

ECON2113 Microeconomics L4 & L5 & L6
Fall 2018

Time: Tues. & Thur. 10:30am-11:50am (L5) / 1:30pm-2:50pm (L4) / 4:30pm-5:50pm (L6)

Venue: G012 LSK (L5) / Room 1034 LSK (L4) / G012 LSK (L6)

Instructor: Philip Neary (prneary@ust.hk)

Office: 6058 LSK

Office hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: Ms Icy Guo (E-mail: ecbguo@ust.hk) & Mr Peter Tsui (E-mail: ecpeter@ust.hk)

Office: 6066 LSK for both

Office hours: Icy: Mon. 3:30pm-5:00pm & Peter: Wed. 3:00pm-5:00pm

Course Website: <http://canvas.ust.hk>

Description:

Microeconomics analyses market behavior of individual actors (consumers, firms, governments, etc.) in order to understand their decision-making processes. In this course, students will learn key concepts in microeconomics and basic tools to understand the allocation mechanisms of markets.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (Course ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand and apply theories of markets including: the market price determination, the efficiency and fairness of market system, the conditions under which markets can perform well, and how the market will change in responding to changing environment. (PILO #4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
2. Understand the framework to address the role of government and be able to apply it: when and in which direction the government should intervene the markets, also how to evaluate the impact of relevant government's policies on markets.(PILO #4.1,4.2,4.3)
3. Understand consumers' optimal decision making and apply it. (PILO #4.1,4.2, 4.3)
4. Understand firms' optimal decision making under different market structures and apply it. (PILO #1.1, 1.2, 4.1,4.2,4.3)

In addition to the above major learning outcomes, this course will provide you with many examples of economic analysis, so that

- 5. You can apply economic analysis to issues you encounter in the future. (PILO # 9)

Teaching Approach

This course is primarily delivered through lectures and tutorials.

Teaching and learning activities	Roles in the course	Course ILOs addressed
Lectures	Learn key concepts and models and their applications	1,2,3,4,5
Tutorials	Review basic math, discuss answers to homework questions and additional economic issues	1,2,3,4,5

Assessment Scheme and Course Organization:

- The course grade will be determined by the following components.

Assessment Activities	Weighting	Course ILOs assessed
4-6 homework assignments	20%	1,2,3,4
1 midterm (2 hours)	35%	1,2,3,4
1 final exam (3 hours)	45%	1,2,3,4

- There will be 4-6 problem sets announced in class and due in a week. It will be collected in class. **Late submission will not be accepted under any circumstances.**
- The midterm exam is scheduled on **October 20th (Saturday) between 11:00am-1:00pm (2 hours).**
- The final exam will cover all the material covered throughout the semester.
- My three lectures L4, L5 and L6 will be pooled and graded together in one curve.
- In the event of missing an exam due to medical reasons, the student is required to submit a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner. Appropriate documentation will be required for absences due to other reasons.
- Announcements, lecture slides, and supplementary materials (if any) will be updated onto the course website (<http://canvas.ust.hk>).
- If a student finds difficulties with the material and/or has any concerns about the course, it is in his/her interest to contact the TA or me as early as possible.

Homework submission:

- Make a **group** with your classmates (no more than 5 people). A single person group is allowed but not encouraged. The group can change for each submission.
- Use the title page provided in the course website.
- Combine the title page with your group's solution. Please STAPLE them.

Email policy:

- In the title of your email, put the following [**ECON2113-L4(or L5/L6)-YOURNAME**]
- Check the syllabus before sending me an email.

BBA-ECON Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs in line with Intended Learning Outcomes of Business Graduates) available at <http://www.bm.ust.hk/econ/programs/BBA.html>

Required Textbook: M. Parkin: “*Microeconomics*,” 12th ed., Pearson International, 2016.

- Some assignments are from the required textbook. If you wish to use the previous editions of Parkin, it is your responsibility to make sure that you submit the assignments based on the 12th edition.

Learning environment:

Professional conduct in the classroom is a requirement for this course. Distracting behavior such as use of cell phones, instant messaging and chatting will not be tolerated. Violation of this rule will result in significant deduction of points from student’s grade. Please refer to following website for guidelines of a good learning environment:

http://www.ust.hk/vpao/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Academic Honesty and Integrity is a central value of HKUST. Please be aware of this and maintain high standards of honesty in the problem sets and examinations for this course. Familiarize yourself with the HKUST’s rules and academic honor code at the following website: <http://www.ust.hk/vpao/integrity/>.

Course Schedule (tentative, subject to changes)

		General Topic	Reading from Parkin
Week 1	04-Sep	Introduction	Chapter 1: What is Economics?
	06-Sep		Chapter 2: The Economic Problem
Week 2	11-Sep		Chapter 3: Demand and Supply
	13-Sep		
Week 3	18-Sep		Chapter 4: Elasticity
	20-Sep		
Week 4	25-Sep	Demand and Supply	No Class
	27-Sep		No Class (but will be rescheduled)
Week 5	02-Oct		Chapter 5: Efficiency and Equity
	04-Oct		Chapter 6: Government Actions in Markets
Week 6	09-Oct		
	11-Oct		Chapter 7: Global Markets in Action
Week 7	16-Oct	Consumer Theory	Chapter 9: Possibilities, Preferences, and Choice
	18-Oct		Review / Q&A
Midterm Exam: October 20, Saturday 11:00am – 1:00pm			
Week 8	23-Oct		Chapter 11: Output and Costs
	25-Oct		
Week 9	30-Oct		Chapter 12: Perfect Competition
	01-Nov		
Week 10	06-Nov	Firms and Markets	Chapter 13: Monopoly & Price Discrimination
	08-Nov		
Week 11	13-Nov		Chapter 15: Oligopoly & Basic Game Theory
	15-Nov		
Week 12	20-Nov	Market Failure	Chapter 16: Public Choices and Public Goods
	22-Nov		
Week 13	27-Nov	Uncertainty and Information	Chapter 17: Economics of Environment
	29-Nov		Chapter 20: Uncertainty and Information
Final			