

Economics 301(L01&02)

Intermediate Economic Theory –
Microeconomics I

Instructor: Dr. L. Vojtassak
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Lecture Location: L01: ST 131
L02: ENA 03
Lecture Days/Time: L01: TR 9:30 – 10:45
L02: TR 11:00 – 12:15

Office: SS 447
Office Hours: T 14:00 – 14:50
W 13:00 – 13:50

Winter 2015

Textbook(s):

Besanko, D., and Braeutigan, R.R., *Microeconomics*, 5th edition, Wiley & Sons, New Jersey, 2014.

Book(s) on Reserve:

Michael Baye, *Managerial Economics & Business Strategy*, 7th edition, McGraw Hill, 2009.

C. Snyder & W. Nicolson, *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles & Extensions*, 10th edition, Thomson South Western, 2007.

Hal Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, 9th edition, Norton, 2014.

Eaton, Eaton & Allen, *Microeconomics: Theory with Applications*, 8th edition, Pearson publishers, 2011.

Pindyck, R.S. And D.L. Rubinfeld, *Microeconomics*, 7th edition, Pearson: Prentice-Hall Inc., New Jersey, 2010.

Besanko, D., and Braeutigan, R.R., *Microeconomics*, 5th edition, Wiley & Sons, New Jersey, 2014.

Desire2Learn: This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

Tutorials:

Students are expected to attend a weekly tutorial section. During the tutorial section the TA will discuss pre-assigned questions/material relevant to the course. The problems will not be graded but they will offer you the opportunity to test your understanding of the material covered to that point in the course.

Course Outline:

Microeconomics is about how individuals interact to form a society. The core assumptions of microeconomic theory are that individuals have well-formed preferences and that they act on those preferences, given the set of opportunities available. If we had unlimited opportunities, this would not be very interesting. Instead, individuals have limited opportunities and interact with other people in ways that affect everyone. Microeconomics constructs a set of theories for predicting what kinds of decisions can be expected and what kinds of interactions will be observed between people. That theory forms a basis for making predictions about how government should intervene in society. In this course, we focus on the basics of this theory, and we will also explore some applications.

We will start with consumer choice theory (Chapter 3) and see how those choices affect the demand for products (Chapters 4 and 5). We will then analyze the determinants of the firm's cost function and how those costs affect the firm's supply (Chapters 6, 7 and 8). Finally, we will put supply and demand together, to obtain market equilibrium in a (perfectly) competitive market (Chapters 9 and 10). If we have time, we will also investigate the market failures (Chapters 11 and 12).

Calculus is not required for this course and will not be used, but high school level algebra is used extensively. In particular, you must be able to solve a system of two equations and two unknowns.

Timetable

I Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis		Chapter
January 13 – 15, 2015	Introduction, A Methodology	1,2
II Individual Choice		
January 20 – 27, 2015	A Theory of Preferences	3
January 29 – February 5, 2015	Consumer Choice	4
February 10 – 12, 2015	Theory of Demand	5
February 17 – 19, 2015	Reading week, no lecture	
February 24, 2015	MIDTERM (chapters 1-5)	
III Production and Cost		
February 26 – March 5, 2015	Inputs and Production Functions	6
March 10 – 12, 2015	Costs and Cost Minimization	7
March 17 – 19, 2015	Cost Curves	8
IV Markets for Goods		
March 24 – 26, 2015	The Theory of Perfect Competition	9
March 31 – April 2, 2015	Application of the Competitive Model	10
April 7 – 14, 2015	Market Failures	11,12

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Midterm Examination		30%	February 24, 2015 Session in class
3 Assignments	10% each	30%	Due dates: Thursday February 12, 2015 Thursday March 19, 2015 Thursday April 9, 2015 All assignments are due at the beginning of class!
Final Examination		<u>40%</u>	
		100%	

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will apply:

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (including the midterm exams) should discuss their work with the instructor *within fifteen (15) days* of it being returned to class. Re-graded work stands an equal chance of having a higher or lower score assigned. Any term work, which is not returned during regular class time, may be collected from the instructor during office hours.

Assignments

1. Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class on the date due. In exceptional cases they may be handed in before that date to the instructor personally. Answers to assignments will be either discussed in class shortly after each assignment falls due or posted on the D2L. For this reason late assignments will be given a score of zero, although you may still wish to have the work corrected and returned without a score being recorded. Please do not slide assignment under my office door – they will not be marked. Please also do not email assignments to me – they will not be marked.
2. Students are encouraged to discuss the assignments with their classmates, but each must write up his or her own answers. Copying or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own is a serious offence, which will not be tolerated. Your attention is directed to the "Statement of Intellectual Honesty" in the 2014-2015 Calendar. Taking credit for someone else's work is something for which I show zero tolerance.

Examinations:

1. Test and exams will not consist of the multiple-choice questions.
2. The midterm examination will be held in classroom during regular lecture hours and will last 75 minutes.
3. There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours. It will be a comprehensive examination of all-material covered in the course.
4. The exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.
5. All examinations will be closed-book.
6. Answers to the midterm test, the assignment and the final exam questions must make use of equations and diagrams wherever possible. Numerical questions require numerical answers.
7. Deferred examinations will not be given except in the case of the Final Examination, where this possibility is provided for in the university's Academic Regulations.
8. Students should be aware that no "make-up" midterms would be given. Any student who finds it necessary to miss the midterm must notify the instructor in advance and produce a valid medical certificate or other required documentation in order to have the weighting adjusted. This adjustment will result in the final exam counting for 70% of the final grade and the assignments counting for 30% of the final grade.
9. Examinations will not be given before the indicated examination date. For further information see the 2014-2015 Calendar.
10. The use of a simple calculator during test and examination is permitted. The use of graphing calculators, cell phones, and computers is not permitted.

Notes:

1. Students should be aware of the academic regulations outlined in The University of Calgary Calendar.
2. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
3. **The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers may be used for note-taking purposes only.**
4. Students will be responsible for all material listed on the course outline, regardless of whether or not the material has been covered in class, unless the instructor notifies the class that the material will not be covered.
5. Please note that the following types of emails will receive no response: emails not addressed to anyone in particular; emails where the recipient's name is not spelled correctly; anonymous emails; emails in which the sender has not identified which course and section he/she is taking; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on the course outline.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Hana Kadri

Phone: 403-220-3911

E-mail suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

www.ucalgary.ca/sue

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting sue@ucalgary.ca.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at 403-220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support/online-writing-resources>

Safewalk/Campus Security: 403 220 5333

Emergency Assembly Point:

L01 – Professional Faculties Food Court

L02 – ICT Food Court

LV/mi

2014-11-13