

Microeconomics II (25040 - Group 4)

Spring 2009

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Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:30 - 11:45.

Recitations: Fridays: 10:30 - 11:45.

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays at office B3-1122: 11:45 - 13:15.

Textbook: Hal Varian: .Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach.,

W.W.Norton (2003, sixth edition) or newer. <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/titles/econ/hal6/>

Description: During this intermediate microeconomics II course, we will cover the following topics of Varian (2003):

1. Consumer's surplus and market demand (chapters 14, 15)
2. Perfect competition (chapter 16)
3. Monopoly (chapters 23, and 14)
4. Oligopoly (chapter 26)
5. General equilibrium: exchange and production (chapters 28 and 29)
6. Welfare, public goods and externalities (if we have some spare time) (chapters 30, and 31)

Homework: You can find the homework book in my web page to help you practice and understand the material covered in class. Selected solutions to these homework problems are discussed in the weekly recitation sessions.

“Docència tutoritzada”: There will be “docències tutoritzades” during three weeks. These sessions will involve two different types of exercises. During four of these sessions, the students will solve several theoretical and empirical exercises. These will count towards the final grade of the “1^o convocatòria”. During the other three sessions, the students will present their results from the take-home written assignment. The dates of the in-class exercises and the oral presentations can be found at the end of this document and in the explanations for the take-home assignment, respectively.

Evaluation of the Course:

- The final grade will be an average of the best three grades and the take-home written assignment. Presenting a take-home written assignment (explained in class) and making a class presentation counts towards 25% of the final grade. The other 75% of the grade will be obtained from the average of the best three grades from the four sessions of in class theoretical and empirical exercises.
- The exam on June 23rd (1^a convocatòria) will be **optional** for those who want to improve their grade. **However, if the student decides to take the final exam on June 23rd, his final grade will be the one obtained that day (even if it is lower than the grade added over the school year.)**
- The evaluation in September will only depend on the grade from the final exam taken in September.
- If a student cannot take a mini-exam, his grade for that exam will be zero.
- The mini-exams can only be taken in the group the student is registered and on the day and time announced. If a student cannot take a mini-exam, there will be no remake of the exam at any other time or place. However, missing a mini-exam does not prevent from taking the average grade from the other three grades to calculate the 75% of the final grade.

Dates and location of mini-exams:

- The mini-exams will take place in the classroom on: (1) Wednesday March 25th, (2) Monday April 20th, (3) Wednesday May 13th, and (4) Monday June 1st.

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Instructions for the take-home written assignment

As explained in the syllabus and in the first day of class this assignment is mandatory and represents 25% of the final grade (*1ª convocatoria*).

You are encouraged to do this exercise in teams of two people.

The description of the assignment follows:

You will pretend you are working as an economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve for Chairman Ben Bernanke (or at the European Central Bank for Jean-Claude Trichet; or at the Minister of the Treasury Department, for Pedro Solbes Mira).

Your job consists in analyzing a current news event using all the micro-economic analysis skills acquired during your first and second year at the UAB. You will make an in-class oral presentation, and hand in a written report describing your analysis.

- The oral presentation will be in English. It will be 10 minutes long and you are strongly recommended to use power point as a presentation tool. The presentation time will be equally distributed between the two members of the team, that is, each member will present for 5 minutes.
- The written report will ***not exceed 4 double-space single-sided pages, using Times New Roman font and font size 12.*** You will have to submit jointly with the report the different newspaper articles and additional information you have used to write the report (including articles on the web). The report can be written in the language you feel most comfortable in, that is Spanish, English or Catalan.

The grading of this assignment follows (maximum points: 10 points):

- Originality: 2 points
- Economic analysis: 2 points
- Written presentation (the text must be written in a very clear and systematic way so that the reader has a thorough understanding of the main points): 2 points
- Power point presentation: 2 points
- Presentation skills: 2 points

The work has to be original. If I identify that the work has been “cut and paste” from another document, the grade for the assignment will drop to 0.

The timing of the assignment is described below:

Monday 30th of March 2009:

- Each group will present their topic of analysis (5 minutes presentation). This will include a motivation, the objective of the analysis, a brief explanation of the methodology, a presentation of possible policy implications (if possible), and a roadmap of their report.

Wednesday April 22nd and Monday April 27th 2009:

- Each group will have 10 minutes to present their analysis.

Monday May 25th 2009:

- Written reports are due at the beginning of the class.