Advanced Microeconomics for Public Policy 1  
(Incomplete: Some Logistics Yet to Be Set)

This course will cover a number of topics in microeconomic theory, with an emphasis on decision theory, consumer theory, and equilibrium. Applications will include intergenerational mobility and discrimination.

Organization:

Lectures:

In-person lectures Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:20 in Keller 1002

Lecture notes will be distributed in advance of each topic. Students are strongly encouraged to study the notes prior to the lectures. These notes form the foundation of the course.

TA sessions:

Students are asked to submit questions in advance on the Piazza forum (accessible via Canvas).

Zoom links for both TA sessions and Lectures will be provided on Canvas.

Readings: Walter Nicholson and Christopher N. Snyder, Microeconomic Theory is the primary text for the course and Carl Simon and Lawrence Blume, Mathematics for Economists is the supplementary text. Other readings consist of scholarly articles.

Grading: Grades are based on homework assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The weights of these are: Final 40% Homework 30% Midterm 30%.

There will be 6 homework assignments. The assignments will be due 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/14, 11/21.

Homework: Assignments will be done in preassigned groups and graded assigned to groups. All assignments will receive equal weight. Assignments should be submitted online on Canvas and are due at 23:59pm on Sundays. No late assignments will be accepted.
Professor Office Hours:
TBD

TA Office Hours:
TBD

Exams:
Midterm: November 2
Final: Week of December 6-10 date TBD
Course Schedule (Subject to Adjustment)

September 28: Theory and Public Policy: Overview
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapter 1.

September 30: Ethics and Public Policy

October 3: Ethics and Public Policy (Continued)

October 5: Tools 1: Functions, Maximization
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapter 2.1-2.10.

October 10: Tools 2: Probability and Uncertainty
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapter 2.11-2.12.

October 12: Theory of Choice 1: Preferences and Budget Sets
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapters 3 and 4.

October 17: Theory of Choice 2: Income and Substitution Effects
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapter 5.

October 19: Theory of Choice 3: Uncertainty
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapter 7, 17.1-17.6.

October 24: Theory of Choice 3: Uncertainty (continued)

October 26: Theory of Choice 4: Complementarity
- Nicholson and Snyder, Chapter 6.

October 30: Review

November 2: Midterm

November 7: Complementarities and Equilibrium
- Nicholson and Snyder, 8.1-8.4, 8.10.

November 9: Complementarities and Equilibrium (Continued)

November 14: Intergenerational Mobility

November 16: Intergenerational Mobility (Continued)

November 28: Discrimination

November 30: Review