

ECON5210 Ph.D. Microeconomic Theory I

2019/2020 Fall Semester, Department of Economics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Kohei Kawaguchi (Lecturer)	econ5210.2019@gmail.com	LSK6070, Mon 14:00-18:00, Tue 15:30-18:00, Thu 15:30-18:00
Weixuan Zhou (TA)	wzhouac@connect.ust.hk	LSK5017, Wed 13:00-15:00

Communication rule

- Contact me whenever you had anything not clear about the lecture.
- The instructor will be around the office during the above office hours for answering questions related to the class. You can just drop by the office, but it is safer for you to make an appointment in advance by mail, in order to ensure that the instructor is in the office.
- If you do not find the instructor in the office during the office hour, you can mail to the above address. Then, the instructor will come back to the office.
- You can also make an appointment by mail outside the above office hours. But then the instructor's availability is not guaranteed.
- You can ask questions by mail as well. But the instructor can be very slow to reply, especially in the evening and in the weekend.

General Information

Description

This course provides first-year Economics Ph.D. students with foundation knowledge in advanced microeconomic theory. The course focuses on essential concepts and necessary analytical tools for the study of consumer and firm decision making, both in single-player and multi-player (strategic) environments. We will also consider how uncertainty and concern for future payoffs impact economic agents' decision making.

Expectations and Goals

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

1. understand classic results in microeconomic theory,
2. formalize economic problems using simple but well-reasoned models,
3. find solutions for formal economic problems, and
4. apply equilibrium concepts of game theory to various economic settings.

Class Time

Mon, Wen, 9:00-10:50, LSK1027.

Course Materials

Lecture notes, HW assignment, and practice questions will be posted on the course website in canvas.

Required Materials

Microeconomic Theory, Mas-Collel, A., M.D. Whinston, and J.R. Green, Oxford, 1995

Optional Materials

Microeconomic Theory, S. Wang, People's University Publisher 2006

Microeconomic Analysis, Hal R. Varian, W. W. Norton & Company 1992

Game Theory, Drew Fudenberg and Jean Tirole, MIT Press 1991

Evaluation

1. Midterm 35%: Individual Decision Making (Chapter 1-3, 5-6).
2. Final Exam 50%: All Topics.
3. Assignments 10%.
4. Participation 5%: A student gets 1 point if s/he asks a question during a class, up to 5 points. A student who asked a question writes student name, student ID, her/his question, and my answer to a discussion board I set up in canvas by the next class.
5. You will need a very strong reason, substantiated by supporting documents, to miss any exam. Considering the advantage of having more time to prepare, the make-up exam is expected to be more difficult than the original exam.

Academic Integrity

Without academic integrity, there is no serious learning. Thus you are expected to hold the highest standard of academic integrity in the course. You are encouraged to study and do homework in groups. However, no cheating, plagiarism will be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating, plagiarism will fail the course. Please make sure adhere to the HKUST Academic Honor Code at all time (see <http://www.ust.hk/vpao/integrity/>).

Course Schedule

I. Individual Decision Making (Chapters 1-3, 5-6)

Preference and Choice (Chapter 1)

Consumer Choice (Chapter 2)

Classical Demand Theory (Chapter 3)

Choice under Uncertainty (Chapter 6)

Production (Chapter 5)

II. Game Theory (Chapters 7-9)

Basic Elements of Noncooperative Games (Chapter 7)

Simultaneous-Move Games (Chapter 8)

Dynamic Games (Chapter 9)

III. Market Equilibrium and Market Failure (Chapters 10, 12)

Competitive Markets (Chapter 10)

Market Power (Chapter 12)

Other Topics in Industrial Organization (coverage depends on time available)

Exam Schedule

	Date	Venue	Topic
Midterm exam	10/23, 9:00-10:50	TBA	Part I
Final exam	TBA	TBA	Part I, II, III