Econ 3100-03: Intermediate Microeconomics
Loyola Marymount University, Fall 2018

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Erin Kaplan
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Office: University Hall 4222
Office Hours: Mon.   1:30-2:30pm
　　　　　　　　　 Tues.   9:00-10:00am

Class Times: M/W/F, 11:30-12:30
Location: St. Robert's Hall 366

Course Description: This course provides students with an in-depth coverage of the main modern microeconomics topics and tools. The course focuses on individual decision making, in particular of consumers and producers, through models of partial and general equilibrium in perfectly competitive and imperfectly competitive settings. The course covers consumer and producer theory, perfect competition and imperfect competition models, game theory, general equilibrium theory, risk and uncertainty, information theory, and a selection of other topics, such as externalities, public goods, intertemporal choice, and behavioral economics.

Prerequisites: A grade of at least B- in ECON 105 or ECON 110, and a grade of at least B- in MATH 112 or of at least C in MATH 131 or MATH 132.

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of the semester students who successfully complete this course will be able to

1. Model consumer preferences using a variety of utility functions, and understand the implications functional form for optimal choice.
2. Understand (both mathematically and intuitively) the relationship between optimal choice and demand, and the impact of price and income changes.
3. Extend the basic economic model to a general equilibrium perspective, and interpret the fundamental theorems of welfare economics.
4. Work with models of firm behavior both in terms of cost minimization and profit maximization.
5. Describe and distinguish between various market structures such as perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly.
6. Solve basic game theory applications for firm behavior.
7. Incorporate risk into the model of consumer choice.
8. Understand potential market failures stemming from externalities and asymmetrical information.

Course Materials:
- *Microeconomics* by Besanko and Braeutigam, 4th Ed. or newer
- *Brightspace*– All assignments and announcements will be posted on Brightspace, so please check the course page frequently.

Course Policies

Attendance: Success in this class requires regular attendance, preparation, and willingness to ask questions and engage in discussion. Students with recurring extracurricular commitments (athletics, etc…) should speak with me in advance about their anticipated absence(s). If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a colleague.

Office Hours: Students are *strongly* encouraged to attend office hours and peer tutoring sessions. The material covered in this course is often challenging, and students should consider office hours and peer tutoring additional resources to aid in their understanding. If you are unable to attend my regularly scheduled office hours, please contact me to schedule a time to meet.

Workload Expectations: This course is worth 4 credit hours. The department recommends that students spend, on average, 9 hours per week outside of class, on assignments, readings, and studying for exams.

Email: Email is the best way to get in contact with me. However, if you send me an email within 24 hours of an exam or deadline, don't expect me to respond before the exam/due date.

Academic Honesty: Academic misconduct includes the following examples as well as other similar conduct, with the aim of falsely representing a student's academic performance: cheating, plagiarizing, using unauthorized aids on exams, falsifying records, or assisting another individual in any of the above. All instances of academic misconduct will be reported and could result in consequences including receiving no credit for assignments/tests, failing the class, and expulsion. For details on LMU's "Academic Honesty Policy," visit http://academics.lmu.edu/honesty.

Mutual Respect: Classroom discussion is meant to allow us to hear a variety of viewpoints, and I encourage respectful disagreement and civilized debate. For this reason, it is vital that we create an environment of mutual respect. Remember that each of us has a unique set of experiences and opinions, and that this diversity is valuable both inside and outside of the classroom.

Use of Electronic Devices: The use of cell phones (and other electronic devices unrelated to the course) is a disrespectful distraction to your instructor and classmates. Please turn cell phones to vibrate while you are in class. In emergency situations, please discuss limited use of cell phone with me prior to the class.

Special Accommodations: Students with special needs who require reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning, Physical, or Psychiatric) needing academic accommodations should contact the DSS Office (Daum Hall 2nd floor, 310-338-4216) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit http://www.lmu.edu/dss for additional information.

Missed Exams: In the event that you are unable to attend an exam due to an extreme illness or other documented emergency, please notify me prior to the exam with the appropriate documentation.

