



Kuwait University
College of Business Administration
Economics Department



Course Syllabus
ECON 500: Microeconomic Theory

Lecture Time and Location

Sunday, 5:00 PM – 7:50 PM, BUA-S, ???

Contact Information

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Talat S. Genc

Location: Economics Department - Third Floor - Office No:S-03

Email: talat.genc@ku.edu.kw

Office: 1068

Office Hours: Sun, Tue, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM or by appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on learning microeconomic theory at the graduate level. Microeconomics is the bottom-up view of the economy that studies the behavior of individuals and firms, how they make decisions, and how they interact in markets.

Topics covered include the analysis of the theoretical foundations of consumer choice, firms' production decisions, and market organization. This course begins with studying the theory of the consumer, which covers preferences, budget constraints, and utility maximization. We then turn to the theory of the firm, which covers production technology, cost minimization, and profit maximization. Economic welfare and efficiency are then analyzed under different market structures, market failures, and government interventions.

Prerequisites

To be enrolled in this course, you must have completed ECON 210 (Microeconomics theory for undergrads).

Textbooks

Required Textbook:

Name of the book (Year): Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach

Author: Hal R. Varian

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company

Version: Ninth Edition (April 10, 2014)

ISBN number: 9780393919677

A supportive textbook:

- “Microeconomics,” R. S. Pindyck, and D. L. Rubinfeld, 9th Edition, Pearson, 2018.

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- CLO1.** Apply the microeconomic theoretical framework to the analysis of consumption & production behaviors
- CLO2.** Use diagrams & calculus to solve optimization problems of microeconomic models & derive their predictions
- CLO3.** Understand the function of markets and their limitations in allocating resources efficiently
- CLO4.** Understand different forms of market failure and the role of government policies in correcting them

CLO Mapping to CBA Skill Based Competency Goals

| | Economic Theory | Quantitative Reasoning | Critical Thinking | Communication |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | I | | I | |
| 2 | I | R | R | |
| 3 | I | R | R | |
| 4 | I | | R | |

Type of Emphases:

- **(I)ntroduce:** Students will be introduced to the skill and their grasp of it assessed in the course.
- **(A)pply:** The course will not cover the skill. Students should have a high-level grasp of the skill and are required to apply it in the course.
- **(R)einforce:** Students should have an introductory-level grasp of the skill and the course will improve their mastery to a higher level.

Course Outline

You need to keep track of the material taught in class. I will not follow the exact order of topics in the textbook. I will also cover some additional material in class that may not be covered in the textbook. The course outline will be as follows:

| Topic | Textbook Reading (Chapter numbers may differ based on textbook edition) |
|---------------------------|--|
| I. Consumer Theory | |
| | Budgetary and Other Constraints on Choice; Preferences and Utility; Optimization and Demand; Revealed Preference and Slutsky equation; |
| | Consumer’s surplus; Market Demand and Market Equilibrium |

| |
|---|
| II. Firm Theory |
| Production Technology; Profit Maximization; Cost Minimization and Cost Curve; |
| Cost of Production |
| Profit Maximization |
| III. Efficiency and Market Failure |
| Competitive Supply |
| Monopoly and Monopoly Behavior |
| Oligopoly |

Important Dates

| Date | Event |
|------|---------------------|
| TBD | Submit Assignment 1 |
| TBD | Submit Assignment 2 |
| TBD | Midterm exam |
| TBD | Final exam |

Grading

The scores in this course will be the weighted average of the following items:

| Weight | Description |
|--------|---------------|
| 10% | Participation |
| 30% | Assignments |
| 30% | Midterm exam |
| 30% | Final exam |
| 100% | TOTAL |

Grade Distribution

| Grade | Range |
|-------|---------------|
| A | ≥ 95 |
| A- | ≥ 90 and < 95 |
| B+ | ≥ 87 and < 90 |
| B | ≥ 83 and < 87 |
| B- | ≥ 80 and < 83 |
| C+ | ≥ 77 and < 80 |
| C | ≥ 73 and < 77 |
| C- | ≥ 70 and < 73 |
| D+ | ≥ 65 and < 70 |
| D | ≥ 60 and < 65 |
| F | < 60 |

Moodle

Moodle will be the e-learning platform that we will be using for taking online exams when necessary.

