

School of Economics and Finance

## **ECON201 MICROECONOMICS**

Trimester One 2009

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

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#### **Names and Contact Details**

##### **Lecturing Staff:**

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##### **Course Administrator:**

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##### **Coordinator:**

Vladimir Petkov

##### **Trimester Dates**

The trimester starts on Monday 2 March. The examination period ends on Wednesday 1 July.

##### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

**Lectures:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 14:40 – 15:30 in Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 1.

**Tutorials:** Tutorials meet once a week, starting in week 2. You can sign up for tutorials online at <http://signups.victoria.ac.nz/> starting from 16:00 on Tuesday 3 March until 11:00 on Friday 13 March.

**Withdrawal dates:** Information available via

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

##### **Course Content**

See the lecture programme (to be supplied).

## Course Learning Objectives

- C1 comprehend and articulate the principles of decision making and resource allocation under scarcity;
- C2 apply microeconomic techniques to seemingly disparate areas of economics;
- C3 comprehend the role and objectives of regulation;
- C4 understand the principles of consumer choice;
- C5 describe the concept of technology and production costs;
- C6 analyse the behaviour of perfectly competitive firms;
- C7 use game theory to explain models of imperfect competition;
- C8 appraise principles of decision making under uncertainty;
- C9 analyse basic general equilibrium models;
- C10 explain market failures due to externalities and public goods.

## Expected Workload

9 hours per week including three lectures and tutorial.

## Readings

**Textbook:** Perloff, J., *Microeconomics Theory & Applications with Calculus*, First Edition, Pearson Education, Inc.

### Supplementary readings:

David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, *Microeconomics*, Second Edition, John Wiley & Sons, 2005. This is the textbook used in the previous years. It is not an acceptable substitute for the course text.

Schotter, A., *Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, Addison-Wesley 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 2001. This textbook has an extensive chapter on game theory.

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

Nicholson, W., *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, South-western, 8<sup>th</sup> 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	20%	dates to be announced
Mid-trimester Test	20%	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.

## **Examinations**

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

## **Penalties**

**Late assignments will accrue a penalty of 5% per day for the first three days. After that they 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 midterm test.

## **Tutorial Programme**

Tutorial assignment work will be posted on Blackboard and available in lectures. The completed assignments will be due in your tutor's box (location to be notified). Each will account for 10% of the final grade.

Tutorials are also a time to have questions and concepts clarified. Your attendance will be recorded, and unless you pass the midterm test, you must attend at least seven of the eleven tutorials to fulfil the mandatory course requirements (see above). You are expected to take an active role in tutorial discussions each week. **There will be no model answers provided for tutorial questions.**

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

## **Lecture Notes**

Lecture notes or slides 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 Years' Tests and Exams**

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.

### **Use of Turnitin**

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 mis-referencing, 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.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx](http://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](http://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: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work 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 penalised 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](http://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](mailto:manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email [pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 5842.