

Economics Department

ECON 251– Intermediate Microeconomics (Session E)

Fall 2012

Class Schedule: MW 1:20-2:35 PM
Class Room: Olin 304
Office: Persson 232
Phone (Office): 315-228-6240

Instructor: Luo, Zijun
Email: zluo@colgate.edu
Office Hours: Monday 3-4 PM
Tuesday 3-4 PM
Wednesday 9-10 AM
or by appointment

Course Description

This course presents microeconomic theory at the intermediate level. It concerns the decision-making and interactions of individual consumers and firms. It emphasizes logical consistency in microeconomic theories and models as well as problem-solving skills using mathematics. By the end of this semester, not only you should have gained deeper understandings of economics (microeconomics especially), but also you should have obtained a very powerful tool in analyzing individual behaviors at all levels (people, firms and organizations, as well as country). Whenever possible, a triple approach will be used during class: with graphs, algebra, and calculus. Due to the intensive use of graphs and mathematics, it is recommended that you read the textbook chapters ahead before they are discussed in class. A list of topics to be covered as well as associated book chapters can be found below.

Textbooks

- Jeffrey M. Perloff, “*Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus*,” 2nd edition, Addison-Wesley, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-13-800847-5. (required, P2011)
- Jack Hirshleifer, Amihai Glazer, and David Hirshleifer, “*Price Theory and Application*,” 7th edition, Cambridge University, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-52-152342-4. (recommended, HGH2005)

The structure and topics covered in these two textbooks are comparable, but their presentations are complementary. The use of two textbooks represents a “double treatment” in this class. P2011 presents microeconomics in a way that uses mathematics (especially calculus) whenever possible. Such presentation is a more “modern”, complete, and advanced treatment of microeconomic theories and models. HGH2005 presents microeconomics in an “old fashion”

way that uses more precise definitions, graphs and algebra, with readings and examples from published papers and articles in major economic journals.

Earlier editions of the textbooks are acceptable especially for HGH2005.

Math-for-Economists

The Economics Department offers a “catching-up” calculus class for all students taking Intermediate Microeconomics class. The time and classroom for these two 1.5-hour lectures are:

- Lecture 1: Thursday, September 6, 11:30AM-1:00PM, repeated at 7:00-8:30PM
- Lecture 2: Thursday, September 13, 11:30AM-1:00PM, repeated at 7:00-8:30PM
- Classroom: Persson 027 (Auditorium)

Notes and Supplementary Reading Materials

Supplementary notes and readings will be uploaded to **moodle** as well as my personal webpage at <http://www.luozijun.com/intermicro/ECON251Fall2012>.

It is your responsibility to read (and print if necessary) all supplementary materials.

Please make it a habit to check the class website and your email on a daily basis and certainly before class. Class announcements and advance warnings will be made through emails. You should discuss with me if you have difficulty getting regular internet access.

Study Advice

First of all, you are **required** to sign up a 10 minute slot to talk to me as soon as possible. To sign up, go to this link <http://doodle.com/t2srrekzftmk4amq> and sign up for one of the 108 slots. Doodle is a free online scheduling service. I will also send this link to you through email. Please feel free to let me know if you have problem finding a time that works for you so I can coordinate with other students or accommodate your special needs.

Although attending classes is not mandatory, many research found positive correlation between a student's grade and his/her attendance. You should talk to me in events that prevent you from attending several class periods.

You are expected to study all materials on your own before discussing with your classmates or seeking help from me. When you do need my help, the best way to do so is to

send me an email. Most likely I will reply very quickly. You should send me another email if you don't get reply in 12 hours.

Peer-led Tutoring

There will be a peer-led tutoring session for this class. The session is held on every Wednesday from 7-9 pm in Persson 007. The tutor will talk to me before he/she works **with you** on your homework problems or other course related questions. Please note that it is not his/her to show you directly answers for homework or other problems.

Homework, Quizzes, and Exams

I will regularly assign homework. You are required to hand in your answers and I will check them for effort. I will upload correct answers (with procedures) to the class webpage listed above. It is your responsibility to check and correct your answers. We will go over some of them in class if necessary. Homework assignments will represent 20% of your final grade. No late homework will be accepted.

