

HKUST Business School - Department of Economics
ECON2103 - Principles of Microeconomics (Spring 2019)
Course Outline

Lecture Time:	Tue & Thu 03:00PM – 04:20PM
Venue:	Room 4620, Lift 31-32
Course Website:	https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/20262 (L1)
Instructor:	Wenwen ZHANG
Office:	Room 6042, LSK
Email:	wwzhang@ust.hk
Office Hours:	Tue 11:00AM – 12:00PM (or by appointment)
Teaching Assistant	Jeremy TO ecjeremy@ust.hk
Office:	Room 6066, LSK
Office Hours:	Wed 02:00PM – 04:00PM Thu 11:30AM – 1:30PM (or by appointment)

Course Description:

As an introductory course (it may be your first course in economics), this course intends to cover fundamental concepts and tools that are used in microeconomic analysis. In this course, I will show you that economics provides a powerful way of thinking that can help you understand many human and social phenomena, and also enrich you in a wide range of career choices. I will use real world examples and cases as much as possible in order to enhance your understanding of course materials. Eventually, I would like all of you to come up with your own “definition” or “meaning” of economics and establish its applicability in your daily life.

Textbook:

“*Principle of Microeconomics, eighth edition*” written by N. Gregory Mankiw, published by South-Western, Cengage Learning. Supplementary readings will be posted on the Course Website (if any).

Learning Outcome – School Intended Learning Outcomes (“SILOs”):

1. Explain the methodology of microeconomic analysis, including key assumptions used, how economics differs from the other social science disciplines, and the strengths and limitations of this analysis framework (SILOs # 1 and 4).
2. Describe the key concepts and tools of microeconomic analysis, such as gain from trade and specialization, how price is determined in the free market, how efficiency is measured, how the market structure affects the determination of price and quantity transacted, and decision-making by buyers and producers under constraints (SILOs # 1, 3 and 4).
3. Examine the role of government and its interaction with the free market by evaluating government policies and their impact on economic activities and justifications for government intervention or participation, such as to maintain the public good (SILOs # 1, 3 and 4).
4. Apply economic tools and principles to identify, analyze and propose explanations for and solutions to real world issues (SILOs # 1 3 and 4).

For the details of SILOs, please refer to: <http://www.bm.ust.hk/sbmlern/eng/thirdcat.php?sid=5&thirdid=3>

Course Format / Teaching Approach:

This course is delivered through lectures and tutorials. Students attend two 80-minute lectures per week. Personal Response System (PRS) will be used during lectures to encourage class participation and sharing among students and with me. Please try to attend all lectures and participate actively in discussions. Tutorials will be arranged when needed.

Teaching & Learning Activities	Roles in the Course	SILO Addressed
Lectures	Explain key concepts and their applications; Cases and examples to build student’s critical and analytical ability	1,2,3,4
In-class Q&A through PRS	Encourage class participation, critical thinking and discussion	1,2,3,4
Tutorials	Review and further illustration on important topics, practice problem-solving, encourage discussion and participation	1,2,3,4
Quizzes & Problem Sets	Enhance understanding of course materials and their application through practice	1,2,3,4

Use of Personal Response System (PRS):

PRS will be used in lectures. In order to get a PRS handset, please visit the following website for information: <http://celt.ust.hk/teaching-resources/teaching-clickers/faq-students>. The use of PRS is to encourage classroom participation, discussion and sharing among students and with me. Questions will be asked in lectures and the PRS allows you to respond in real time. A summary of answers will be shown and shared.

Examinations and Grades:

Quizzes and Problem sets:

- You will be assigned 8 quizzes (only 6 out of 8 will be graded, which means as long as you attempted ANY 6 or more, you can get all 8% for quizzes) and 3 problem sets during the semester. Quizzes (MCQs only) are assigned on a weekly basis and submitted on the canvas. Each quiz remains active on the canvas for one week. By default, only one attempt is allowed. Quizzes are credited by submissions.
- You have to turn in your own problem sets (hard copy) before the deadline announced. Suggested answers with detailed explanation will be posted on the Course Website after the deadline of each problem set.
- Please note that NO late submissions will be accepted. In case you are sick and cannot hand in Problem sets on time, please email TA before 5pm on the due date with completed problem set attached. In addition, the hard copy of your completed problem set, together with a valid medical or legal document, should be submitted to TA no later than the first tutorial following the due date.

Midterm and Final Exams:

- There will be TWO midterm exams. The midterm exam will cover lecture materials, problem sets and assigned reading (if any). Midterm dates are confirmed as follows:
 - 1st Midterm: Thu, Mar 14, 7-9pm.
 - 2nd Midterm: Tue, Apr 16, 730-930pm.
- The final exam is CUMULATIVE. It may contain multiple-choice, true & false questions and essay-type questions, which require explanation in writing, graph and calculation.

Overall Score of Grading for the Course:

Your overall score for the course will be computed according to one of the following two schemes, **whichever yields the higher score**. This means that a low score in a midterm exam will not lower your course grade, and it always makes sense to take both midterm exams. As you can see, a good score can raise your grade, but a low score will not lower it.

Scheme (1): Course score with TWO midterms

Assessment Activities	Weighting
Problem Sets	10%
Quizzes	8%
Midterm Exam ((1) and (2))	20%+20%
Final exam (cumulative)	42%

Scheme (2): Course score with ONE midterm

Assessment Activities	Weighting
Problem Sets	10%
Quizzes	8%
Midterm Exam ((1) or (2), the higher one)	30%
Final exam (cumulative)	52%

Absence from Midterm and Final Exam:

- If for any reason you are unable to attend the midterm or final exam, you must seek approval of absence from me directly BEFORE the exam. Your request should be supported by valid documents, such as medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner. Absence from an exam without prior approval would result in ZERO score, in this case, your overall score computation yields to Scheme (1).
- There will be **NO** makeup for any Midterm exams. If you miss both midterm exams for any reasons, you will receive ZERO for your midterm exams.
- For students who are absent from the final exam with prior approval, make-up exam will be scheduled the soonest, usually one day after the final exam or the recommended sick leave. It is the responsibility for those who request for a make-up exam to ensure their availability. The make-up arrangement can be in the form of written-exam, oral exam or research paper, etc. Please NOTE that the instructor has the final discretion on all arrangements of the make-up exam. Students who request for the make-up final exam should comply all the requirements as communicated by the instructor. Failing to meet any requirement may result in a ZERO score.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Academic integrity and honesty are key values at HKUST. Please read the information on academic integrity carefully. It is your responsibility to be familiarized with the Academic Honor Code and the content on the Academic Integrity website (<http://acadreg.ust.hk/generalreg.html> - b). The Code will be STRICTLY enforced. I will report any cases to the University WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS.

I will try my best to make the course requirements as clear as possible. When you have any question or you encounter any difficulties in studying, please do not hesitate to consult me either in or out of class throughout the semester. I am delighted to help you succeed in the course. Please be aware that ultimately it is you EARNING the grade, not me GIVING you the grade. So, when the grade is out, one thing I will NOT do is to change your grade if what you want (need) is different from what you get.

Classroom Etiquette:

- You are expected to be punctual for both lectures and tutorials; I will start and end the lecture on time.
- You are welcome to bring your laptop or other devices to lectures for learning purposes.
- Respect the others in class and do not disturb others with side conversation, Internet surfing, emails-checking or instant-messaging during class time.
- No eating in class at anytime.