

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 201 INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

Trimester One 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

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Course Coordinator: Vladimir Petkov

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 5 March – Friday 8 June

Study Period: Monday 11 June – Thursday 14 June

Examination Period: Friday 15 June – Wednesday 4 July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 16 March 2012.

The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 18 May. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an *'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late'* including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures: Wednesday, Friday 12:40 – 13:30 in Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 1.

Tutorials: There will be eight tutorial exercises. They will meet in weeks 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. **There will be no tutorials in weeks 1, 5, 6 and 12.** You can sign up for tutorials online at <http://signups.victoria.ac.nz/> starting from 5pm on Wednesday, 07 March until 5pm on Wednesday, 14 March.

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 explain market failures due to externalities and public goods.

Course Delivery

There will be 24 lectures (2 lectures weekly) and 8 tutorials.

Tutorial Programme

Tutorial questions will be posted on Blackboard. Also, students will be given two marked assignments. The completed assignments will be due in your tutor's box (location to be notified). Each will account for 10% of the final grade. **There will be no model answers provided for tutorial questions.**

Furthermore, each student is required to give a short presentation of a tutorial question in at least one tutorial exercise (to be assigned by his/her tutor). Failure to participate in the presentation will accrue a penalty of 5% of the final grade (see below).

You are encouraged to discuss tutorial questions and assignments with other students. However, your written answers to assignments must be your own work. If a student is caught copying a marked assignment from another student, both will incur a penalty of 50% of their assignment grade.

Expected Workload

A total of 150 hours of work is expected from students in this course. That consists of 34 hours of classes, eight hours per week outside classes during teaching weeks spent reading, studying and writing assignments, and a further 20 hours revising during the mid-trimester break and study week.

Readings

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

Supplementary readings:

David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, *Microeconomics*, Second Edition, John Wiley & Sons, 2005. This textbook is somewhat similar to the course text. However, it is not an acceptable substitute.

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

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.

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.

Assessment Requirements

Two Assignments	20%	dates to be announced
Mid-trimester Test	20%	12:40 – 13:30 on Wednesday, 9 May
Two-Hour 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.

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Quality Assurance Note

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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.

The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from Friday 15 June – Wednesday 4 July (inclusive).

Penalties

Late assignments will accrue a penalty of 5% per day for the first three days. After that they will not be marked. Students who copy assignments or allow their assignments to be copied will incur a penalty of 50% of their assignment grade. Students who do not give a presentation in their assigned tutorial will accrue a penalty of 5% of their final grades.

Mandatory Course Requirements

A passing grade (at least 50%) on the mid-trimester test or submission of both marked assignments.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional announcements will be posted on Blackboard.

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 compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. 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.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

Te Putahi Atawhai

Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/>