

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 201 INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

Trimester 1, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Vladimir Petkov Office: RH311
 Email: vladimir.petkov@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 463-6190

Paul Calcott Office: RH324
 Email: paul.calcott@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 463-6585

Course Administrator:

Alice Fong Office: RH318
 Email: alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 463-5353

Course Coordinator: Vladimir Petkov

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 3rd March – Friday 6th June
Study Period: Monday 9th June – Thursday 12th June
Examination Period: Friday 13th June – Wednesday 2nd July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 14th March 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 16th 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: Tuesday, Thursday 09:30 – 10:20 in Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 1.

Tutorials: There will be eight tutorial exercises. The weeks without tutorials will be announced later. You can sign up for tutorials online at <http://signups.victoria.ac.nz/> starting from 5pm on Tuesday, 04 March until 5pm on Friday, 14 March.

Course Delivery

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

Tutorial Programme

Tutorial questions will be posted on Blackboard. **There will be no model answers provided for tutorial questions.** 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.

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 24 hours of lectures, eight hours of tutorials, 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.

Prescription

This course in intermediate microeconomic analysis includes demand theory and applications of consumer behaviour, analysis of market structures, strategic behaviour, introductory welfare economics and analysis of public goods and externalities.

Course Learning Objectives

C1	articulate the principles of decision making and resource allocation under scarcity;
C2	apply microeconomic techniques to seemingly separate areas of economics;
C3	explain the principles of consumer choice;
C4	describe the concept of technology and production costs;
C5	analyse the behaviour of perfectly competitive firms;
C6	derive and comment on equilibria in simple game-theoretic models of oligopoly;
C7	identify profit maximising pricing strategies for monopolists adopting a range of approaches such as market separation, two-part pricing and bundling;
C8	explain market failures due to externalities and public goods;
C9	discuss the normative and ethical foundations of economic analysis.

Course Content

See the lecture programme (to be supplied).

Readings

Textbook: Perloff, J., *Microeconomics with Calculus*, Pearson Education, Inc. Both the second and the third editions of this textbook are acceptable.

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

Two Assignments	20%	dates to be announced	CLO: C1 – C9
Mid-trimester Test	20%	09:30 – 10:20 on Tuesday, 06 May	CLO: C1 – C5
Two-Hour Final exam	60%	date to be announced	CLO: C1 – C8

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.

From Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

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.

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 following period:

Friday 13th June – Wednesday 2nd July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

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

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

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.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

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 academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
