

Course outline ECON201 Microeconomics Semester 1, 2022

Paper description

The objective of ECON201 is to promote an understanding of key microeconomic theories, with emphasis on their real-world applications.

Prerequisite: BSNS113

Learning Outcomes

- understand consumer theory, pricing, strategy and market failures
- apply your understanding to business and personal decisions
- equip you with the tools necessary for future employment in the market economy.

Teaching Staff

Viktoria Kahui (Paper Coordinator and Lecturer)

Terry Kerr (Lecturer)

Aleisha Lord (Tutor)

For enquiries about ECON201 email aleisha.lord@otago.ac.nz

If you have a **good reason** to change your **tutorial stream** email economics@otago.ac.nz

Emails from any address other than your University of Otago email may land in our junk folder.

No response will be provided to emails that

- **are answered by this course outline or the information provided on BB;**
- **do not contain Student ID and the Paper code ECON201 in the subject line.**

You may ask the lecturer or tutor after class if in doubt.

Lectures

Tuesday 2 pm; Wednesday 1 pm; Thursday 2 pm

Lectures are **recorded** and are made available **within 24 hours**. Lecture slides are posted on Blackboard (BB) before lectures. Check e-Vision for rooms. If COVID restrictions require online teaching, **zoom links** for live lectures will be posted on BB.

Tutorials

- start in the 2nd week of lectures; **every fortnight** (check eVision for your stream)
- tutorials are **NOT** recorded
- if you **miss** your tutorial, try and join any other tutorial or join via zoom (zoom link and time will be posted on BB – anyone can attend)

Reading

- Besanko & Braeutigam, "Microeconomics", 6th edition (Wiley) at the University bookshop;
- eBook <https://www.wileydirect.com.au/buy/microeconomics-6th-edition-australia-and-new-zealand-edition/>
- copies of textbook on Reserve in the Library

Assessment

	Weight	Plussage	Notes
Fortnightly MC	10%	No	5 MC tests; best 4 count
Fortnightly SA	10%	No	5 SA; best 4 count
Mid-semester test	20%	Yes	Covering first 4 weeks of teaching
Final examination	60%	-	

Fortnightly multichoice (MC) tests and fortnightly short answers (SA). Every second Monday at **12 noon**, starting 07 March 2022, we will post a MC test (10 questions) and a SA (5 marks) on BB. Both are available for a **fortnight**, when the next test/short answer appears.

You **can work with others** on your answers but have to submit your answers **individually** on BB (your grades are posted to the Grade Centre). Instructions are provided on BB.

There are 5 MC tests/SA in total; your **best 4** out of 5 MCtests/SA will count (i.e. you **can miss** one of each without penalty).

- No extensions are provided.
- The onus lies with the students to 'submit' the MC test (instructions on how to check you correctly submitted will be provided on BB).
- If you upload the wrong file for your SA, you can re-upload unlimited times before respective submission date – the file uploaded last will be marked.
- **Submitting answers shortly before the deadline runs the risk of internet failure or other problems; we assume any student choosing to do so has 'risk-loving' preferences and accepts the implications graciously (see Chapter 15 for lectures on risk-preferences).**
- No changes to assessments are allowed after each submission date; and no exceptions are made other than for reasons beyond the student's control lasting for more than 3 weeks (relevant evidence required).

Mid-semester test (online). This test is currently scheduled for **Tuesday 12 April 2022** during lecture time. The test is of **40 minutes** duration. More instructions to follow.

If you miss the test, plussage will automatically apply. There are **no resits** and **no need** to let us know.

Final exam. The final exam is of **two hours** duration. More information will be provided closer to the time.

Plussage means you final grade is the **highest** of these two calculations:

MC tests (10%) + SA (10%) + mid-semester test (20%) + final exam (60%)

MC tests (10%) + SA (10%) + final exam (80%)

Course Outline

Weeks 1-6: Terry (T)

Chapter 2. Demand and Supply Analysis (Brief revision)
 Chapter 3. Consumer Preferences and the Concept of Utility
 Chapter 4. Consumer Choice
 Chapter 5. The Theory of Demand
 Chapter 6 & 7. Production Functions and Cost Minimisation
 Chapter 9. Perfectly Competitive Markets

Weeks 7-12: Viktoria (V)

Chapter 11. Monopoly and Monopsony
 Chapter 12. Capturing Surplus
 Chapter 14. Game Theory and Strategic Behaviours
 Chapter 15. Risk and Information
 Chapter 17. Externalities and Public Goods

Week beginning ↓	<i>Tuesday</i> 2pm	<i>Wednesday</i> 1pm	<i>Thursday</i> 2pm
1 28 Feb	Intro / Lecture 1 (T+V)	Lecture 2 (T)	Lecture 3 (T)
2 7 March <i>(Tutorial 1)</i>	Lecture 4 (T)	Lecture 5 (T)	Lecture 6 (T)
3 14 March	Lecture 7 (T)	Lecture 8 (T)	Lecture 9 (T)
4 21 March <i>(Tutorial 2)</i>	Lecture 10 (T)	Lecture 11 (T)	Lecture 12 (T)
5 28 March	Lecture 13 (T)	Lecture 14 (T)	Lecture 15 (T)
6 4 April <i>(Tutorial 3)</i>	Lecture 16 (T)	Lecture 17 (T)	Lecture 18 (T)
7 11 April	Mid-term test (online) (12 April 2022)	Lecture 19 (V)	Lecture 20 (V)
18 April	Mid-sem. break	Mid-sem. break	Mid-sem. break
8 25 April <i>(Tutorial 4)</i>	Lecture 22 (V)	Lecture 23 (V)	Lecture 24 (V)
9 2 May	Lecture 25 (V)	Lecture 26 (V)	Lecture 27 (V)
10 9 May <i>(Tutorial 5)</i>	Lecture 28 (V)	Lecture 29 (V)	Lecture 30 (V)
11 16 May	Lecture 31 (V)	Lecture 32 (V)	Lecture 33 (V)
12 23 May <i>(Tutorial 6)</i>	Lecture 34 (V)	Lecture 35 (V)	Lecture 36 (V)
13 30 May	Revision Lecture (V+T)	No lecture	No lecture