

Elements of Microeconomics (AS.180.102.11)

Summer 2017

Instructor: Jianhui Li

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Office Hours: TBD

Class Meetings: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Course Website: blackboard.jhu.edu

Course Description

Microeconomics is a branch of economics that studies the behavior of individuals and firms in making decisions regarding the allocation of limited resources and how they interact in specific markets. This course is an introduction to the economic system and microeconomic analysis with emphasis on the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of firm, the organization of industry and the public goods. For instance, we will examine the optimal consumption decisions of consumers facing budget constraint and the pricing or quantity decisions of firms that maximizes profits in different markets like perfect competitive markets or monopoly.

Textbooks

Principles of Microeconomics, 8th Edition

Author: Mankiw, N. Gregory

ISBN-13: 9781337096874

The assigned textbook for the course is N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Microeconomics*, 8th edition. We may also refer to material in Bruce Hamilton, *Markets and Economic Efficiency* (Academx Publishing Services), but it is not necessary for you to purchase this manuscript provided that you attend lectures and keep notes on the relevant material. In

addition to the textbooks, your own class notes should serve as a critical reference for you to prepare for exams and quizzes, so you are encouraged to regularly attend class.

Prerequisites

Familiarity with graphs and high school algebra. See the Appendix of Chapter 2 in Mankiw for a review of basic graphing techniques.

Grading

- Participation and attendance (10%): Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes.
- Quizzes (10%): In class on June 5 and June 22; each will take 50 minutes
- Midterm exam (30%): In class on Thursday, June 15; 1 hour and 30 minutes. If you miss the midterm, 80% of your grade will depend on the final.
- Final exam (50%): In class on Thursday, June 23; 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Make-up midterm or final will not be granted except in case of serious illness or religious observance. Medical excuses must be accompanied by a written note from a licensed medical practitioner. Frequent unexcused absences from class will result in a low class participation grade. Plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade on the assignment and will be handled according to the University procedures for violations of academic integrity.

Additional Resources

The Learning Den offers free small group tutoring, and is an excellent resource for additional help. You will need to make an appointment, and the schedule will be posted here: www.jhu.edu/academic-assistance

Outline

Tentative overview of topics and readings:

Date	Topic	Readings	
May 30	Introduction to Microeconomics	Mankiw: Ch. 1, 2, 3	Hamilton: Ch.1
June 1	Production Possibilities	Mankiw: Ch. 3, 4	Hamilton: Ch.3
June 5	Consumer Choice	Mankiw: Ch. 4, 21	Hamilton: Appendix A
June 6	Market Equilibrium	Mankiw: Ch. 4	Hamilton: Ch.4
June 8	Elasticity	Mankiw: Ch. 5	
June 12	Surplus and Efficiency	Mankiw: Ch. 7	Hamilton: Ch.2
June 13	Taxes and Government Intervention	Mankiw: Ch. 6, 8	Hamilton: Ch.10
June 15	Midterm		
June 19	Cost of Production	Mankiw: Ch. 13	Hamilton: Ch. 5
June 20	Markets for the Factors of Production	Mankiw: Ch. 18	Hamilton: Ch. 6, 7, 8
June 22	Monopoly	Mankiw: Ch. 15	Hamilton: Ch. 9
June 26	Oligopoly	Mankiw: Ch. 17	
June 27	Externalities and Public Goods	Mankiw: Ch. 10, 11	Hamilton: Ch. 11
June 29	Final exam		