Econ 8370 Online - Mathematics for Economics

Department of Economics
University of Missouri
Fall 2018

Course Description

The aim of this course is to cover essential mathematics used in economics. Topics include introductory linear algebra, multivariate calculus, comparative statics analysis, unconstrained optimization, and equality constrained optimization. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: ECONOM 4351 or equivalent; MATH 1320 or equivalent. Graded on A-F basis only.

Class Format

This class uses Canvas for all content delivery and assignments.

Instructor

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Email: auras@missouri.edu
Webpage: http://faculty.missouri.edu/~ Aura

Textbooks


Other course content

The online content of the class will lecture notes, problem sets, sample solutions and link to videos and other material related to the class. All this material is copyrighted and is not to be shared outside the use in this class.
Class progress

This class lasts 14 weeks and for each week there is a module of material to cover. For every week or two weeks, there is also homework due on the following Wednesday morning by 8 am (CST). This means that a module that starts Monday will have homework due in 9 days time at the earliest. It is your responsibility to cover the material provided and do the homework within that time period.

Grading

The grading on this course is based on the exams (midterm and a final) and problem sets. The relative weights of these for the final grade are:

- Final exam: 40%
- Midterm: 35%
- Problem sets: 25%
- Forum participation: 5% (extra credit potential)

Note that + and – modifiers will be used.

Exams

This class will have two 24-hour take-home exams. This means that on Tuesday 10/16 and Tuesday 12/11 on 8 am CST I will release the questions via canvas. You will have until Wednesday 8 am CST the following day to answer the questions and post your answers via Canvas.

The take-home exams are open book, open internet access exams. What you are not allowed to do is to consult anyone else, including your classmates, during the take home for help. There will be some easier and some harder questions on each exam to test the learning. While each individual is different in their time management, my goal is that most of you would be able to complete the exam in 2 hours.

Problem Sets

I will regularly assign problem sets based on the material we have learned. These problem sets will count for 15% of the course grade. Your problem sets should be submitted in a format that Canvas understands, preferably as PDF files.

An obvious way to create a PDF of your problem set answers is to use a computer program such as Microsoft Word, or even better, \LaTeX or another such specialized program. While
this would be convenient for me, I do not necessarily recommend this for most students: writing mathematics on a computer is a very time-consuming activity. Instead, I would recommend handwriting the solutions and scanning them with either a scanner or many of the possible Smartphone scanner programs that create PDFs. If you go this second route, please use plain white paper for your answers: this makes for the easiest to read solutions. A stylus and a tablet computer are also possible solutions.

For home works and the exams, setting up the problem correctly is the most valuable part. Please write answers that provide enough intermediate steps for us to follow your thought process. A simple answer stating just, say, ”x=2” is worth nothing in the exam or the homework regardless if it is correct. On the other hand, an answer that gets the algebra wrong but the thought process right can be worth almost the full credit.

Cooperation in home works is not only allowed, but it is actively encouraged. The home works are a primary learning tool in this class, and it is my hope that we will have an active discussion about the homework problems online. I also strongly encourage you to try all the odd-numbered textbook questions which have solutions provided at the end of the book.

**Online Forums**

Within the Canvas site, you will find a discussion forum for this class. This should be on of the primary ways to communicate in this class. If you find some concepts unclear, please do not hesitate to ask on this forum. This is preferable to emailing me since others might be stuck with exactly the same issue.

Active participation in the forum can earn you extra credit. This can be for asking or answering questions. For homework questions do not provide the whole answer in the forum, but instead, provide a hint to how to proceed. The instructor will also monitor the forums and participate in the discussions.
Schedule

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<th>Starting Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<td>08/27/18</td>
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<td>09/03/18</td>
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<td>Univariate Calculus</td>
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<td>09/17/18</td>
<td>Univariate Optimization</td>
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<td>09/24/18</td>
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<td>10/15/18</td>
<td>Some Advanced topics in Linear Algebra</td>
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<td>Multivariate unconstrained optimiza</td>
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<td>Inequality Constraints and optimiza</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>12/11/18</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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ADA

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.
Intellectual Property Notice

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