

School of Economics and Finance

Econ 201 MICROECONOMICS

Trimester One 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Lecturing Staff:

Vladimir Petkov	Office:	RH311
	Email:	vladimir.petkov@vuw.ac.nz
	Phone:	463-6190
Geoff Bertram	Office:	RH423
	Email:	geoff.bertram@vuw.ac.nz
	Phone:	463-5814

Coordinator: Vladimir Petkov

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 16:40 – 17:30 in Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 1

Tutorials:

Monday: 13:40 – 14:30, 14:40 – 15:30; 15:40 – 16:30 (RWW 221)

Tuesday: 12:40 – 13:30 (RWW 314); 13:40 – 14:30, 14:40 – 15:30 (RWW 220)

Wednesday: 9:30 – 10:20, 10:30 – 11:20 (RWW 220); 11:30 – 12:20 (RWW 127)

Thursday: 13:40 – 14:30, 14:40 – 15:30; 15:40 – 16:30 (RWW 221)

Course 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 command 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 the textbook. Students wishing to gain good marks, however, should aim to have command also of the algebra and calculus techniques used in Besanko and Braeutigam. You are strongly recommended to brush up your basic maths using either a simple text or the QUAN 111 textbook (M. Khaled and P. Proffitt, *Mathematics for Business and Economics*, Pearson Education). 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.

Course Content

See the lecture programme

Expected Workload

9 hours per week including three lectures and tutorial.

Readings

Textbook: David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, *Microeconomics*, Second Edition, John Wiley & Sons, 2005

Supplementary readings:

Schotter, A., *Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, Addison-Wesley 3rd edition 2001. This is the textbook used in the previous years. It is not an acceptable substitute for the course text.

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 2001 (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.

Materials and Equipment

Students will be allowed to use non-programmable calculators in tests

Assessment Requirements

Assignments	15%	
Midtrimester Test	25%	date to be announced
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 assignments and 80% on the final exam.

Penalties

Late assignments will not be marked.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Attendance at a minimum of seven of the eleven tutorials **or** a passing grade (at least 50%) in the test.

Assignments

Tutorial assignment work will be posted on Blackboard and available in lectures on Tuesdays. The completed assignments will be due in your tutor's box (location to be notified) by 16:30 on the following Friday afternoon. 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. You can sign up for tutorials online at signups.vuw.ac.nz starting from 16:00 on Wednesday 27 February until 11:00 on Friday 29 February.

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 Aand Exam

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

Communication of Additional Information

Additional announcements will be posted on Blackboard

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 on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for :

- 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 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.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

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

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct

- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

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. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

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

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

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 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.