

UC Berkeley
Haas School of Business
Economic Analysis for Business Decisions
(EWMBA 201A)
Fall 2018

Course Outline

Contact information

Instructor: Shachar Kariv

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GSI: Deirdre Sutula

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Location and time

- Mondays and Tuesdays 18:00-21:30 (break 19:30–20:15) @ N370 Chou Hall.
- No Class on Mon Sep 3 (Labor Day Holiday). A combined cohort class on Tue Sep 4 @ Andersen Auditorium.
- Midterm exams will be held on Aug 20/21 and Sep 10/11 during class and the final exam will be held on Oct 1/2. Exams are noncumulative.

Office hours

- In-person office hours will be held after class and during the break. Online office hours (Skype or phone) by appointment (sign-up via bCourses).

Deirdre's office hours: Tue (Blue) and Wed (Gold) 8-10 PM.

- You can also e-mail me and Deirdre 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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 (noncumulative) midterm exams (1.5 hours each) and the final exam (2 hours). Each exam will have an equal weight.
 - The exams will be closed book and will be based on problem set type questions.
- ⇒ Note that starting 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 (Jul 30/31, Aug 6/7 and 13/14)

Consumers and producers

- Consumer choice under certainty and uncertainty (PR 3 and 5).
- The production decision of the firm and the cost of production (PR 6 and 7).

- Module II (Aug 20/21, 27/28, and Sep 4)

Markets

- Competitive markets and economic efficiency (PR 8 and 9).
- Monopolistic markets and economic inefficiency (PR 10 and 11).

- Module III (Sep 10/11, 17/18 and 24/25)

Strategic interactions

- Oligopolistic markets (PR 12)
- Gaming and strategic decisions (PR 13).

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

Feedback, Feedback, Feedback!