Introduction to Economics (ECO 100)
Hunter College
Fall 2025

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Office Hours
Tuesday 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday 3:00pm – 5:00pm
if my office door is open
by appointment

Course description

The field of economics has created powerful insights into human social interactions that have fundamentally shaped the modern world. In this course, we will explore these big economic ideas. We will discuss what it means to think like an economist, how you can use economic thinking to make the world a better place, and also how sometimes thinking like an economist can get you into trouble.

Economists obsess about behavioral incentives. This course focuses on how incentives shape individual behavior and choices, and the implications of these choices for the economy and well-being in society. The course will also introduce students to the central role of data in economic analysis.

Learning objectives

In this course you will learn how to use some important tools in economic analysis. With these methods and tools, you will conduct a variety of economic analyses. You will learn to

- describe and explain economic behavior of individuals, markets and countries
- analyze the effects of changes in the economic environment, both naturally occurring and through changes in economic and social policy
- describe economic environments using graphical representations (models)
- analyze economic phenomena using those graphical models
- collect, organize and interpret data to explain economic and social phenomena.

Attendance and class participation

I strongly recommend regular attendance and active participation in class. If you should miss a lecture, you are responsible to keep fully informed about class material discussed and all course changes, should they occur.

I disallow texting, tweeting, emailing, blogging, posting, browsing, Instagramming, SnapChatting, Googling, shopping, etc., during class. It wastes your time and money since you won't learn anything if you're distracted, and it's frequently distracting to your classmates. If I notice that you are engaging in distracting technology use, I will ask you to shut it down or take it elsewhere.

Required course materials

The reading materials for the class (textbook), class participation tools and homework and assignments will all be on a platform called Top Hat.

- Go to tophat.com → Students → Create Your Account → enter school
- Use your **CUNY login – firstname.lastname##@login.cuny.edu** when signing up
- → join code (904229)
- When you create your account you can choose a 2 week trial if you are not sure you intend to continue in this class (if you do not choose the trial here you cannot go back).
- At check out you will have to pay approximately $55.36.
- If you receive Financial Aid that includes your books, you should choose Redeem Bookstore Access Keys when you are ready to end the trial period. The bookstore charges a markup over the prices shown above so, if you do not receive Financial Aid, you are better off purchasing directly from Top Hat.

Note that textbook material will be made available in our course throughout the semester, so do not panic if you do not see any in the course upon entry.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

Top Hat works best with Google Chrome. Much as I hate to support an evil empire, I recommend you use Chrome.

Class participation and Assignments

We will use Top Hat in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You will also use Top Hat to do your readings and homework assignments. You can expect one just about every week.

Exams and grading

You will have two mid-term exams and a cumulative final exam. I will announce the date of the midterm exams in class sufficiently prior to each exam. The final exam is final exam is scheduled for Thursday 12/18/25 from 1:45 – 3:45 pm.

Class participation	10%
Homework	25%
Midterm exam 1	20%
Midterm exam 2	20%
Final exam	25%

I do not take kindly to missed exams. If you have a very good reason (according to me) for not being able to take an exam I will impute a score at the end of the semester based on your overall performance.

If you miss an exam, you must talk to me about it as soon as possible. There is a uniform make up exam policy for the Final exam. The policy implies taking an INC this semester and taking a makeup exam on some date in toward the middle of next (Spring) semester.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy of Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report incidents by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444). Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

Course outline

1. Learning Objectives
2. Work Expectations
3. Ethical Expectations
4. A New Look at Economics for New Economists
5. Economic Forces
6. Tools for Economists
7. The Basis of an Economy
8. Strategic Interactions
9. Markets, Demand and Supply
10. Markets in Balance
11. **Midterm exam 1**
12. Using Evidence like an Economist
13. Determining Value in Economics
14. Messing with Markets
15. Taxes, Subsidies and Trade
16. Social Benefits and Costs
17. Market Power
18. **Midterm exam 2**
19. Introduction to Macroeconomics?
20. **Final Exam**