Intermediate Microeconomics
Econ 301
Spring 2011
Course website: Laulima

Instructor: Ruben Juarez
Office: SH-530 Ph: 956-7143
Email: rubenj@hawaii.edu
Office Hours: T, TH 11-12 OBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Individuals, firms, governments and other institutions face decision-making problems on a daily basis given various resource constraints. Microeconomics describes the trade-offs faced by these decision makers in trying to get the most out of their limited resources. We will discuss the concept of optimal trade-offs as they relate to individuals and to groups within the economy. We will also examine the consequence of interactions among consumers, firms, and the government in a market economy.

Learning objectives:

- Learn basic analytical tools of economics—in particular, the economic models of (1) household’s decision making regarding consumption and saving; (2) producers’ decision making regarding input and output choice; and (3) competitive and non-competitive markets.
- Learn about the conditions under which market interactions lead to efficiency; what happens when these conditions fail (theories of market failure); and how to explain current social issues using these theories.
- Learn how to apply the analytical tools to a wide range of contemporary social issues.

PreReq: Econ 130

TEXTBOOKS


Textbook website: www.prenhall.com/pindyck

Required assignment includes online supporting materials at MyEconLab*

To access resources at MyEconLab, you need to register for an account at http://www.myeconlab.com. In the first week of class, I will provide you with an instruction sheet as well as a course key so that you can register.

Do not buy any book until advised by the instructor on the first day of classes. I reserve the right to change the textbook until then.
ASSESMENT

Homeworks: 25%
Quizzes: 30%
First midterm: 20%
Final Exam (Comprehensive): 35%

Total score add up to 110% The maximum score will be 100%.

Class participation will be a plus and considered marginally on special cases. Students are responsible for attending all class meetings, to submit homework’s on time, participate in discussion, and to hear announcements about adjustments to the schedule. Lectures will often present material not in the textbook. You are nonetheless responsible for understanding such material. If you don’t understand it, ask for further explanation or additional references.

Quizzes will be on Thursdays, about every two weeks. They will be announced the class before the quiz. There will not be make-up quizzes.

There will not be make-up exams. You are required to take the exams during class time when scheduled.

Tentative Topics

- 0. Math Review
- 1. Introduction to Market and Prices
  - 1.1 Basics of Supply and Demand
- 2. Producer, Consumer and Competitive strategy
  - 2.1 Consumer Behavior
  - 2.2 Individual and market demand
  - 2.3 Uncertainty and consumer behavior
  - 2.4 Production
  - 2.5 The cost function
  - 2.6 Profit maximization and competitive supply
  - 2.7 The analysis of competitive markets
- 3. Market Structure and Competitive Strategy
  - 3.1 Market Power: Monopoly and Monopsony
  - 3.2 Pricing and market power
  - 3.3 Monopolistic competition
  - 3.4 Game theory and competitive strategy
- 4. Information, Market Failure and the role of government
  - 4.1 Externalities and public goods
  - 4.2 Markets with asymmetric information

Disability Access: If you feel you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please 1) contact the KOKUA Program (V/T) at 956-7511 or 956-7612 in room 013 of the QLCSS; 2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs related to your documented disability.