

**Syllabus (tentative) for ECON 440
Fall 2020**

Instructor:	Dr. Stephen L. Locke	Office Hours:	11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Lectures:	TR 12:45 pm - 2:05 p.m.		Others by appointment
Classroom:	Grise Hall 434B	Phone:	270-745-3971
Office:	Grise Hall 418	Email:	stephen.locke@wku.edu
		Web Site:	https://blackboard.wku.edu http://www.stephen-locke.com

Textbook (REQUIRED)

Cabral, Luís M. B. Introduction to Industrial Organization. ISBN: [9780262032865](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9780262032865). You should be able to get this book used for under \$10.

Additional Readings

I will post links to news articles and academic journal articles that relate to the various topics we cover. I will post the articles and links on Blackboard.

Course Website

Check Blackboard regularly. All updates, assignments, and readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Description

A course in applied price theory in which the structure, behavior and performance of American industry is evaluated in the light of public and private social goals. Public policy toward the promotion of competition and the control of monopoly will be examined.

Learning Objectives

1. Become familiar with the field of industrial organization.
2. Understand why firms exist and how they respond to varying levels of competition.
3. Understand how firms behave in oligopolistic markets.
4. Understand price discrimination, vertical integration, advertising and product differentiation, and entry and exit.
5. Understand public policy towards competition and monopoly

Attendance

Highly recommended but not mandatory. While I will follow the book fairly closely, a lot of the material will come from in-class discussions of articles and practice problems. I will also work through practice and homework problems in class.

Communication

All emails will be sent through Blackboard. If you do not check your WKU email address on a regular basis, I suggest that you have your emails forwarded to an email address that you use. If you have questions about the course material, feel free to email me anytime.

Evaluation Criteria

Your final grade for the course is based on the distribution in the table below and determined on a standard 100-point scale. A: 90% to 100%, B: 80%-89%, C: 70%-79%, D: 60%-69%, F: below 60%. Final percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

<u>Task</u>	<u>% of Course Grade</u>
4 Exams (3 regular and a final)	75%
Homework/Quizzes	15%
Projects/Article Summaries	10%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

No credit will be given for assignments submitted after the due date. You will typically have at least one week to complete any assignment.

Cheating

Cheating is in no way tolerated at Western Kentucky University. Anyone caught cheating will be penalized. The full penalty will be determined in consultation with the Chairman of the Department of Economics.

Homework

I will assign homework problems over a few chapters at a time. The homework assignments will not contain a lot of questions but will require you to put in a serious effort. I want you to learn how to think through a problem so there may be more than one way to get to the correct answer.

Exams

There will be 3 exams. The best way to prepare for an exam is to read the book, review the homework problems, in-class problems, lecture notes, and article summaries. Tentative exam dates are listed below.

Tentative Exam Dates

Exam 1: Thursday, September 24
Exam 2: Thursday, October 29
Exam 3: Thursday, December 3
Final Exam: Monday, December 7 10:30 - 12:30

Makeup Exams

No makeup exams will be given.

Returning Exams and Appeal Procedure

I will try to have exams returned before the next class meeting after the scheduled exam date. I will have it back to you no later than one week after the scheduled exam date. If you feel that I have made a mistake in grading your exam, you can bring the exam to me and point out anything you feel is incorrect. Any points that were deducted by mistake will be returned.

Course Outline:

Ch 1: What is Industrial Organization?
Ch 2: Review of Microeconomics
Ch 3: The Firm
Ch 4: Games & Strategy
Ch 5: Monopoly & Regulation
Ch 6: Perfect (and Almost Perfect) Competition
Ch 7: Oligopoly Competition
Ch 8: Collusion
Ch 9: Market Structure & Market Power
Ch 10: Price Discrimination
Ch 11: Vertical Relations
Ch 12: Product Differentiation
Ch 13: Advertising
Ch 14: Entry Costs, Market Structure, and Welfare
Ch 15: Strategic Behavior, Entry and Exit

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and

Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.