Microeconomics II

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Sciences pour un monde durable Cycle pluridisciplinaire d'études supérieures PSL Spring, 2025

Office Hours: By appointment

Classroom: Jourdan Salle 5

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Course Description

Microeconomics studies the behavior and decision-making processes of individual agents in an economy, including their strategic interactions and the resulting economic outcomes.

The first semester of the course focused on the decision-making of consumers and producers and the determination of prices in a competitive economy. The course examined consumption decisions under perfect competition and the determinants of production. It reconciles these two concepts through partial equilibrium analysis of competitive markets.

The second part of the course considers the effects of public policies supporting prices and production on the welfare of consumers and producers. The course then explores the decisions of producers and consumers who have market power and can influence prices, enabling students to understand the mechanism of price formation in imperfectly competitive market structures.

We will use Pindyck and Rubinfeld's *Microeconomics* (2018), Ninth Edition, as the primary reference.

Topics

We will cover the following topics:

- Chapter 8: Profit maximization and competitive supply (Short recap)
- Chapter 9: The Analysis of Competitive Markets
- Chapter 10: Market Power: Monopoly and Monopsony
- Chapter 11: Pricing with Market Power
- Chapter 12: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
- Chapter 16: General Equilibrium and Economic Efficiency
- Chapter 18: Externalities and Public Goods*

Chapters marked with an asterisk (*) will be covered if time permits, depending on the progress of previous topics.

Course Structure

The course consists of weekly lectures with an emphasis on active student participation.

Each chapter will cover approximately two course sessions (4 hours). The chapter will be divided between a lecture and 45-60 minutes of practical work.

Each course session (2 hours) will be divided into a part dedicated to a lecture and after a part dedicated to practical work (correction of exercises prepared in advance by the students).

Assessments and Grading

1. Midterm Exam: 40%

2. Final Exam: 40%

3. Surprise quizzes in TD: 20%

Course Policies

- Respect your classmates and instructor. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.
- No electronic devices (computers, cellphones, tablets) are allowed during lectures. Evidence supporting this policy can be found here.
- Academic integrity is mandatory. Cite all sources properly. Cheating during exams or using ChatGPT as a substitute rather than a complement will result in strict penalties.
- If the classroom environment becomes disruptive (e.g., excessive noise), the class will be terminated, and the subject will be considered completed.

Schedule and Weekly Lectures

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. You can find the Google Calendar for the course here.

Please check the latest version of the syllabus here.

Week 01, 03/02 - 07/02: Introduction

• Thursday, February 6th, 08:00–10:00.

Week 02, 10/02 - 14/02: Chapter 9: The Analysis of Competitive Markets

- Thursday, February 13th, 08:00–10:00.
- Thursday, February 13th, 18:00–20:00.

Week 03, 17/02 - 21/02: Chapter 10: Market Power: Monopoly and Monopsony

- Thursday, February 20th, 08:00–10:00.
- Thursday, February 20th, 18:00–20:00.

Week 04, 24/02 - 28/02: No class.

Week 05, 03/03 - 07/03: No class.

Week 06, 10/03 - 14/03: Chapter 11: Pricing with Market Power

• Thursday, March 13th, 08:00–10:00.

Week 07, 17/03 - 21/03: Chapter 11: Pricing with Market Power

• Thursday, March 20th, 08:00–10:00.

Week 08, 24/03 - 28/03:

• Thursday, March 27th, 08:00–10:00. Midterm.*

Week 09, 31/03 - 04/04: Chapter 12: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly

• Thursday, April 3rd, 08:00–10:00.

Week 10, 07/04 - 11/04: No class.

Week 11, 14/04 - 18/04: Chapter 16: General Equilibrium and Economic Efficiency

- Thursday, April 17th, 08:00–10:00.
- Thursday, April 17th, 18:00–20:00.

Week 12, 21/04 - 25/04: No class.

Week 13, 28/04 - 02/05: No class.

Week 14, 05/05 - 09/05: No class.

Week 15, 12/05 - 16/05: Buffer.*

• Thursday, May 15th, 08:00–10:00.

Week 16, 19/05 - 23/05: Chapter 18: Externalities and Public Goods

- Thursday, May 22th, 08:00–10:00.
- Thursday, May 22th, 10:15–12:15.

Week 17, 26/05 - 30/05: No class.

Week 18, 02/06 - 06/06:

Thursday, June 5th, 08:00–10:00. Final exam.*

Dates marked with an asterisk (*) are subject to change.