

Econ 100: Introduction to Problem Solving in Economics (Bridge)

Northwestern University, 2022, Aug 8 - Sep 1, Mon-Thu 2:30 - 4:00 pm; University Hall 101

Instructor: Scott Ogawa, KGH 3373, sogawa@northwestern.edu

Teaching Assistant: Veronika Izmaylova, VeronikaIzmaylova2023@u.northwestern.edu

Textbook: Readings will be provided.

Goals

- (1) Expose you to some of the topics they will encounter in economics courses at Northwestern.
- (2) Review vital mathematical tools used in economic analysis.
- (3) Provide an opportunity to develop better problem-solving and study skills.

Econ 201 (macroeconomics), Econ 202 (microeconomics), and Stat 210 (Statistics/Econometrics) will be the inspiration, with a focus on microeconomics.

Daily Schedule

- 2:30 pm sharp: Check-in quiz on select days (announced in advance). [Tentative plan is to have problem sets due Tue/Thu, and quizzes at start of class Mon/Wed.]
- Activity and/or lecture on new material.
- Review the quiz and/or the submitted problem sets; Practice problems (done in groups) for upcoming problem set.

Topics / Course Schedule

- Week 1: Economics Intro (Micro and Macro)
 - Supply and Demand and Market Interventions
 - Comparative Advantage and Gains from Trade
- Week 2: Microeconomic Topics
 - Cost Curves and Optimization; Labor Markets and Marginal Analysis
 - Game Theory
- Week 3: Macroeconomic Topics
 - Gross Domestic Product, Income, and Expenditure
 - Inflation, Interest Rates
- Week 4: Statistics/Econometrics Topics; Review
 - Mean and Standard Deviation
 - Selection Bias
 - Final Exam on Thursday (or day to be announced)
- Final Presentations at a time to be announced.

Grades

This class is pass/fail. The primary things you need to do to pass:

- (1) Show up on time.
- (2) Make good-faith effort to stay engaged, even when fatigue, boredom, or confusion strikes.
- (3) Demonstrate proficiency with problem sets, quizzes, and presentations.
- (4) Contribute to a positive learning environment.

We expect everybody to pass. If we are concerned about your progress during the quarter then we will let you know. If *you* are concerned, please let us know. Also, there is a final exam towards the end of our time together; this will *not* affect your chances of passing, so long as you show up and take it. Instead, it is intended to be practice for the real thing in the Fall quarter.

Technology

Absolutely no phones during class. You are encouraged to take notes by hand, though if you want to use a computer please talk to the professor. With that said, there will be times when you will be asked to use your computer in class, so please bring a computer if you have one.