

ECON-101: Microeconomic Theory

Syllabus (tentative)

Vitaly Titov

Summer 2017, Session C

1 Organization

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Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, at 1:00-3:05pm in Bunche Hall, room 2209A

Office Hours: Thursday, at 3:30-5:30pm in Bunche Hall, room 9384

Course website: <https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/171C-ECON101-2>

2 Course Description

ECON-101 is the second course of a two part sequence in intermediate microeconomic theory (the first course is ECON-11). The objective of the course is to learn how to analyze market situations that depart from the assumptions of perfect competition. In particular, we study models in which agents can act strategically, and those with market imperfections. Topics include monopoly, oligopoly, game theory, risk and uncertainty.

3 Prerequisite

ECON-11 (or equivalent). Students are expected to be familiar with basic concepts in economics, including supply and demand, equilibrium prices, and utility and profit maximization. Students are also expected to have a basic knowledge of differential calculus and basic probability, as well as being comfortable with interpreting and drawing graphs of mathematical functions.

4 Textbook

Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, 11th Edition by Walter Nicholson and Christopher Snyder.

Note: the textbook is **not** required for the course, as lectures will be self-contained. It is provided here for general references and/or additional exercises.

5 Grading

There will be two in-class exams: midterm and cumulative final. Out of the two scores for the exams, the lowest will be counted with weight of 25%, while the other - with weight of 75%. For instance, having the scores of 80 for the midterm and 100 for the final, a student will obtain a score of $0.25 \times 80 + 0.75 \times 100 = 20 + 75 = 95$. The grade for the course will be determined according to the standard UCLA Economics Department curve.

6 Course outline

Class	Date	Topic
1	Aug 8th	Game Theory: Basic Concepts
2	Aug 10th	Game Theory: Mixed Strategies and Sequential Games
3	Aug 15th	Game Theory: Exercises
4	Aug 17th	Monopoly
5	Aug 22nd	Price Discrimination
6	Aug 24th	Midterm
7	Aug 29th	Oligopoly
8	Aug 31st	Oligopoly: Exercises
9	Sep 5th	Risk & Uncertainty
10	Sep 7th	Risk & Uncertainty: Exercises
11	Sep 12th	Final Review Session
12	Sep 14th	Final

Note: this is a tentative schedule and is subject to change. Students are responsible for learning about any changes in the syllabus that are announced during class. An online copy of the syllabus will be kept current and available for students to view.

7 Course Policies

7.1 Exams

- Exams will occur in class at the dates specified in the course outline.
- Exams are closed books and closed notes.
- Exams will consist of multiple choice and free response questions.
- Final exam is cumulative.
- Policy on missed exams:

(a) Exams must be taken at their scheduled time. Please note that under no circumstances will a makeup exam be administered if a student misses the midterm. If a student has a valid medical excuse and can provide written documentation of such of an excuse, or if the student has received prior permission (at least one week in advance of the exam) to miss an exam from the instructor, then additional weight will be placed on the final exam.

(b) Any documentation provided, such as a doctor's note, should clearly state that the student was incapacitated and was therefore unable to take the exam or faced a serious impediment that prevented attendance at the exam. A student who misses an exam without a valid, verifiable excuse will receive a zero. – If due to a verifiable emergency, a student misses the final exam, then that student will be required to take a makeup final exam administered by the department at the officially announced day and time. If a student misses all exams this student will receive an automatic grade of "F".

7.2 Grade Appeals

Exams will be made available to students as soon as they are graded. The solutions for the exam will be posted online. Grade appeals should be made in writing. When a grade is appealed, the entire exam will be regraded. As such, a student's score on an exam may increase as well as decrease after a regrade. Any grade appeals must be made within two weeks from the day the exam is first available for review.

7.3 Disabilities

- Any student with a pre-existing illness or condition who requests special arrangements must (a) qualify under the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) rules for such special arrangements and (b) must take the exam with OSD.

- Any such arrangements with OSD must be made in the first week of classes. The instructor must be informed of any such arrangement in the first week of classes.
- For additional information please visit the OSD website.
- All other students must take the exam at the scheduled time under the same time constraints. It is the responsibility of all students who request special arrangements with OSD to be familiar with all of their rules as well as the rules of this class.

7.4 Academic Dishonesty

- Submission of test answers to be counted towards the course grade automatically imply a personal pledge that the student has neither given nor received unapproved information about the test, whether by copying answers or exchanging unauthorized prior information. The college may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.
- Scholastic dishonesty may involve one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, and/or falsifying academic records.
- Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of the course.
- Any cases of cheating will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.
- For more details please refer to the Office of the Dean of Students website.