There will be four unannounced quizzes. Each of the quizzes will represent 5% of your final grade. There will also be one midterm and one final exam, each represents 30% of your final grade. The final exam is comprehensive and will cover materials of the entire semester.

No make-up quizzes or exams will be given. You will receive a zero for a missed quiz. If you miss the mid-term exam, your final exam will represent 60% of your total grades. Students who missed a quiz or an exam due to emergencies and unavoidable events will have the opportunity to make it up provided that acceptable written evidence according to university policy is presented to me. Note that in the event of make-up quiz or exam, you are not going to get the same version of questions as your classmates. You will receive a zero for a missed final exam without documented evidence.

Grades

You final grade will depend on the distribution of grades within the class.

Classroom Etiquette

You will do better to take notes on paper, so please do not bring a laptop or tablet (iPad, Touchpad, and etc.) to class. All of us are expected to stay in class for the entire period.

Interrupting the class with a ringtone of cell phone, snoring, and other noises is strictly prohibited. In addition, no texting, no facebooking, and no twittering during class. In case when you have special circumstance that prevents you from following these rules, please feel free to discuss with me.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. If you have not already done so, please contact **Lynn Waldman at the Office of Academic Support and Disability Services in the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research (x7375)**. Ms. Waldman is responsible for determining reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities on a case-by-case basis, and more generally, for ensuring that members of the community with disabilities have access to Colgate's programs and services. She also assists students in identifying and managing the factors that may interfere with learning and in developing strategies to enhance learning. *Her services are available to all students.*

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	P2011	HGH2005
Monday, Aug. 27, 2012	First day of class	1.1	1
Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012	Working Tools and Economic Models	1.2	2.2
Monday, Sep. 3, 2012	Supply and Demand	2	2.1
Wednesday, Sep. 5, 2012	Preference and Indifference Curves	3.1	3.1, 3.3
Monday, Sep. 10, 2012	Utility and Indifference Curves	3.2	3.2
Wednesday, Sep. 12, 2012	Constrained Consumer Choice	3.3-3.4	4.1
Monday, Sep. 17, 2012	Demand	4.1-4.2	4.3
Wednesday, Sep. 19, 2012	Income and Substitution Effects	4.3	4.4
Monday, Sep. 24, 2012	Labor Supply and Inter-temporal Choice	5.5	15.2-15.4
Wednesday, Sep. 26, 2012	Competitive Firms	6.1-6.2, 8.1	6.2
Monday, Oct. 1, 2012	Production in the Short-Run	6.3, 7.2	6.3, 7.1
Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012	Production in the Short-Run	8.2-8.3	
Monday, Oct. 8, 2012	Mid-term Recess: no class	-	
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012	Production in the Long-Run	6.4, 7.3, 8.4, 9.1	
Monday, Oct. 15, 2012	Mid-term Exam		

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012	Consumer Welfare	5.1-5.4	7.3
Monday, Oct. 22, 2012	Perfect Competition and Producer Welfare	9.2-9.3	
Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012	General Equilibrium and Economic Welfare	10	14.1-14.3
Monday, Oct. 29, 2012	Monopoly	11	8.1
Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012	Price Discrimination	12.1-12.6	8.4
Monday, Nov. 5, 2012	Game Theory	13.1-13.2	10.1
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012	Game Theory	13.3-13.4	
Monday, Nov. 12, 2012	Oligopoly - Cartels and Cournot	14.1-14.4	8.5, 10.2
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012	Oligopoly - Stackelberg and Bertrand	14.5-14.7	10.2, 10.4
Monday, Nov. 19, 2012	Monopolistic Competition	14.8	10.3
Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012	Thanksgiving Recess: no class		
Monday, Nov. 26, 2012	Factor Markets	15	13.3
Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012	Returns to Scale and Economies of Scope	6.5, 7.4-7.5	8.6
Monday, Dec. 3, 2012	Uncertainty	16	11
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012	Externalities and Public Goods	17	16.3, 16.5
Dec. 10-14, 2012	Self-Schedule Final Exam	Comprehensive	