Microeconomics II: Course Outline

Dominic Rohner

Spring 2025

Goals

- The focus in Micro I was on demand, supply, equilibrium and strategic interaction. In terms of *Journal of Economic Literature* (JEL) Classification this corresponds to the microeconomics sections D1-D6.
- We build on this knowledge, but enrich the analysis by studying the role of information, behavioral choices and collective decision making. Which corresponds to the remaining microeconomics JEL sections D7-D9.

Triple goal of the course

- First, the course aims to transmit knowledge of classic concepts and more cutting-edge results
- A further goal is also transmit a set of skills
- Last but not least, several of the topics covered bear insights that
 are particularly policy relevant to tackle current grand challenges of
 humanity (challenges to circular economy, democracy under pressure,
 increase in number of armed conflicts etc).



Structure Course (for further details see syllabus)

- Course Outline (now)
- PART I INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND UNCERTAINTY
 - Section I.1: Adverse Selection
 - Section I.2: Moral Hazard
 - Section I.3: Application: Insurance

PART II – BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

- Section II.1: Big Picture
- Section II.2: Choice Under Uncertainty
- Section II.3: Buyers, Sellers and Markets
- Section II.4: Time Inconsistent Preferences

PART III – COLLECTIVE DECISION MAKING

- Section III.1: Aggregation of Preferences
- Section III.2: Electoral Competition
- Section III.3: Impact of Lobbying and Other Factors
- Section III.4: Conflict



Readings

- There are no compulsory required readings
- The goal is that the lecture slides and exercises contain all key information
- The syllabus contains useful references, including both textbooks and articles, which can help you to foster the understanding

Credits / Exam

- This is a 6-credit course.
- There will be both a mid-term and a final exam.
- They are both written and closed book, meaning no documents, laptops, smartphones, etc., are allowed.
- Please bring with you a non-programmable calculator.
- The better grade from the mid-term and final exam will count 60 percent and the lower of the two grades will count 40 percent of the final grade of the course.

The Team

- Dominic Rohner (dominic.rohner@graduateinstitute.ch)
- Assistant: Guido Stefano Alessandro Ardizzone (guido.ardizzone@graduateinstitute.ch)
- Review Sessions / Office Hours

Problem Sets

- We shall have two problem set sessions (or more if you like)
- You can download the questions beforehand (Moodle), and during the problem set sessions we will explain the correct answers.

Course Website & Contact Details

- Course website on moodle
- The website contains:
 - all administrative information (including a detailed timeline of problem sets, midterm, final exam)
 - all the slides
 - all problem sets