

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 140
ECONOMICS AND STRATEGIC BEHAVIOUR

Trimester Two 2007

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Paul Calcott	RH324	463-6585	course coordinator
Jerry Mushin	RH426	463-5884	L1 CRN 8722 lecturer
Penelope de Boer	EA128/RH319	463-7449/5818	course administrator
Adrian Slack	RH315	463-8571	L2 CRN 10037 lecturer

For academic matters you should speak with your lecturer – for example for clarification on the assignment topic you should speak with your lecturer. For administrative matters you should speak with the course administrator – for example for issues involving tutorials or absence from the test you should speak with the course administrator. The course coordinator has overall responsibility for the course.

Class Times and Room Numbers

L1 (CRN 8722) Mon, Wed, Thu 1610 – 1700 MCLT103

L2 (CRN 10037) Mon, Wed, Thu 0800 – 0850 KKLT303

The final examination will be in the period 15 October – 10 November 2007

Course Objectives

This course continues the introduction to economics begun in ECON 130. It provides coverage of further topics in micro- and macro-economics. In addition it exposes students to the use of simple economic models, and so prepares students for further study in ECON and MOFI courses.

Course Content

See pages 6 and 7.

Expected Workload

You should expect to spend 4 hours in class per week (3 lectures and 1 tutorial) and to spend 10 – 11 hours per week reading, studying and completing assignments. Tutorial sign-up will be available on signups.vuw.ac.nz after 10am on Tuesday 10 July, 2007.

Readings

There are three main sources of readings for this course.

- (i) Most reading is in the (green) “Economics and Strategic Behaviour” available from Vic Books. This contains chapters from Pindyck and Rubinfeld (on micro) and from Sloman (mainly macro, but some micro too).
- (ii) The ECON 130 textbook, Sloman and Norris, (yellow) provides useful background material on many topics.
- (iii) Extra material will be available on Blackboard for some topics; a few pages from a textbook by Begg, a handout on game theory and oligopoly and Chapter 4 from Pindyck and Rubinfeld.

Note: you may find some of the material in the readings a little overwhelming, especially for the macroeconomic chapters. However, you are not required to read all of it. Please refer to the topic outline below for the specific pages that we will cover in the course.

The most appropriate **Supplementary reading**, which you will find helpful but which is not required, will vary according to your particular interests, experience and aptitude but may well include the following texts in the library.

William J Baumol and Alan S Blinder, *Economics: Principles and Policy*, (Harcourt), 5th edition, 1991

Jerry Mushin, *Income, Interest Rates and Prices: An Overview of Macroeconomic Theory* (Dunmore Press), third edition 1999.

Michael Parkin, *Microeconomics*, (Addison Wesley), 3rd edition, 1996

Alan C Stockman, *Introduction to Microeconomics and Introduction to Macroeconomics*, (Dryden Press/Harcourt Brace), 1999.

If you are in doubt about the meaning of any economic terms, we suggest that you consult D.W. Pearce (ed) *Macmillan Dictionary of Modern Economics* (1983) which is available in the Study Hall of the Library. However, do not expect too much of a dictionary - Economics deals with concepts and ideas rather than with words.

For those frightened of maths, we recommend

Penelope Proffitt, *Maths Made Easy* (Prentice Hall, 2002);

G. Kennedy, *Mathematics for Innumerate Economists* (Homes and Meier, 1982), especially Chapters 1-4.

A good guide to the recent developments in the New Zealand economy is

Paul Dalziel and Ralph Lattimore, *The New Zealand Macroeconomy: A Briefing on the Reform and their Legacy* (Fourth edition, Oxford University Press, 2001) - also contains a useful guide for further reading.

See also

Stuart Birks and Srikanta Chatterjee, (ed). *The New Zealand Economy: Issues and Policies* (Third edition, Dunmore Press, 1997)

Regular surveys of the New Zealand economy are produced by: The Reserve Bank of New Zealand *Bulletin* and *Annual Report* (<http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/>); the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its *Economic Survey of New Zealand* (<http://www.oecd.org/>); and the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research in its *Quarterly Predictions*. Statistical sources for New Zealand include the *New Zealand Official Yearbook*, Statistics New Zealand's monthly *Key Statistics* (<http://www.stats.govt.nz/>) and the N.Z.

Materials and Equipment

Silent non-programmable calculators may be taken into the test and examination.

Assessment Requirements

Your performance will be evaluated on the basis of:

10% - *Written assignment, due 5pm Aug 17 – submitted to Blackboard

10% - 4 on-line tests each worth 2.5% submitted via Blackboard

20% - Test, Thursday 6 September 6.30 pm

60% - Final Examination, tba - 70% of the examination will be multichoice.

* topic will be available on blackboard shortly after the course begins

Previous years' tests and examinations are posted on Blackboard (blackboard.vuw.ac.nz)

The multi-choice test will be held on Thursday 6 September at 6.30pm. The format is multi-choice and the time allowed for completion of the test is 50 minutes. Last year's test is available on Blackboard as a guide.

The test will cover the microeconomic component of the course. In particular, all the material covered in lectures up to the end of week 6, and all the reading which is specified in the lecture outline as relevant for those lectures will be examinable. A missed test will be entered as a zero unless either written permission has been granted **in advance** by the Course Administrator, or there are clear medical reasons for non-attendance, supported by written evidence from a doctor.

Students may ask for their written assignments to be remarked. The course coordinator will do the remarking and provide comments. If the mark differs by 10% or less the two marks are averaged. If it exceeds 10% then it is independently marked by a third marker and the average of the two closest marks is taken. Experience from previous years is that almost all remarks are within 10% and where there is a change in mark, half the assignments go up and half go down. Occasionally there is a significant shift in the mark.

Applications for remarks must be made before the 21st September. To apply for a remark, fill in the form available on Blackboard, noting why you think the mark does not, in your view, fairly reflect the quality of your work. Note also the comments on the form about what is acceptable and what is not. Hand this with your assignment to Penelope de Boer. Allow for up to two weeks for remarks to be completed.

Penalties

The mark for your written assignment will be decreased by 10% a day for three days after the submission time. After that the assignment is worth zero.

Mandatory Course Requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements for this course.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be conveyed to students via Blackboard. Emails will also be sent to you from time to time to the email address recorded under Student records.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services 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 Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education 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.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to www.vuw.ac.nz/policy.

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.vuw.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.