



**NYU**

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

# **MSPP – GP 1000 Methods and Microeconomics Intensive Fall 2021**

## **Instructor Information**

- Professor Atul Pokharel
  - Email: [pokharel@nyu.edu](mailto:pokharel@nyu.edu)
  - Office Hours: by appointment
- Professor Sewin Chan
  - Email: [sewin.chan@nyu.edu](mailto:sewin.chan@nyu.edu)
  - Office Hours: by appointment
- Teaching Assistant: Hsi-Ling Liao
  - Email: [hsiling.liao@nyu.edu](mailto:hsiling.liao@nyu.edu)

## **Course Information**

- Course Dates: August 16 – August 27
- Lecture: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 11:30 am
- Recitation: Monday to Friday, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

August 16 – 20: The lecture and recitation will meet online only.

To join a live class session, click the Zoom tool on the top menu of the [NYU Brightspace](#) course site and then click Join for the scheduled class meeting. Be sure to login 5-10 minutes prior to the start of class to leave time for troubleshooting, or to have time to say hello to your classmates before class begins. Once you are on Zoom, pick your desired screen/participant view, and troubleshoot if audio or video doesn't automatically turn on. Please make sure that your participant name is your full name [first last].

Aug 23 – 27: The lecture and recitation will meet in person only.

Lecture: Silver, Room 412

Recitation: Silver, Room 412

## Technology Support

Students have 24/7 support to NYU's IT services. Explore the [NYU servicelink knowledgebase](#) for troubleshooting and student guides for all NYU-supported tools (like Brightspace, Zoom, etc). Contact [askIT@nyu.edu](mailto:askIT@nyu.edu) or 1-212-998-3333 for 24/7 technology assistance, or [Zoom's 24/7 technical support](#) and resources.

## Course Description

This intensive course will provide students with:

- An understanding of basic statistics principles
- Familiarity with Stata
- Experience manipulating data and reading outputs in different formats
- A working knowledge of basic microeconomics concepts

## Required Materials

- Ellenberg, J. (2015). *How Not to be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking*. Penguin. (No need to purchase. Available at [library.nyu.edu](http://library.nyu.edu))
- Diez, D. M., Barr, C. D., & Çetinkaya-Rundel, M. (2019). *OpenIntro statistics 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Available for download on the class site.
- [Stata 15](#). If you have an earlier (or later!) version of Stata installed, refer to NYU's site for purchasing (<http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>). You will need Stata for your Fall quantitative methods course as well. Consider browsing the following site before you buy: <https://guides.nyu.edu/stata>
- McGraw-Hill's [Connect with Microeconomics 3e](#) by Dean Karlan and Jonathan Morduch. Connect is a web-based learning and assessment platform required for this course. To get started, go to: <https://connect.mheducation.com/class/s-chan-august-2021>. You will be prompted to purchase access to the platform and the included e-book. You may also purchase a loose-leaf printed version of the textbook at a discounted price at this time. Do not purchase the printed book without Connect as you will not be able to submit the required assignments. If you have any issues registering or using Connect, please contact [McGraw-Hill's Customer Service](#): <http://www.mhhe.com/support> or 800-331-5094.

## Pre-Course Assignments

Given the intensive format of the course, pre-course preparation is essential. The pre-course assignments (sent earlier in the summer) will provide you with a working knowledge of basic microeconomic concepts. We will assume you have this foundation and will build upon it on the first day of class. You must complete the pre-course assignments by 9AM on the first day of class.

# Course Outline

## Class 1 – Monday, Aug. 16

### Topics – Methods:

- Introduction and review
- Types of variables
- Measures of central tendency and variability
- Introduction to probability

### Before Class:

- Be well rested.

### Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Chapters 1 and 2 of *OpenIntro*

## Class 2 – Tuesday, Aug. 17

### Topics – Methods

- Probability distributions and random variables
- Discrete vs. continuous random variables
- Expectations and variance

### Before Class:

- Chapter 2 and 3 of *OpenIntro*

### Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Assigned at the end of class

## Class 3 – Wednesday, Aug. 18

### Topics – Methods

- Normal distributions and z-scores
- Statistical inference – from samples to populations
- Variability in (random) samples

### Before Class:

- Chapter 3 and 4 of *OpenIntro*

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Assigned at the end of class

## Class 4 – Thursday, Aug. 19

Topics – Methods

- The central limit theorem and sampling distributions
- Confidence intervals and p-values; hypothesis testing
- t-tests (means and proportions)

Before Class:

- Chapter 5 and 6 of *OpenIntro*

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Assigned at the end of class

## Class 5 – Friday, Aug. 20

Topics – Methods

- Crosstabs and chi-squared
- Fitting lines to data
- Ordinary least squares (OLS)

Before Class:

- Chapter 6 and 7 of *OpenIntro*

Not Due, but Helpful:

- Chapter 7 Exercises of *OpenIntro*

## Class 6 – Monday, Aug. 23

### Topics – Microeconomics 1

- Scarcity, opportunity cost, comparative advantage, the gains from trade
- Competitive markets, demand and supply curves, elasticity
- Consumer and producer surplus, assessing efficiency
- Price controls

### Before Class:

- All pre-course assignments (Chapters 1-5)
- Pre-lecture video: PPF and opportunity cost
- Pre-lecture video: demand

### Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Post-lecture: Homework 1

## Class 7 – Tuesday, Aug. 24

### Topics – Microeconomics 2

- Taxes, subsidies
- Individual decision-making: budget constraints, income and substitution effects

### Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 6, 7
- Pre-lecture video: taxes

### Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Post-lecture: Homework 2

## Class 8 – Wednesday, Aug. 25

### Topics – Microeconomics 3

- International trade and tariffs
- Production functions and cost functions. Short run versus long run. Profit maximization and output decisions of competitive firms

### Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 17, (8), 12, 13
- Pre-lecture video: international trade

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Post-lecture: Homework 3

## Class 9 – Thursday, Aug. 26

Topics – Microeconomics 4

- Labor markets
- Imperfect competition

Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 14, 16
- Pre-lecture video: monopoly

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Post-lecture: Homework 4

## Class 10 – Friday, Aug. 27

Topics – Microeconomics 5

- Game theory
- Asymmetric information
- Externalities
- Public goods

Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters (9), (15), 10, 18, 19
- Pre-lecture video: asymmetric information

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Post-lecture: Homework 5

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

## **Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU**

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD at (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

## **NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays**

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.