

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 201 MICROECONOMICS

Trimester 1 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Dr Mohammed Khaled (Course Co-ordinator), office RH322, telephone no: 463 5787
Email: Mohammed.Khaled@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Vladimir Petkov (Lecturer), office RH311 telephone no: 463 6190
Email: Vladimir.Petkov@vuw.ac.nz

Lectures

Monday: 2:40-3:30 in RH Lt 1 (Rutherford House)

Wednesday: 12:40-1:30 in RH Lt 1

Friday: 10:30-11:20 in RH Lt 1

Tutorials

One weekly tutorial on Wednesday or Thursday (rooms and times to be advised on the Blackboard website).

Examination period: 10 – 23 June 2006

Course Content and Objectives

An intermediate course in microeconomic analysis including theory and applications of consumer and producer behaviour, preliminary analysis of market structures and industrial organisation, and analysis of public goods and externalities.

The primary objective of the course is to enable students to gain a mastery of microeconomic principles and their application at intermediate level. This involves a combination of verbal exposition with diagrammatic and algebraic tools.

There is no mathematical prerequisite for the course, and students should be able to gain a pass grade on the basis of verbal and diagrammatic exposition of issues at the level of Schotter's text (mentioned below). Students wishing to gain good marks, however, should aim to have command also of the algebra and calculus techniques used in Schotter. You are strongly recommended to brush up your basic maths using either a simple text or the QUAN 111 course handbook. Students who have completed an introductory maths paper such as QUAN 111 or QUAN 103 will find that the skills learned there will be of value in ECON 201.

ASSESSMENT:	Assignments	15%	
	Mid-trimester Test	25%	expected date 28 April, to be confirmed
	Final exam	60%	date to be announced

In the event of a student being unable to sit the test for a legitimate reason, the assessment components will be re-weighted to 20% on tutorial assignments and 80% on the final exam.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at a minimum of seven of the ten tutorials **or** a passing grade (at least 50%) in the test. **Students who fail to fulfill the mandatory course requirements will receive an ungraded Fail for the course.**

EXPECTED WORKLOAD: 9 hours per week including three lectures and tutorial.

TEXTBOOK

Schotter, A., *Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, Addison-Wesley 3rd edition 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Varian, H.R., *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, 6th edition, Norton 2003 provides solid exposition of basic microeconomic concepts.

Nicholson, W., *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, South-Western, 8th ed 2002 (earlier editions are fine) provides exposition of microeconomic theory with full presentation of the relevant mathematics. Students who are comfortable with maths will find this a good reference.

ASSIGNMENTS: Tutorial assignment work will be posted on Blackboard on Mondays by 4:30 pm. Print a copy for yourself from here. A limited number of printed copies will be available from Suzanne Freear RH327 from Tuesdays. The completed assignments will be due in your tutor's box on the Mezzanine floor of Rutherford House by 10:45AM on the following Monday morning. Six of the eleven tutorial assignments will be marked, and the best five of the marked assignments will account for 15% of the final grade.

You are encouraged to discuss the assigned problems with other students. However, your written answers must be your own work. You will be penalised for turning in an assignment that is merely copied directly from that of another student.

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME: Tutorials meet once a week, starting in week 2. Tutorial sign-up will be through the SEF web page: www.vuw.ac.nz/sef; go to the tutorial signup link.

Discussion in tutorials will cover the problems set in the weekly assignments. In addition, tutorials are a time to have additional questions and concepts clarified. Your attendance will be recorded, and unless you pass the midterm test, you must attend at least seven of the first ten tutorials to fulfil the mandatory course requirements (see above). You are expected to take an active role in tutorial discussions each week, including weeks for

which the assignment is not marked. **There will be no model answers provided for tutorial assignments.**

LECTURE NOTES: Lecture notes or contents in bullet points will be provided on Blackboard. *Beware:* these will not be as complete as the notes which you will be able to take in class. You should not consider them a substitute for lecture attendance.

PREVIOUS YEAR'S TEST AND EXAM

These will be posted in the Course Information section of the ECON 201 Blackboard site.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be chosen by course participants at the beginning of the course. Class reps play a vital role in the University community, liaising between staff and students to represent the interests of students to the lecturers, and liaising between VUWDSA and the class. If you are willing to put yourself forward for this position please advise the course coordinator.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student Administration Office

The Student Administration Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce & Administration and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- FCA Student Administration forms (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

Check with the Student Administration Office for opening times (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is

available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic

medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean who will either help you directly or put you in contact with someone who can.

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, phone 463 6983 or 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Faculties of Humanities and Social sciences and Commerce and Administration).

- **What:** Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels in the above faculties. Weekly sessions for an hour with a mentor to go over assignments and any questions from tutorials or lectures. Registered students can use the faculty's study rooms and computer suite at any time at Kelburn and Pipitea.
- Mature student and Post grad network

If you would like to register as a mentor or mentee please contact the coordinator.

Where:

Melissa Dunlop
Programme Coordinator
Room 109 D
14 Kelburn Parade: back courtyard
Ph: (04) 463 6015
Email: Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz

Please Note: A mentoring room will also be running at Pipitea Campus starting January. Please contact the Programme Coordinator for details.