



NYU

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

MSPP – GP 1000 Methods and Microeconomics Intensive Fall 2024

Instructor Information

- Professor Keith Wescott
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- Professor Sewin Chan
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- Teaching Assistant: Sarah Strochak
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Course Information

- **Course Dates:** August 19 – August 30
- **Lecture:** Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 10:30 am: In person only in Room 230, 181 Mercer Street.
- **Recitation:** Monday to Friday, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm: In person only in Room 230, 181 Mercer Street.

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)
- Diez, D. M., Barr, C. D., & Çetinkaya-Rundel, M. (2019). *OpenIntro statistics 4th 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 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-2024> 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): <http://www.mhhe.com/support>

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.

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 [NYU IT Service Desk](#) for assistance, or [Zoom's technical support](#).

Course Outline

Class 1 – Monday, Aug. 19

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. 20

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. 21

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. 22

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. 23

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. 26

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. 27

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. 28

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. 29

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. 30

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](#), and sign the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism or cheating of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to the instructors.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Student Accessibility

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. Please visit the [Moses Center for Student Accessibility website](#) and click on Academic Accommodations.

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 the instructors in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with course requirements to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.