



Bakeonomics350: Intro to Baking and Economics Spring 2022 Syllabus

Introduction: Over the course of fourteen weeks, I will post about various baking and economics topics that follow along just as a course would. We will start with the basics of microeconomics and continue on to more advanced topics. The semester will end with brief overviews of Macro, Econometrics, and Financial Literacy.

Contact Information

Susan

Bakeonomics350@gmail.com

Course Grade

At this time, I do not have any rewards or punishments to incentivize you to actually read.

Assignments

The assignments for this course are straightforward. They involve reading the posts for each week. Optional assignments include baking the associate recipes and posting about them on social media. Tag me on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook @bakeonomics350. *I reserve the right to add new readings or delete readings as I see fit.*

How to Succeed in this Course

1. Read.
2. Bake.
3. Remember that Econ is not a punishment.
4. Have fun!

Readings

All readings can be found on Bakeonomics350.com. See below for specific links.

Course Outline

Week 1 (January 18-22)

Basic Concepts and Assumptions in Economics

- Economics Major "[Ina Garten was an Econ Major](#)"
- Prices "[The Magic of Chocolate Chips](#)"
- Opportunity Cost: "[Opportunity Cost, Economic Profit, and Opening a Bakery](#)" (Cherry Pie)
- Sunk Costs: "[Salt and Sunk Costs](#)" (Brownies)
- Incentives "[COVID-19; Crossing State Borders & Homemade Vanilla Extract](#)"
- Marginal Thinking "[Thinking on the Margin and Birthday Cake](#)"

Week 2 (January 24-30)

Building the Demand Curve

- [Demand versus Quantity Demanded](#) + Choc-Oat-Chip Bars
- Diminishing Marginal Benefit:
 - "[Pink Icing and Diminishing Marginal Benefit](#)" (Amish Cookies)
 - "[Matilda Cake Scene: Economics is Everywhere](#)" (Chocolate Cake)
- Complements and Substitutes
 - "[Complements and Substitutes in Baking](#)" (Biscuits)
 - [Complements, Substitutes, and Giving Thanks](#) (Sweet Potato Casserole)
- Bang for Buck decision-making "[Bang for Buck' and Regular vs. Instant Grits](#)"
- Shifts in Demand "[COVID-19: Lumber, Pools, NYC Suburbs, & Gingerbread Houses: Unexpected Winners during a Pandemic](#)"

Week 3 (January 31 – February 6)

Basics of the Supply Curve

- Supply Curves "[Supply Curve of Chocolate Chip Cookies](#)"
- Marginal Cost increases "[Red Roses and Chocolate Cookies on Valentine's Day](#)"
- Inputs & Foreign Labor "[COVID-19: Foreign Labor & Strawberries](#)"
- Shifts in Supply "[Covid-19: Maryland Crabs versus Maine Lobster: Two Crustaceans, Two Different Problems.](#)"

Week 4 (February 7 – February 13)

Equilibrium

- Shifts in Supply and Demand "[Honey: Shifts in Demand AND Supply](#)"
- Negative Prices "[COVID-19: Negative Oil Prices & Girl Scout Cookies](#)"
- Shifts in Supply "[COVID-19: Meat prices are high but farmers are hurting \(+Texas Kolaches\)](#)"

Week 5 (February 14 – February 20)

Equilibrium Continued: Elasticity & Price Controls

- Shifts in Demand, Shortages, & Elasticity of Supply "[Price Spikes and Oat Milk](#)"
- Elasticity of Supply "[COVID-19; Flour, Yeast, and Milk; Elasticity of Supply](#)"

- Price Ceilings “[Croissants and Butter](#)” (Chocolate Croissants)

Week 6 (February 21 – February 27)

Externalities / Taxes

- "[Chocolate and Chilis](#)" (Mexican Brownies)
- "[Gender Reveal \(cake\) Externalities](#)"
- "[Soda Taxes, Check-Out Restrictions, and Potato Chip Cookies](#)"

Week 7 (February 28 – March 6)

Trade

- Trade War & Tariffs “[Banana Bread and Trade Wars](#)”
- Brexit & Tariffs "[The Impact of Brexit on Oranges](#)" (Orange Scones)
- Trade, Tariffs, Export Bans, Etc. "[COVID-19: How COVID-19 gave an unexpected boost to Thai Rice Exports \(+ Rice Pudding\)](#)"
- Blueberry Imports "[Are Imports Bad? The Case of the Blueberry](#)"

Week 8 (March 7 – March 13)

Short-Run and Long-Run Firm Decisions Perfect Competition

- Shut Down Decisions “[Ice Cream and Shut Down Decisions](#)”
- Short & Long Run Decision Making "[S'Mores Pie, Marshmallows, & an Explanation of Short and Long Run Firm Decision-making](#)"
- [White versus Brown Eggs and Long-Run Prices](#) (+ Creme Brûlée)

Week 9 (March 14 – March 20)

Monopolies and Monopolistic Competition

- [Monopoly Power](#) "[Trademarks, Copyrights, Patents, and Cake & Brownie Mixes](#)(Brownies with Cherries on Top)
- Cartels “[Maple Syrup Cartel](#)”
- Collusion "[Collusion in the Milk Market + Tres Leches Cake](#)"
- Price Discrimination “[Tortillas and Price Discrimination](#)”
- Monopoly Power "[Greek Feta, Government Protections, and Cheese Pies](#)"
- Monopolistic Competition “[Monopolistic Competition and Peanut Butter Cookies](#)”
- Competition between Firms "[The Colorful Fight Between Margarine and Butter](#)"
- Monopoly to Monopolistic Competition "[Raisin Bran was Once a Monopoly \(Bran Muffins\)](#)"

Week 10 (March 21 – March 27)

Asymmetric Information

- Asymmetric Information “[The Market for Lemon Meringue Pie](#)”
- Principal-Agent Problems "[Cookie Dough Cheesecake & Asymmetric Info](#) "

Week 11 (March 28 – April 3)

Intro to Macroeconomics

- Money "[Chocolate is Money](#)" (M&M Cookies)
- [GDP, Consumption, and Cornbread \(+ Chili\)](#)

- Inflation post: TBD

Week 12 (April 4 – April 10)

Intro to Econometrics

- Randomized Control Trials "[Nobel Prize, RCTs, and Cookies in Class](#)" ([Chocolate Chip Shortbread Cookies](#))
- Crossing State Borders "[COVID-19; Crossing State Borders & Homemade Vanilla Extract](#)"

Week 13 (April 11 – April 17)

Intro to Financial Literacy

- [The Importance of Diversification in Desserts & Finance](#)
- Importance of Keeping Track of Spending "[Cookie Jar of Money](#)"
- [Budgeting for an Event \(or Money\) can be Freeing!](#)
- [Friendship Bread and Compounding Interest](#)
- Little Expenses can Add up "[Coffee \(Angelfood Cake\) Expenses](#)"
- [Pie Filling vs. Crust; Inflation vs. Interest](#)

Week 14 (April 18 – April 24)

TBD based on what is new!