Course Grades

Problem Sets: Problem sets are designed to help you practice applying the economic methods taught in class to specific problems. Each assignment will be posted on Brightspace at least one week prior to its due date. <u>The two lowest problem set scores will be dropped from final grade calculations, and consequently **no late work will be accepted**</u>. The average of the remaining problem set scores will make up 15% of your final grade. Students are encouraged to work in groups on the problem sets; however, each student is individually responsible for completing and turning in the assigned work. Simply copying another student's work is considered Academic Misconduct.

Midterm Exams: There will be two midterm exams worth a total of 50% of your final grade. Your best midterm exam score will make up 30%, and the lower exam score will carry less weight (20%) in the final grade calculation.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held *only* as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The exam will be comprehensive, and it is worth 35% of your final grade.

Final Grade Calculation: Your final grade will be calculated using the following weights.

Problem Sets:	15%
Highest Score Midterm:	30%
Lowest Score Midterm:	20%
Final Exam:	35%

Letter Grades: Your final grade will be calculated as described above, and letter grades will be assigned based on the traditional cutoffs listed below. However, I reserve the right to curve final grades up for the entire class. <u>No changes will be made on a case by case basis</u>.

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	0-59%

Extra Credit: I typically do not offer extra credit and <u>never</u> to individual students upon request.

University Deadlines: Please take note of the following important grade-related deadlines.

<u>August 31st</u>: Last day to add or drop a class without a grade of W.
<u>November 2nd</u>: Last day to withdraw from classes or apply for Credit/No Credit grading

Course Schedule

This schedule is *__tentative__* and subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and on Brightspace.

Week	Date	Topic	Due Dates
1	27-Aug	Introduction	
	29-Aug	A1-A4 Calculus Review	
	31-Aug	Ch. 3 Preferences	
2	3-Sep	**No Class - Labor Day**	
	5-Sep	Ch. 3 Preferences	Problem Set 1
	7-Sep	Ch. 3 Utility Functions	
3	10-Sep	Ch. 3 Utility Functions	
	12-Sep	Ch. 4 Budget Constraint	Problem Set 2
	14-Sep	Ch. 4 Optimal Choice	
4	17-Sep	Ch. 4 Optimal Choice	
	19-Sep	Ch. 5 Theory of Demand	Problem Set 3
	21-Sep	Ch. 5 Theory of Demand	
5	24-Sep	Ch. 5 Demand Elasticities	
	26-Sep	Ch. 16 General Equilibrium	Problem Set 4
	28-Sep	**Exam 1**	
6	1-Oct	Ch. 16 General Equilibrium	
	3-Oct	Ch. 6 Production Functions	Problem Set 5
	5-Oct	Ch. 6 Production Functions	
7	8-Oct	Ch. 7 Cost Minimization	
	10-Oct	Ch. 7 Cost Minimization	Problem Set 6
	12-Oct	**No Class - Autumn Day**	
8	15-Oct	Ch. 8 Cost Curves	
	17-Oct	Ch. 8 Cost Curves	Problem Set 7
	19-Oct	Ch. 9 Perfect Competition	
9	22-Oct	Ch. 9 Perfect Competition	
	24-Oct	Ch. 9 Perfect Competition	Problem Set 8
	26-Oct	Ch. 11 Monopoly	
10	29-Oct	Ch. 11 Monopoly	
	31-Oct	Ch 12 Price Discrimination	Problem Set 9
	2-Nov	**Exam 2**	
11	5-Nov	Ch. 12 Price Discrimination	
	7-Nov	Ch. 13 Market Structure, Monopolistic Competition	Problem Set 10
	9-Nov	Ch. 14 Introduction to Game Theory	
12	12-Nov	Ch. 14 Repeated Prisoners Dilemma	
	14-Nov	Ch. 13 Oligopoly	Problem Set 11
	16-Nov	Ch. 13 Oligopoly	
13	19-Nov	Ch. 17 Externalities	
	21-Nov	**No Class - Thanksgiving**	
	23-Nov	**No Class - Thanksgiving**	
14	26-Nov	Ch. 17 Externalities	
	28-Nov	Ch. 17 Public Goods	Problem Set 12
	30-Nov	Ch. 15 Risk and Information	
15	3-Dec	Ch. 15 Risk and Information	
	5-Dec	Ch. 15 Risk and Information	Problem Set 13
	7-Dec	*Review*	
	10-Dec	Final Exam - 11am-1pm	