

Economics 1130, Fall 2011
Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical)

<http://www.econ.brown.edu/~rvohra/econ1130/>

Tue., Thu. 9-10:20 a.m., Smith-Buonanno 201

Conference Section 1: Fri., 11- 11:50 a.m., Wilson 109

Conference Section 2: Fri., 1 - 1:50 p.m., Wilson 109

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Textbook

Hal Varian, "Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach", 8th Ed., Norton.

Homework Assignments

Weekly homework assignments will be found on the Aplia website (<http://www.aplia.com/>), and are to be submitted online. This requires a separate registration process. See more details on Aplia below.

Prerequisites

Math 0100, or 0170, or equivalent; and Econ 0110 or advanced placement.

Course Overview

This course will cover microeconomic theory at the intermediate level. Successfully completing this course should make you conversant with some basic models used in economic theory, and with standard methods of economic reasoning. It should be seen as a course that provides the foundations of economic analysis and thereby opens the door to other economics courses, both applied and theoretical.

This is the mathematical version of Econ 1110, and should therefore appeal to those with a more mathematical bent, but the topics covered in the two courses are the same. This course assumes a good background in single variable calculus (mathematical concepts beyond single-variable calculus will be reviewed in class). Please take note of the Mathematical Appendix in the textbook. If any of this material looks unfamiliar, or if you think it would take more than just a little practice to get back up to speed, then you should consider taking Econ 1110 instead.

The lectures will emphasize the theory (following the textbook very closely) while most applications of the theory will appear in the homework assignments that are to be done online, on Aplia. You should think of this as a lecture-lab course where the conference sections and the homework play the role of lab sections. The graded problem sets (usually one each week) have a firm due date. You can change your

answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to change your answers or complete the assignment at this point. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for graded problems. There will also be practice sets (not counted in the grade) that give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. Since we have a lot of material to cover, it is essential that you keep pace with the class, and do the homework regularly and with care. You are encouraged to discuss the homework problems in groups but the final output must be your own.

Grading

There will be two mid-term exams (October 6th and November 8th), each accounting for 20% of the grade. Homeworks will carry 20% weight and the remaining 40% of the grade will be based on the final exam (Monday, December 19th).

Course Outline

I. Consumer Theory

I.1 Introduction, the budget constraint, preferences, utility and a model of consumer behavior. Chapters 1,2,3,4 and 5; 2 weeks.

I.2 Consumer demand and its properties. Chapters 6, 7 and 8; 1 week.

I.3 Consumers' surplus and market demand. Chapters 14 and 15; 1 week.

Exam I: Thu., October 6, 9- 10:20 a.m.

II. Theory of the Firm

II.1 Technology and costs, minimization of costs, profit maximization, supply; Chapters 18-23; 2 weeks.

II.2 Monopoly; Chapters 24, 25; 1 week.

Exam II: Tue., November 8, 1-2:20 p.m.

III Market Structure

Oligopoly and Game Theory. Chapters 27, 28; 2 weeks.

IV General Equilibrium

Economic Efficiency and Perfect Competition. Chapters 29, 30; 1 week.

Final Exam: Mon., December 19, 2 -5 p.m.

Aplia Registration

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com/>
2. If you already have an account, sign in. Go to your My Courses page, and click the Enroll in a New Course button. If you don't have an account, click the Create a New Account button, and choose Student Account.
3. Enter your Course Key when prompted: **LVU7-75EG-7SFR**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions to access your course.

If you did not buy an Aplia access card with your textbook you can purchase access to your course from the Aplia website. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 p.m. on 9/21/2011.