

**UC Berkeley
Haas School of Business
Economic Analysis for Business Decisions
(EWMBA 201A)
Fall 2015**

Course Outline

Contact information

Instructor: Shachar Kariv

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GSI: Aluma Dembo

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Location and time

09:00-13:00 (break 10:50-11:10) / 14:00-18:00 (break 15:50-16:10)

Aug 15	Berkeley	Sep 19	Berkeley
Aug 22	Berkeley	Sep 26	Berkeley
Aug 29	Berkeley	Oct 3	Berkeley
Sep 12	Cañada	Oct 10	Berkeley

No Class on Sep 5 (Labor Day Holiday). The midterm exam will be held on Sep 19 during class and the final exam will be held on Oct 10.

Office hours

- In-person office hours will be held after class. Online office hours (Skype or phone) by appointment Tue-Thu 21:00-23:00 (sign-up via bCourses).
- You can also e-mail me and the GSIs any question, and we will try to respond promptly.
- I'd also be happy to discuss with you any issues beyond the course work, not necessarily of microeconomic substance.

Reading material

The only required (and recommended) textbook for the course is:

Microeconomics (not necessarily latest edition) by R. Pindyck and D. Rubinfeld (henceforth PR).

The book presents the main topics a level (almost) suitable for our purposes. No pre-lecture reading assignments.

Some additional readings (cases!) will be made available through the course website (bCourses and study.net) and in class.

Problem sets

The course will rely heavily on problem sets. Each week a problem set will be assigned and will generally be due the following week. All questions will be assigned from PR.

The problem sets are meant to be learning tools and thus will not be counted for the course grade. All questions in the problem sets are a required material.

There are no group assignments. Please work on the problem sets with each other (and with me and the GSI). Complete answer keys will be distributed.

Grading and exams

Grading will be based only on the midterm exam (50%) and a (noncumulative) final exam (50%). The exams will be closed book and will be based on problem set type questions.

Starting in Fall 2012, the faculty adopted the grading policy for core courses that the maximum mean GPA will be 3.45.

If you receive a grade of D+ or below in a core course you are required to repeat the course the next time it is offered.

Tentative outline

- Module I (Aug 15 and 22)
 - The economic agent (PR ch. 3 and 5)
Consumer choice under certainty and uncertainty.
- Module II (Sep 12)
 - Production and the costs production (PR ch. 6 and 7)
Cost concepts and the relations among costs.

- Module III (Sep 19)

- Competitive markets and economic efficiency (PR ch. 8 and 9)

Maximizing short- and long-run profits.

- Module IV (Sep 26)

- Monopolistic markets and economic inefficiency (PR ch. 10 and 11)

Pricing with market power and its social costs.

- Module V (Sep 26 and Oct 3)
 - Game theory (PR ch. 12 and 13)
Gaming and strategic decisions.

It must be fun (and some of it must also be useful)

Feedback, Feedback, Feedback!