

# DRAFT SYLLABUS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## PPHA 4220: Advanced Microeconomics (PhD)

Harris School of Public Policy  
University of Chicago  
PPHA 44200  
Winter 2024

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Teaching Assistants:  
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### Information about this course

#### Background and Goals

Students will build upon neoclassical microeconomic theory by exploring deviations from the standard competitive model. Topics include competitive market partial equilibrium, imperfect competition, externalities, public goods, asymmetric information, and principal-agent models. Policy applications from public finance will be considered.

#### Prerequisites

PPHA 44100 or instructor's permission. You should be comfortable with calculus and linear algebra and game theory concepts covered in the fall quarter in PPHA 41501.

#### Schedule

Lecture will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 10:50am in Keller 0021. The in-class midterm will take place on Thursday, February 1. The final exam will take-home and will be distributed after the Reading Period.

#### Texts:

(V) Varian, *Microeconomic Analysis*, 3rd edition. (Chapters 13, 14, 16, and 23 on Canvas)

(H) Hermalin, *Lecture Notes for Economics* (on Canvas)

(MWG) Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green, *Microeconomic Theory* (Chapter 10 and 13 on Canvas)

#### Additional References:

Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics*, any edition

Deaton and Muellbauer, *Economics and Consumer Behavior*.

Gibbons, *Game Theory for Applied Economists*.

Salanié, *The Economics of Contracts: A Primer*, 2nd Edition.

Kreps, *A Course in Microeconomic Theory*.  
Salanié, *The Economics of Taxation*  
Tirole, *Industrial Organization*

## Topics

1. Partial equilibrium (V. 13, MWG. 10)
2. Monopoly and price discrimination (V. 14, H. 2-5)
3. Oligopoly (V.16)
4. Public goods and externalities (V. 23)
5. Adverse selection (MWG. 13)
6. Principal-agent problems (MWG. 14)

## Grading policies and procedures

**Grading** We base grades on homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The weights are as follows: 35% Homework, 30% Midterm Examination, 35% Final Examination.

You will have 5 homework assignments for the class. You may work in groups on the homework, but each student must hand in individual assignments.

**Late Submissions** Every student has one 12-hour extension for assignments. Those extensions will be automatically applied to any late work, and require no excuse to be given. After a student has used their extension, for every six (6) hours beyond a deadline, you will lose 5% of your grade, receiving zero (0%) percent once 24 hours have passed. Each assignment will receive an equal weight. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact the professor before the deadline to work something out.

**Regrade Requests** Regrade requests must be made within one week (7 days) of when the student has received the graded assignment or exam back, and must be accompanied by a 1-page written statement documenting the reason for the request. The grading team reserves the right to regrade the entire assignment, with the student's understanding that the final score after regarding could lower the student's grade.

## Classroom environment and accessibility

In-class attendance is expected. Lecture notes and slides will be uploaded to the Canvas throughout the quarter. If you require any accommodations for this course, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. To receive reasonable accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with Student Disability Services and provide the instructor with a copy of your Accommodation Determination Letter so that we may discuss with how your accommodations may be implemented in this course.

## General Resources Available to Students

- [Harris Academic Support Programs and Handbook](#)
- [Student Wellness](#)
- [University Learning Resources](#)

## Harris School and University of Chicago Policies

- [Harris School Policies](#)
- [University General Policies](#)
- [University Academic Polices](#)
- Policies on audio and video [recordings](#) and [deletion](#).