

Plan Docente

Curso 2011-12

Microeconomics II (20838) (21129)

Degree: Administración i Direcció de Empreses, Economí, International Business Economics

Year: Second

Quarter: Third

Number of ECTS credits: 5

Total dedication hours by student: 125

Language or languages of the teaching: català/castellano/english

Professors: Larbi Alaoui, Amedeo Piolatto, Sergio Solanas.

1. Course presentation

Objectives: Microeconomics II is the continuation of Microeconomics I and it completes what would be a standard complete Intermediate Microeconomics course. During the course, all basic economic models referring to the analysis of partial equilibrium with imperfect competition, general competitive equilibrium and an introduction to welfare economics and market failures are studied. The course requires basic knowledge of mathematics and some notions of economics. More than learn new things, the student learns how to think like an economics and how to practice the theoretical concepts learned. One can only fully achieve this with a lot of practice.

Pre-requisites: This course deepens the task - started with Microeconomics I - of modeling concrete economic situations in order to theoretical analyze them rigorously and objectively. The previous knowledge required to be able to follow this course are divided in two classes:

Basic mathematical concepts: Algebra, differential calculus and optimization. These skills will be acquired and strengthened with the Mathematics courses from the first year of the degree.

Economics concepts: The basic concepts acquired during the Introductory Economics and Microeconomics I courses form an indispensable basis for the course. In this course, the process of formalizing economic phenomena is extended to more complex situations.

2. Skills that must be acquired

<i>General skills</i>	<i>Specific skills</i>
<i>Instrumental</i> Analytical capacity Ability to manage information Abstraction capacity Adaptability and clarity of ideas	Analysis of imperfect competition models Analysis of general market interactions Ability to apply basic mathematical concepts to economics
<i>Social</i> Ability to work in groups	

Critical capacity	
Systematic	
Creativity (the ability to generate new ideas)	
Autonomy (the ability to work alone)	

3. Contents

Topic 1. Monopoly behavior.
Topic 2. Factor markets and oligopolies.
Topic 3. General equilibrium: exchange.
Topic 4. General equilibrium: production.
Topic 5. Welfare
Topic 6. Externalities and public goods.

4. Assessment

Mandatory continuous assessment:

Practical Exercises: solving problems and practical cases in the seminar sessions.

Quizzes: There will be two brief multiple choice quizzes during the seminar sessions.

Compulsory final evaluation: final exam

The relative weight of each type of evaluation is:

Quizzes 15%
Seminar participation 15%
Final Exam 70%

The September evaluation will follow exactly the same rules. In addition to a 5 out of 10 combined score, there will also be a minimum grade of 4 out of 10 in the final exam to pass.

5. Bibliography

5.1. Basic bibliography

Varian, H. R. *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, Nova York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005,... (any edition).

Hal Varian, *Microeconomía intermedia: un enfoque actual*, Antoni Bosch, Barcelona, 2006

5.2. Complementary bibliography

Joaquim Silvestre, *Microeconomia*, Editorial UOC, Barcelona, 2006

5.3. Teaching resources

For each of the topics, a set of indispensable teaching resources will be available through Aula Global.

6. Methodology

During the course, there will be the following different activities:

Theoretical sessions with large groups where the concepts and their basic applications are introduced.

Seminar sessions in smaller groups where the concepts introduced are worked over interactively.

7. Activities schedule

Theory 6 and seminar 2: the date depends on the holidays.

09/04/12	13/04/12	1	Theory 1	Theory 2	
16/04/12	20/04/12	2	Theory 3	Theory 4	Seminar 1
23/04/12	27/04/12	3	Theory 5	Theory 6	Seminar 2
30/04/12	04/05/12	4	(Theory 6)	Theory 7	(Seminar 2)
07/05/12	11/05/12	5	Theory 8	Theory 9	Seminar 3
14/05/12	18/05/12	6	Theory 10	Theory 11	
21/05/12	25/05/12	7	Theory 12	Theory 13	Seminar 4
28/05/12	01/06/12	8	Theory 14		Seminar 5
04/06/12	08/06/12	9	Theory 15		Seminar 6
11/06/12	15/06/12	10	Theory 16		