Syllabus for Economics 6070: MA Microeconomics
University of Colorado Boulder
Fall Semester, 1999

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Class Meeting
TR 9:30-10:45 am, Economics 13

Office hours (Econ 12)
Tuesday 2-3pm, Wednesday 9:30-11:30 or by appointment

Course Web Site:
http://nash.Colorado.edu/tomruth/6070/index.htm

Teaching Assistant
Name and office hours to be announced

Textbook:


Goals and Strategies

The purpose of this course is to introduce first year graduate students and advanced undergraduates to the basic theory and applications of microeconomic models. The course will employ calculus, numerical and graphical tools. *Students are required to have completed a one semester course in calculus in order to register.*

Students who complete this course should have a good understanding of the use of models in economics. They should also be well acquainted with the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the role of markets in allocating scarce resources. Students will also develop an understanding of the use of non-cooperative game theory in microeconomic analysis.

Subsidiary goals for the course include:

* the development of clear written and oral communication skills in classroom interaction, short essay assignments and examinations,

* familiarity with the use of diagrams and calculus in formulating models in economics.

* competence in use of Excel to perform calculations and solve simple models.
* a working understanding of the practical application economic ideas to specific policy issues and industries.

**Topics of Study**

The course will follow the structure of Varian's graduate microeconomic analysis text. In the course of lectures, I will also draw on material from corresponding chapters in the Varian's intermediate micro textbook. At present, I anticipate covering the following general topics:

I. Theory of the Firm (Chapters 1-6)
II. Theory of the Consumer (Chapters 7-10)
III. Competitive Markets (chapters 13,17,18)
IV. Game Theory (Chapters 14,15,16)

**Conduct of the Course**

The course meets three hours a week. Tuesday meetings will be lecture format, typically covering one chapter from the text. Thursday meetings will generally be devoted to discussions and problem-solving. Students are expected to contribute to the course through active participation in class discussions and timely completion of writing assignments and problem sets.

Course evaluation is based on class participation, periodic short assignments, a mid-term examination and a final examination. Specific weights assigned to these task are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework sets</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term examinations (2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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The final examination will be for two hours, held at the time and place scheduled by the registrar.

Written work for the course must conform to the standard rules of grammar, spelling and usage. For tips on writing style, see Mc Closkey, *The Writing of Economics* (Macmillan Publishing Company).