

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
Economics 3070-004

Professor M. J. Greenwood

Spring 2008

Office: ECON 106

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:15am-12:00pm; 3:30-4:45, and by appointment.

PREREQUISITES: ECON 1000 or 2010; and either ECON 1078 and 1088, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1310, or MATH 1081, or MATH 1080, 1090, and 1100, or APPM 1350, or equivalent.

COURSE OUTLINE

Text: Jeffrey M. Perloff, *Microeconomics*, Fourth Edition (Pearson Education, Inc., 2007)

Part I: Theories of Consumer Behavior and Demand

1. Introduction: Chapter 1
2. Utility and Choice: Chapters 4, 5
3. Individual and Market Demand: Chapter 2 (parts relating to demand)
4. Market Demand and Elasticity: Chapter 3 (parts relating to demand)

Part II: Theories of Production and Cost

5. Production: Chapter 6
6. Costs: Chapter 7

Part III: Theories of Price and Output under Various Market Circumstances

7. Profit Maximization and Supply: Chapters 8; 2, 3 (parts relating to supply)
8. Perfect Competition: Chapters 8, 9
9. Monopoly: Chapters 11 and 12
10. Imperfect Competition: Chapter 13
11. Strategy and Game Theory: Chapter 14

Part IV: Factor Markets

12. Pricing in Input Markets: Chapter 15

Part V: Other Topics

13. General Equilibrium: Chapter 10
14. Externalities and Public Goods: Chapter 18

This course is divided into five sections. The first deals with theories of consumer behavior and demand. The second treats theories of production and cost. The third considers the firm under various types of market structure, including perfect competition, monopoly, and structures intermediate between these two extremes. The fourth part of the course focuses on factor markets, and the fifth on general equilibrium (as distinct from partial equilibrium, which is an implicit assumption in most of the earlier material of the course.) If time allows, we will also study externalities and public goods, and perhaps other topics as well.

COMMENTS ABOUT THE COURSE

This course is essentially the language course of economics. The terms and concepts developed here are basic to economists in conversing with one another, and they underlie, in one way or another, much of economic theory and the policy implications derived therefrom. Economists often think of the terms and concepts of microeconomic theory as the nuts and bolts of economics, and they speak of the “tools” of economics or their “tool kit” in reference to the material of this course. Perhaps more importantly, economists use these tools to better understand how economies such as that of the United States and other countries around the world, both advanced and less developed, operate.

My goal in this course is to convey to you an understanding of the basic tools of economic theory. The course could be taught with great emphasis on calculus, but that is not my approach. Rather, I emphasize diagrams, although I will use calculus. I expect you to understand the basics of numerous diagrams that, in pictures, reflect the concepts that are most important in intermediate microeconomic theory. To learn these many diagrams well, you must redraw and work with them. Many of the diagrams can be found on the web site (<http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses/spring08-3070-004>).

Because I have never met a student who could do very well in this course without attending class regularly, I have an attendance requirement. Every day I will either take the roll myself (early in the term) or pass around an attendance roster (later in the term). After three absences (beginning with absence four), 5 points will be deducted from the student’s overall score for each absence. Ten points will be added for any student who misses no more than one class. No excuses are available for a student to receive this bonus. Please come to class. Although many diagrams are available on the web, many others are developed only on the board.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE/GRADING POLICY

Four major examinations will be given. The four exams will each cover approximately one-quarter of the course material and will count for **100 points** each. Forty percent of each examination consists of multiple choice questions. I offer a lengthy list of practice multiple choice questions, which you will find on the web site. Please use these questions. I also will give several homework assignments that will be graded and scored. Homework points will be factored into the students overall score as bonus points. I expect students to treat these assignments as take-home exams. You are on your honor to do these assignments by yourself, on your own.

NOTE: No makeup exams are offered and none will be scheduled.

Examination Schedule

- Examination #1:** February 7
- Examination #2:** March 11
- Examination #3:** April 10
- Examination #4:** May 3 (4:30pm–7:00pm)