

## ECONOMICS 11: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

E. Magenheim

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 – 3:30 pm  
Friday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
and by appointment

Fall 2011

Office: Kohlberg 211; x8140

### *Overview of the Course and Course Goals*

This course explores decision-making by consumers and firms, the structure and performance of markets, income distribution, the role of the government in the economy, and welfare analysis. Goals for the course are to deepen your understanding of concepts learned in the microeconomics part of Introductory Economics, to introduce you to a range of new analytical tools, and to help you gain facility with using these tools in an active manner. The course is also intended to help you develop the ability to apply microeconomic theory to a range of behaviors and problems and, finally, to give you insights into the strengths and limitations of microeconomics.

### *Required Texts:*

Hal R. Varian. *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. 2010.

### *Arrangements and Logistics:*

Lectures are held on Tuesday and Thursday at 11:20 am – 12:35 pm in Science Center 101.

Each student should be registered for a recitation section. All recitation sections are held on Wednesdays in Kohlberg 218. You are expected to attend your recitation section every week and I will keep track of attendance. Please be sure to attend the section for which you are registered.

Clinics run by student TAs will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7 – 9 pm in Science Center 181 beginning Monday, September 5.

The syllabus and all problem sets will be posted on Moodle; any course-related announcements will also be posted on Moodle.

### *Course Requirements:*

*Preparation for Class:* You should come to class each Tuesday having done that week's reading assignment. Although I will not discuss every topic from the reading in class, you should assume you are responsible for all the material in the chapters unless I tell you otherwise. In some chapters, we will skip some sections: I will post any relevant information on Moodle. There are also a few chapters we will skip completely; if you are

interested in the material in any of these chapters I'd be happy to discuss the material with you and give you related problems to work through.

*Problem Sets and Recitation Sections:* Each Wednesday in the recitation section we will review the problem set that covers the previous week's readings and lectures. For example, on Wednesday September 7, the recitation sections will cover Problem Set 2 which is based on the material from Chapters 1-3 in the Varian textbook. (The first recitation section will review material you learned in EC 1.) You should come to recitation section prepared to present answers to any questions on the problem set. The problem sets will be collected and graded and you should be prepared to present answers to any questions on the problem set and to additional questions that are extensions of the assigned problems.

The TAs running each clinic (more on this below) will be prepared to help you with any questions regarding that week's problem set and you can also see them about any questions you still have after submitting the problem set. Also, please come see me with your questions about the problems or any other course material or issues.

Although this course emphasizes microeconomic theory, it is important to consider how to apply these theories to the world around you. Most problem sets will include an assignment or question that asks you to do that with whatever theoretical material we are working on at that time.

***Evaluation:***

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Problem sets and participation in recitation sections: 15 percent
- Midterms: 25 percent each
- Final: 35 percent

***If you need help:***

As noted above, there will be weekly clinics run by the TAs, who are listed below. You can go to clinics for help with problem sets and class material. You should also come see me during my office hours or, if you cannot come during office hours, please contact me and we can arrange a time to meet. If you feel that you would benefit from additional support please see me and we can arrange for additional help from the TAs or another tutor.

The TAs are Peter Akkies, Amanda Eng, Eun Mi Lee, Hae-in Park, Dan Stuart, Zachary Weiner, and Joe Wu.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EVENTS

<i>Week</i>	<i>Chapters</i>
Week of August 29	
Problem Set 1	
Varian: The Market, Budget Constraints And Preferences	1, 2, 3, Mathematical Appendix Sections A1-A10
Week of September 5	
Problem Set 2	
Varian: Utility, Choice, and Demand	4, 5, 6
Week of September 12	
Problem Set 3	
Varian: Revealed Preference, The Slutsky Equation, Buying and Selling	7, 8, 9
Week of September 19	
Problem Set 4	
Varian: Intertemporal Choice and Uncertainty	10, 12
Week of September 26	
Problem Set 5	
Varian: Consumer's Surplus, Behavioral Economics, Asymmetric Information	14, 30, 37
Tuesday September 27: Midterm 1	
Week of October 3	
Problem Set 6	

Varian: Market Demand, Equilibrium Behavioral Economics	15, 16
Week of October 10: FALL BREAK	
Week of October 17	
Problem Set 7	
Varian: Technology, Profit Maximization,	18, 19
Week of October 24	
Problem Set 8	
Varian: Costs	20, 21
Week of October 31	
Problem Set 9	
Varian: Firm and Industry Supply	22, 23
Week of November 7	
Problem Set 10	
Varian: Monopoly and Monopoly Behavior, Factor Markets	24, 25, 26
Tuesday November 8, Midterm 2	
Week of November 14	
Problem Set 11	
Varian: Oligopoly and Game Theory	27, 28, 29
Week of November 21	
Problem Set 12	
Varian: Exchange, Production, and Welfare	31, 32, 33
Thursday November 24: Thanksgiving	

Week of November 28

Problem Set 13

Varian: Externalities and Public Goods 34, 36

Week of December 5

Varian: Information Technology 35

Tuesday December 6: last class of the semester

Final exam: Date to be announced (finals period is from December 9 – 17 and the final exam cannot be rescheduled so please do not make any travel plans that might conflict with your taking the exam on the scheduled date)

## SCHEDULE OF PROBLEM SETS

Problem Set	Due Date	Chapters Covered
1	August 31	Review
2	September 7	1-3
3	September 14	4-6
4	September 21	7-9
5	September 28	10,12
6	October 5	14, 30, 37
7	October 19	15-16
8	October 26	18, 19
9	November 2	20-21
10	November 9	22-23
11	November 16	24-26
12	November 23	27- 28
13	November 30	31-33
14	no due date	34-36 plus earlier material for review

Revised September 5, 2011