

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

Northwestern University, 2023, Aug 13 - Sep 6, Tue-Fri, 2:30 - 3:50 pm; **Location TBD**

Instructor: Scott Ogawa, KGH 3373, [sogawa@northwestern.edu](mailto:sogawa@northwestern.edu) (though [sogawa@gmail.com](mailto:sogawa@gmail.com) is better)

Textbook: Readings will be provided (see Canvas Homepage)

## **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). [Plan is to have problem sets due Wed/Fri, and quizzes at start of class Tue/Thu.]
- 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
  - Externalities and Public Goods
- Week 2: Microeconomic Topics
  - Cost Curves and Optimization; Labor Markets and Marginal Analysis
  - Game Theory
- Week 3: Macroeconomic Topics
  - Comparative Advantage and Gains from Trade
  - Gross Domestic Product, Income, and Expenditure
  - Inflation, Interest Rates
- Week 4: Statistics/Econometrics Topics; Review
  - Mean and Standard Deviation
  - Selection Bias
  - Final Exam on final day of class
- Final Presentations at a time to be announced.

## **Grades**

This class is is for a grade:

- (1) Show up on time and participate and stay off your phone. (5%)
- (2) Demonstrate proficiency with:
  - (a) Presentation (5%)
  - (b) Problem Sets (15%)
  - (c) Quizzes (30%)
  - (d) Final Exam (40%)
- (3) Contribute to a positive learning environment. (5%)

If we are concerned about your progress during the quarter then we will let you know. If *you* are concerned, please let us know.

## **Technology**

Absolutely no phones during class. (Please consider leaving your phone in your dorm room for the afternoon -- really, try it!) 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.