

Plan Docente

School Year 2012-13

Microeconomics II (20838) (21129)

Degree: Administració i Direcció d'Empreses, Economia, International Business Economics

Year: Second

Quarter: Third

Number of ECTS credits: 5

Number of hours of student work: 125

Language or languages of instruction: Catalan, Spanish, English

Professors: Larbi Alaoui, Alexis León, Amedeo Piolatto.

1. Course Description

- **Objectives:** Microeconomics II is the continuation of Microeconomics I and it completes what would be a standard Intermediate Microeconomics course/sequence. This course covers the basic economic models involving the analysis of partial equilibrium with imperfect competition, general competitive equilibrium and an introduction to welfare economics and market failures. The course requires basic knowledge of mathematics and some notions of economics. Emphasis is placed not so much on learning new material but on learning how to think like an economist, and how to apply the theoretical concepts learned. One can only fully master this after a great deal of practice.
- **Prerequisites:** This course builds on Microeconomics I by further developing the ability to model specific economic situations in order to conduct theoretical analysis that is both rigorous and objective. Prior knowledge in the following two areas is required in order to succeed in this course:
 - *Basic mathematical concepts:* Algebra, differential calculus and optimization. These skills are acquired and strengthened in the Mathematics courses throughout the first year of the degree.
 - *Basic economic concepts:* Basic concepts acquired in Introductory Economics and in Microeconomics I constitute an indispensable basis for this course. In it, the process of formalizing economic phenomena will be extended to more complex situations.

2. Skills to be acquired

<i>General skills</i>	<i>Specific skills</i>
<i>Instrumental</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analytical skill• Ability to manage information• Ability for abstract thinking• Adaptability and clarity of ideas <i>Interpersonal</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teamwork ability• Critical thinking ability <i>Systemic</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity (ability to generate new ideas)• Autonomy (ability to work independently)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of imperfect competition models• Analysis of general market interactions• Ability to apply basic mathematical concepts to economics

3. Contents

Topic 1. Monopoly behavior.

Topic 2. Factor markets and oligopoly.

Topic 3. General equilibrium: exchange.

Topic 4. Welfare

Topic 5. Externalities and public goods

4. Assessment

- **Mandatory continuous assessment:**
 - a) *Practical exercises*: solving problems and practical cases in the seminar sessions
 - b) *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 in the final grade is:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • Quizzes | 15% |
| • Class participation | 15% |
| • Final exam | 70% |

The make-up evaluation will follow the same rules as the regular evaluation. To pass the course, students must attain a 5 out of 10 (50%) total combined score, as well as a minimum score of 4 out of 10 (40%) in the final exam.

5. References

5.1. Basic Bibliography

Varian, H. R. *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, W. W. Norton & Company, London, 2010.

5.2. Supplementary Bibliography

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

5.3. Other Resources

For each topic, a set of required resources will be made available on Aula Global.

6. Methodology

The course will be structured into the following:

- a) Theoretical sessions with a large group, to introduce the main concepts and their basic applications.
- b) Seminar sessions in smaller groups, to further work on those concepts interactively.

7. Schedule

08/04/13	12/04/13	1	Theory 1	Theory 2	
15/04/13	19/04/13	2	Theory 3	Theory 4	
22/04/13	26/04/13	3	Theory 5	Theory 6	
29/04/13	03/05/13	4	Theory 7	Theory 8	Seminar 1
06/05/13	10/05/13	5			Seminar 2
13/05/13	17/05/13	6	Theory 9	Theory 10	Seminar 3
20/05/13	24/05/13	7	Theory 11	Theory 12	
27/05/13	31/05/13	8	Theory 13	Theory 14	Seminar 4
03/06/13	07/06/13	9	Theory 15	Theory 16	Seminar 5
10/06/13	14/06/13	10			Seminar 6