providing academic support and more. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including [confidential services](#) and [reporting options](#), can be found on [PSU's Sexual Misconduct Response website](#) or you may call a Confidential Advocate at 503.894.7982 or by scheduling [online](#). You may also report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator, [Office of Equity and Compliance](#), or the [Office of the Dean of Student Life](#).

Please be aware that all PSU faculty members and instructors are required to report information of an incident that may constitute prohibited discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual and relationship violence. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual harassment or discrimination, I have to share the information with the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of the Dean of Student Life. However, the information will be kept private and only those with a need to know will be provided with what you disclose.

Please complete the required student module [Understanding Sexual Misconduct and Resources](#) in Canvas, which provides information about PSU policy and resources.

You may also report sexual and relationship violence to law enforcement on campus with [Campus Public Safety Office \(CPSO\)](#).

Or you may file an [anonymous report with Campus Public Safety Office](#) or a [Bias Incident report](#) with the [Bias Review Team \(BRT\)](#). PSU does not typically investigate the reports that are made through these two avenues. These reports help PSU understand what students and employees are experiencing on and around campus and provide support where needed.

**About Professor Rajiv Sharma:** I am Professor of Economics at Portland State University and specialize in microeconomics and health economics. Some journals where my research has been published include the RAND Journal of Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Health Economics, Economics Letters, Medical Care and the American Journal of Public Health. I have collaborated extensively with physicians, and have advised public agencies on health and economic issues.