You can access Moodle by visiting: <http://moodle.ku.edu.kw>

Respondus Lockdown Browser Installation

You will need to install Respondus lockdown browser to do Homework 0. This proctoring software will also be used for taking online exams when necessary (e.g. health conditions become worse, and KU decides to make all exams online). Detailed guidelines on how to log into Moodle and install the lockdown browser are provided on the course MS Teams channel titled “**Respondus Lockdown Browser Installation.**”

What is My Kuwait University Email?

Steps to access your Kuwait University email:

- 1- Log in to the Online Registration System (<http://portal.ku.edu.kw/sis>)
- 2- Click on “My Profile” in the main menu, then choose “My Personal Info.”
- 3- Your KU email will be shown under the “University email” section.
- 4- You can now access your university email by visiting (<http://365.ku.edu.kw>) using your KU email address that you found in the previous step. Note that your password is identical to the one you use in the Online Registration System.

For technical support, contact Kuwait University Center of Information Systems:

Web: <http://kuweb.ku.edu.kw/ku/ar/Staff/ElectronicServices/KUOffice365/Office365FAQ/Students/index.htm>

Phone number: 24983365 (Ext. 83365)

Lecture Notes

All lecture notes will be available for you to download and print on MS Teams. Click on “Files” and then “Class Materials” and finally choose “Lecture Notes.”

Communication

If you need to write me an email, use your **Kuwait University (KU) email**. I will only respond to KU emails.

Disabilities

Inform me if you have a disability and need assistance or accommodation.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism are stealing. They are unfair to classmates and the original authors, disrespectful to the professor, and beneath the dignity of a respectable university. They are serious offenses and there will be a zero-tolerance policy as per the university rules (Student Guide §3.2). Material submitted for grading is presumed to represent the student’s own performance. Thus, any student implicated in academic dishonesty will receive an (F) grade in the assignment/exam in question or the entire course. Use the APA standard for citations:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

If still in doubt about attributing the work of others, seek my advice.

University Rules

You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the rules in the Student Guide:
http://kuweb.ku.edu.kw/cs/groups/ku/documents/ku_content/kuw055940.pdf

Master of Economics Competency Goals:

1. Economic Theory: Our students should demonstrate expertise in applying core economic theories to solve global and complex economic problems.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 1.1 Acquire a deep understanding of how markets and economies operate
- 1.2 Apply micro/macro-economic theories to solve complex economic problems.
- 1.3 Analyze in depth the impact of alternative regulatory activities in individual markets and their effect on the welfare of the population
- 1.4 Recognize that although economists address economic problems with a common approach, the science is ever changing, and one's approach must be regularly evaluated and updated.

2. Quantitative Reasoning Skills: Our students should acquire sufficient mathematical and statistical skills to be able to analyze economic problems and to make use of those skills in their future careers

Student Learning Objectives:

- 2.1 Understand how to collect and use empirical evidence to evaluate economic argument.
- 2.2 Conduct appropriate statistical analysis of data using appropriate econometric techniques and explain the statistical problems involved.
- 2.3 Interpret statistical results and understand the limitations of the analysis.

3. Critical Thinking Skills: Our students should demonstrate the ability to be critical thinkers when conducting qualitative and quantitative economic analysis.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 3.1 Creating abstract models of complex socio-economic systems
- 3.2 Drawing conclusions and policy prescriptions while critically evaluating them
- 3.3 Distinguish between causal relationships and spurious correlations

4. Communication Skills: Our students will demonstrate advanced communication skills in a variety of business settings.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 4.1 Deliver clear, concise, and persuasive presentations.
- 4.2 Write clear, concise, and persuasive business documents.