

Department of Economics

ECON 520 – Intermediate Microeconomics

Fall 2009

Class Schedule: M W F 9:30-10:20 AM

Class Room: Waters 348

Prerequisite: ECON 120

Instructor: Luo, Zijun

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Office: Waters Hall 339B

Office Hours: Monday 10:30-11:30

Thursday 9:30-11:30

Final Exam: December 17th, 11:50-1:40**Course Objectives**

Microeconomics is about our everyday life, is about individual choices. As an intermediate level economics course, ECON520 will be more analytical and mathematical than principle level courses (ECON120 & ECON110). The main differences between intermediate and principle courses are, 1) using more problem-solving skills (such as graphs and mathematics); 2) emphasizing theories more systematically; 3) stressing critical thinking more deeply. This is also a very important class if you are considering continue your economics study as a graduate student.

Textbook(s)

Here is the required textbook:

Jack Hirshleifer, Amihai Glazer and David Hirshleifer, "Price Theory and Applications", 7th edition. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

You may also use the 6th edition of the same book, written by Jack Hirshleifer and David Hirshleifer (The 5th edition is written by Jack Hirshleifer and Amihai Glazer). You can also find information about other widely use intermediate microeconomics textbooks at my webpage:

<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~luozijun/520/TextbookInfo.html>

If you already have any of the textbooks in the list, you don't have to purchase the one I assigned. But you have to send me an email to let me know what textbook you are using.

Studying Advice

First, I highly recommend you to attend every class. As a graduate student who doing research in applied game theory and interested in experimental economics, I will sometimes throw out small experiments in class not just for fun but for you to get extra points. Also, you should note that when I

designed materials for this class, I compared and combined different viewpoints from different textbooks. You may lose something important by just reading the textbook I assigned.

Second, I suggest you to think about homework assignments on your own before discussing with your friends or classmates. Most homework assignments, as well as exams, are directly linked to materials I presented in class. So you should be able to finish them on your own after attending classes and reviewing course materials.

Third, I encourage you to connect microeconomic theory to your real life. As I always emphasize, microeconomics is all about individual choices. And your choices are part of “individual choices”. So it’s very important to use it or at least recognize it in everyday lives. You can get deeper understanding about a theory if you can use it to explain your own life.

Course Outline

You can find a detailed course outline on my webpage at:

<http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~luozijun/520/ECON520Fall2009CourseOutline.pdf>

Basically we will cover Chapters 1-8, and Chapter 10 of the textbook as the main body of the class. If we have spare time, we will talk about Chapter 17 but this chapter is not required in any exams.

Homework Assignments and Exams

There will be 8 homework assignments. Due dates will show on the assignment. I encourage you to form groups to finish homework assignments but as I mentioned, you should think about the questions before you discuss with others. If you forgot to hand in your homework assignments, let me know ASAP. Every student has one and only one chance to hand in late homework assignment.

There will be 3 mid-term exams plus 1 final exam due to the schedule of this class. Mid-term exams will contain “short answers” (or/and “graph analysis”) and “multiple choices” (or/and “true or false”), and will be given IN CLASS. Please remember to attend classes right AFTER every mid-term exam. Final exam will be comprehensive. I will hold additional office hours before every mid-term exam. There will also be a review section before the final exam. NO MAKE UP EXAM WILL BE GIVEN.

There will be NO quizzes in this class.

Grading

Final grades are subject to be curved. But in general you should expect the following rule:

A: 90% or above; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: Under 60%

Every homework assignment weights 5% in your final grades. Every mid-term exam weights 15% in your final grades. The final exam weights 25% in your final grades. Accordingly, a total 400 points will be assigned as follows:

Homework: 18 points each; Mid-term Exam: 60 points each; Final Exam: 100 points.

Also, as I mentioned, there will be chances to get extra points for your final score. Later, I will give you detailed instructions about how to get it.

Academic Accommodations

Any student that has any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, which necessitates accommodations or other assistance in this course should make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

The following statement comes from KSU's Honor & Integrity System and applies to this class:

<<K-State University has an Honor & Integrity System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that in academic matters one's work is preformed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor & Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor & Integrity System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The Honor & Integrity System web site can be reached via the following URL: <http://www.ksu.edu/honor>.

A component vital to the Honor System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated:

“On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.”

A grade of XF can result from the breach of academic honesty. The F would indicate failure of the course with the X on the transcript indicating failure as a result of a breach of academic honesty.>>

Economist Poem (From <http://netec.wustl.edu/JokEc.html>)

If you do some acrobatics/with a little mathematics/it will take you far along.
If your idea's not defensible/don't make it comprehensible/or folks will find you out,
And your work will draw attention/if you only fail to mention/what the whole thing is about.
You must talk of GNP/and of elasticity/of rates of substitution/and undeterminate solution/and oligonopopsony.

Kenneth E. Boulding