

EC306 Intermediate Microeconomics

Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Anita Alves Pena

Office: C325 Clark Building

Phone: 970-491-0821, Fax: 970-491-2925, Email: anita.pena@colostate.edu

Class Meetings: TR 3:30-4:45pm, Clark C363.

Office Hours: TR 12noon-1pm, or by appointment.

Textbook (required): R. Pindyck and D. Rubinfeld: Microeconomics, 7th edition, 2008 (P&R).

Course website: login at <http://ramct.colostate.edu>

Course Objective:

The course is theoretical in nature and is designed to equip you with analytical and quantitative tools to appreciate and assess economic decision making by individuals and firms and to understand how economic agents interact in a market setting.

Prerequisites:

Prerequisites for this course are principles of microeconomics and of macroeconomics (ECON 202/AREC 202 and ECON 204) AND basic calculus (MATH 141, 155, or 160), or the equivalent to these courses taken at a different university. The prerequisites for the course will be enforced, and it is expected that you are familiar with calculus.

Grading:

Grading will be based on 4 problem sets, 2 midterms, and a final exam in the percentages specified below. The final exam will be cumulative. Final letter grading will be on a curve, and will include plus and minus grades.

Problem Sets (20%)

Midterm Exam #1 (20%)

Midterm Exam #2 (20%)

Final Exam (40%)

Course Policies:

Problem sets will be assigned at least one week before they are due. No credit will be given for late problem sets. Problems sets are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. It is your responsibility to deliver or fax your problem sets to me early if you will not be in class. Problem sets will not be accepted via email. Problem sets will consist of practice problem-solving type questions. More difficult questions may be included on select problem sets for extra credit. These questions will be marked as representing extra credit opportunities. Working in study groups is highly encouraged. However, problem sets must be written up and submitted individually. All pages of your problem set should be stapled, clipped, or otherwise attached together when submitted. I reserve the right to take off points for not following this direction. In general, we will not have time in class to review full problem sets in detail. However, answers will be made available when a graded assignment is returned so that you may review and compare your work.

The two midterm and final exam formats will be modeled after the problem sets. You are expected to submit your own work and use no unauthorized assistance when taking exams. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated, and I will take precautions to prevent it. This includes random seating for examinations, exam proctoring, and photocopying of exams before returning them to you. Cheating will result in a failing grade (a zero) for the exam. Make up exams will be given only for scheduled university functions or strenuous circumstances such as serious illness. Written documentation is required for all make up requests. Documentation should be submitted prior to the exam date unless this is absolutely impossible. Approval of make up requests is at my discretion.

You are expected to be present in class and are responsible for material covered in lectures whether or not that material is covered in the book. Furthermore, extra credit quizzes and/or other opportunities may present themselves in class. Disruptive behavior is not tolerated and is grounds for being asked to leave. This includes the use of cell phones in class. Offensive or demeaning treatment of an individual is not tolerated. Disruptive students will be referred to the department head for further action.

Accommodations:

Students requesting special accommodations should contact Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) at 970-491-6385. Special accommodations for exams will not be granted without pre-approval from RDS. It is best to make arrangements early in the semester.

Syllabus and Reading List:

(This schedule is subject to change and will be revised later in the semester if necessary.)

Week of January 20: Preliminaries, P&R Chapter 1.

Week of January 27: Basics of Supply and Demand, P&R Chapter 2.

Week of February 3: Consumer Behavior, P&R Chapter 3.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10: PROBLEM SET 1 DUE

Week of February 10: Individual and Market Demand, P&R Chapter 4.

Week of February 17: Uncertainty and Consumer Behavior, P&R Chapter 5.

Week of February 24: Production, P&R Chapter 6.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3: PROBLEM SET 2 DUE

Tuesday, March 3: Finish any uncovered material and midterm review.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5: MIDTERM EXAM #1 IN CLASS

Week of March 10: Cost of Production, P&R Sections 7.1-7.5.

Week of March 17: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

Week of March 24: Profit Maximization and Consumer Behavior, P&R Chapter 8.

Week of March 31: Analysis of Competitive Markets, P&R Chapter 9.

Week of April 7: General Equilibrium, P&R Chapter 16.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14: PROBLEM SET 3 DUE

Tuesday, April 14: Finish any uncovered material and midterm review.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16: MIDTERM EXAM #2 IN CLASS

Week of April 21: Monopoly, P&R Chapter 10.

Week of April 28: Pricing with Market Power, P&R Sections 11.1-11.3.

Week of May 5: Oligopoly, P&R Chapter 12, and final review.

THURSDAY, MAY 7: PROBLEM SET 4 DUE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 9:10-11:10a*: FINAL EXAM

*The final exam will take place in our regular classroom. The final exam is cumulative.