

# Microeconomic Theory (Economics 311)

## Syllabus Winter 2021

Portland State University  
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Office Hours: To be announced or by appointment on Zoom or other remote platform

Text: *Microeconomics* by Pindyck and Rubinfeld (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.).

Course Objectives:

1. Learning fundamental economic principles and techniques.
2. Learning to apply economic techniques to aid rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making.
3. Improve skills related to taking notes, distilling and synthesizing information, working in groups, and making presentations.

Homework assignments and related 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 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.

**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.