
University of Alberta – Department of Economics – Fall 2011
ECON 281 – Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I – A4 – Marchand

COURSE OUTLINE

Website

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~jmarchan/teaching.htm>

Instructor

Joseph Marchand
jmarchan@ualberta.ca

Meetings

Tuesday and Thursday
Tory 1-91: 11:00am - 12:20pm

Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday
Tory 7-29: 4:00 - 6:00pm

Description

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (ECON 281) at the University of Alberta serves as the first of a two-course undergraduate sequence in intermediate microeconomics, in order to lay the foundation for future study within economics. ECON 281 will explore the traditional topics of microeconomics including supply and demand, consumer choice behavior, individual and market demand, production, cost of production, profit maximization and competitive supply, analysis of competitive markets, market power, pricing with market power, and markets for factor inputs.

Prerequisites

Individuals enrolled in this course should have taken Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 101) or its equivalent. Your registration may otherwise be canceled.

Materials

There is one required textbook for this course:

Pindyck, Robert S. and Rubinfeld, Daniel L. (2009). *Microeconomics, Seventh Edition*, Pearson Prentice Hall, 736 pages.

This is the edition available at the UofA bookstore. Please note that the sixth edition (from 2005) is a fine substitute for the newest edition. There is also a study guide available that accompanies the textbook which is very helpful but not mandatory. Additional related materials for this textbook may be found through the publisher's website (<http://www.prenhall.com/pindyck>). MyEconLab is also not required.

The lecture notes will serve as complementary material to the textbook (see Lectures).

A non-graphing, scientific calculator will be needed for assignments and examinations.

Evaluation

Your overall grade for the course will be determined by using the absolute grades for two assignments and two examinations and evaluating them through a suggested grade distribution for a 200-level course with the following relative weights:

20%	Assignments (2)	(for due dates, see Tentative Schedule)
35%	Exam 1 – Mid-term	(on Thursday, Oct. 20 th , during class meeting)
45%	Exam 2 – Final	(on Monday, Dec. 12 th , during exam period)

Assignments

All individuals enrolled in this course must complete two assignments on the scheduled dates. These assignments are intended to assist you in your understanding of the calculations required in microeconomics and for exam preparation. They will be closely related to the material from the textbook and lectures. Assignments must be handed in on time to either the instructor during the class meeting or to the Department office prior to 4pm on the scheduled due date. All work contained within the assignment must be original and be shown. Tardiness and plagiarism will be severely penalized. All assignments and their keys will be posted on the course website in a timely manner. Previous assignments will not be provided.

Exams

All enrolled individuals must complete two examinations on the scheduled dates. The purpose of these examinations is for you to demonstrate your understanding of the course concepts. These exams will be closely related to the material from the lectures and textbook. The mid-term exam will cover material from the first half of the course, while the final exam will cover the latter half. Any individual who will miss the mid-term exam and has a critical need to be excused must obtain permission and make arrangements with the instructor one week ahead of the scheduled mid-term exam date. Any individual who will miss the final exam and has a critical need to be excused may apply for a deferred final exam through the Department. A deferred final exam will not be approved if an individual has completed less than half of the assigned work, excluding the final exam. These situations should only arise in the most extreme of circumstances. A student who misses an exam under any other circumstances will receive an exam grade of zero. Previous exams will not be made available through the course website or by any other arrangement.

Lectures

The lectures given during the class meetings provide explanation and context for each of the course topics. Attendance is recommended. All enrolled individuals are asked to familiarize themselves with the topic at hand prior to each lecture. The lectures should not be treated as a listening/viewing experience only, as the learning process is more effective when interaction is taking place. Therefore, productive class participation is encouraged. The responsibility for obtaining the lecture notes is your own, whether or not you are able to attend the class meetings. These lectures will not be made available by the instructor through the course website or by any other arrangement.

Tentative Schedule

September	8 th	Thurs	(1)	Overview of the Course & Preliminaries – Chapter 1
	13 th	Tues	(2)	Supply and Demand – Chapter 2
	15 th	Thurs	(3)	Supply and Demand – Chapter 2
	20 th	Tues	(4)	Consumer Choice Behavior – Chapter 3
	22 nd	Thurs	(5)	Consumer Choice Behavior – Chapter 3 [A1 begins]
	27 th	Tues	(6)	Individual and Market Demand – Chapter 4
	29 th	Thurs	(7)	Individual and Market Demand – Chapter 4
October	4 th	Tues	(8)	Production – Chapter 6
	6 th	Thurs	(9)	Production – Chapter 6 [A1 due]
	11 th	Tues	(10)	Cost of Production – Chapter 7
	13 th	Thurs	(11)	Cost of Production – Chapter 7 & Review for Exam 1
	18 th	Tues	(12)	Cost of Production – Chapter 7
	20 th	Thurs	[E1]	[Exam 1 – Mid-term] (during class meeting) (11-12:20)
	25 th	Tues	(13)	Profit Max. and Comp. Supply – Chapter 8
27 th	Thurs	(14)	Profit Max. and Comp. Supply – Chapter 8	
November	1 st	Tues	(15)	Analysis of Comp. Markets – Chapter 9
	3 rd	Thurs	(16)	Analysis of Comp. Markets – Chapter 9
	8 th	Tues	(17)	Analysis of Comp. Markets – Chapter 9
	10 th	Thurs	*	(Remembrance Day – no class meeting)
	15 th	Tues	(18)	Market Power – Chapter 10
	17 th	Thurs	(19)	Market Power – Chapter 10 [A2 begins]
	22 nd	Tues	(20)	Market Power – Chapter 10
	24 th	Thurs	(21)	Pricing with Market Power – Chapter 11
29 th	Tues	(22)	Pricing with Market Power – Chapter 11	
December	1 st	Thurs	(23)	Markets for Factor Inputs – Chapter 14 [A2 due]
	6 th	Tues	(24)	Review for Exam 2
	12 th	Mon	[E2]	[Exam 2 – Final] (during exam period) (9-11am)

Office Hours

Office hours are available for all follow-up questioning not addressed within the class meeting. Any relevant issue to the subject matter may be discussed during this time. At no point, however, will the instructor view or evaluate ungraded work such as assignments. From the first day of classes, office hours will be held as scheduled. After the last day of classes, special office hours will be scheduled to fall on the day prior to your final exam.

University Policy

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and may result in suspension or expulsion from the University (GFC 29 SEP 2003).

Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar (GFC 29 SEP 2003).