

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Economics

Fall 2001

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, ECON 101.12, TuTh 11:00-12:15 pm, Fungler 208

Professor: Arun Malik (Office Hours: Tu 2:00-4:00 pm, Wed 5:00-6:30 pm, and by appointment, Fungler 617;
Tel. 994-5471; email: amalik@gwu.edu)

Text: Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Microeconomics, 5th edition, Prentice-Hall, 2001

Prometheus Information: course ID is 40904, password is *microcalc*

Course Description and Outline

This course differs from other sections of Econ 101 in that it assumes a knowledge of calculus. Accordingly, students are required to have taken at least one semester of calculus. Topics traditionally covered in microeconomics, such as theories of the consumer and producer, will be examined using calculus, where appropriate. The course will also cover more recent developments in microeconomics, in particular the application of concepts from game theory.

A tentative list of topics, the number of classes devoted to each, and readings from the textbook, are specified below. Unless specified otherwise, any Appendices to a chapter are also required reading.

Topic	Reading
<i>Introduction and Optimization</i> (3 classes)	Chap. 1 and handout
<i>Theory of the Consumer</i> (5 classes)	Chaps. 3 and 4
<i>Choice Under Uncertainty</i> (2 classes)	Chap. 5
<i>Theory of the Producer</i> (4 classes)	Chaps. 6 and 7
<i>Perfectly Competitive Markets</i> (3 classes)	Chaps. 8 and 9
<i>Monopoly</i> (2 classes)	Chap. 10 (skip 10.5, 10.6)
<i>Price Discrimination</i> (2 classes)	Chap. 11 (skip 11.6)
<i>Game Theoretic Methods</i> (3 classes)	Handout and Chap. 13
<i>Oligopoly</i> (2 classes)	Chap. 12

Course Requirements

Approximately five homework sets will be assigned over the course of the semester. Homework will not be collected, however, detailed answer sheets will be provided. If you have trouble with homework problems, don't hesitate to ask me for help. Depending on circumstances, I will go over the problems during office hours or in class.

Four quizzes based on the homeworks, readings, and lecture notes will be given during the course of the semester. The quizzes will be announced one week before they are given. There will be no make-up quizzes, however, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

In addition to the quizzes, there will be a **midterm exam** and a **final exam**. The midterm exam is tentatively scheduled for October 11th. The date of the final exam has not yet been set. **Unless you make arrangements with me at least one class before an exam, make-ups will not be given without a valid medical excuse.**

You will also be required to write a **paper** applying the concepts and techniques learned in class to a real world *microeconomic* phenomenon or problem of your choice. The length of the paper is determined by the weight you choose to attach to it. The “base” option is to write a short paper (no less than five pages of double-spaced text), which would account for 10 percent of your course grade. The “extended” option is to write a long paper, no less than ten pages of double-spaced text, which would account for 20 percent of your course grade. If you choose the extended option, an exam of your choice will account for only 20 percent of your course grade rather than the usual 30 percent. **The paper is due in my mailbox (Funger 624) or my office (Funger 617) by midnight on December 11th in hard copy form.**

The course grade will be calculated using the following weights:

quizzes — 30%

midterm and final exams — 30% each (with the extended option, one of the two is worth only 20%)

paper — 10% (20% with the extended option)

Online Resources

Some course materials will be made available through GW's Prometheus system. To access this system go to the following URL: www.prometheus.gwu.edu. You will need to create a Prometheus student account if you don't already have one; click on the button labeled “Create New Student Account” at the above URL to do so. Once you have an account, you can access the course materials by using the following information: course ID -- 40904, password -- *microcalc*.

The website for the textbook is located at: <http://cw.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/pindyck2>.

The website has a number of useful resources, including online quizzes and current event discussions that show how microeconomic theory can be used to understand these events better. You are encouraged to make use of the website.