

**Microeconomics I**

Code: 102337  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501572 Business Administration and Management	OB	2	1
2501573 Economics	OB	2	1

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

**Other comments on languages**

The textbook is available in the Spanish language

**Teachers**

Ferran Sancho Pifarré  
Ricard Esparza Masana  
Amedeo Piolatto

**Prerequisites**

It is recommended that the following courses have been passed:

Introduction to Economics

Mathematics I and II

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The aim of this course is to understand the basic tools of microeconomic analysis and to become proficient in their use.

The topics that will be covered include:

Consumer Theory (preferences, utility, consumption and demand) and Production Theory (technology, costs).

**Competences**

- Economics
  - Apply mathematical instruments to synthesise complex economic-business situations.

- Capacity for adapting to changing environments.
- Capacity for independent learning in the future, gaining more profound knowledge of previous areas or learning new topics.
- Identify the forces that govern demand and supply.
- Identify the processes that govern the operation of markets in different competition systems, different scenarios of interrelationship and different timescales.
- Organise the work in terms of good time management, organisation and planning.
- Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and take decisions based on that information.
- Show motivation for carrying out quality work and sensitivity to the consequences for the environment and society.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Work well in a team, being able to argue proposals and validate or reject the arguments of others in a reasoned manner.

## Learning Outcomes

1. A capacity of oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English, which allows them to summarise and present the work conducted both orally and in writing.
2. Analyze the determinants of demand.
3. Analyze the determinants of supply.
4. Associate the technological structure of the company cost structure and describe the processes of translation.
5. Capacity to adapt to changing environments.
6. Capacity to continue future learning independently, acquiring further knowledge and exploring new areas of knowledge.
7. Demonstrate motivation regarding the quality of the work performed and sensitivity regarding the consequences on the environment and society.
8. Organise work, in terms of good time management and organisation and planning.
9. Relate the inter-temporal aspects to the processes of decision-making of economic agents.
10. Select and generate the information needed for each problem, analyse it and make decisions based on this information.
11. Solve balances and interpret its meaning.
12. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
13. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
14. Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
15. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
16. Work as part of a team and be able to argue own proposals and validate or refuse the arguments of others in a reasonable manner.

## Content

Each topic has been assigned a chapter in the textbook: Hal Varian, Intermediate Microeconomics, 9th edition.

## Topic I: Introduction to microeconomics

I.1 The criterion of rationality (Chapter 1)

I.2 The concepts of equilibrium and efficiency (Chapter 1)

I.3 The nature of economic models (Chapter 1)

## Topic II: Consumer theory

II.1 Preference relations and indifference curves (Chapter 3)

II.2 Utility Functions: properties and characteristics (Chapter 4)

II.3 Examples of utility functions: lineal, Leontief, Cobb-Douglas, Stone-Geary, quasi-lineal (chapter 4)

II.4 The budget constraint (Chapter 2)

## Topic III: Theory of consumer demand

III.1 Optimal consumer choice (Chapter 5)

III.2 Changes in income: normal and inferior goods (Chapter 6)

III.3 Changes in prices: ordinary, Giffen, substitute, and complementary goods (Chapter 6)

III.4 Slutsky's decomposition: income and substitution effects (Chapter 8)

## Topic IV: Applications of consumer and demand theory

IV.1 Endowments and demand functions: Slutsky decomposition with wealth effects (Chapter 9)

IV.2 The labor and leisure supply model (Chapter 9)

IV.3 Intertemporal Choice (Chapter 10)

IV.4 Election under uncertainty (chapter 12)

## Topic V: Theory of the firm

V.1 The technology: properties and characteristics (Chapter 19)

V.2 Examples of technologies: Leontief, Cobb-Douglas, CES (Chapter 19)

V.3 Cost minimization and some properties of cost functions (Chapter 21)

## Methodology

The planned methodology includes study, preparation and discussion of exercises, text reading, group exercises, lectures and tutorials.

The proposed teaching methodology may undergo some modifications according to the restrictions that may be imposed by the health authorities on on-campus courses.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Type: Directed		
Exercises and group discussion	17	0.68
Lectures	32.5	1.3
Type: Supervised		
Tutorials	15	0.6
Type: Autonomous		
Study, preparation and discussion of exercises	64	2.56
Text reading	15	0.6

## Assessment

### Evaluation process

The evaluation process will consist of a Final examination with a weight of 50%, a Partial mid-term examination, with a weight of 35% and, at least, an additional evaluation activity. At least part of any of the three (or more) evaluation activities must be of the written-exam type and at least part of any of the three (or more) evaluation activities must be multiple-choice type.

A student that takes part on any of the evaluation activities and turns in the activity for grading cannot be considered for a "Non Evaluable" status.

Any modification of this process due to external causes may undergo adaptations following the guidelines and restrictions of the health authorities on on-campus teaching and will be adequately informed following the guidelines and recommendations of the Faculty of Economics and Business and the UAB. The teaching faculty will adapt the evaluation activities to the most suitable and efficient format, including oral interviews and testing if needed.

### Schedule of evaluation activities

The dates of the different evaluation activities will be announced well in advance during the semester.

The date of the final exam is scheduled in the assessment calendar of the Faculty.

*"The dates of evaluation activities cannot be modified, unless there is an exceptional and duly justified reason why an evaluation activity cannot be carried out. In this case, the degree coordinator will contact both the teaching staff and the affected student, and a new date will be scheduled within the same academic period to make up for the missed evaluation activity."* Section 1 of Article 115. Calendar of evaluation activities (Academic Regulations UAB).

Students of the Faculty of Economics and Business, who in accordance with the previous paragraph need to change an evaluation activity date must process the request by filling out an Application for exams' reschedule

[https://eformularis.uab.cat/group/deganat\\_feie/nou-reprogramacio-de-proves](https://eformularis.uab.cat/group/deganat_feie/nou-reprogramacio-de-proves)

The teaching faculty will select the type of evaluation activity most suitable and efficient for any of the reprogrammed evaluation activities, including oral interviews and testing.

### Grade revision process

After all grading activities have ended, students will be informed of the date and way in which the course grades will be published. Students will be also be informed of the procedure, place, date and time of grade revision following University regulations.

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## Retake Process

*"To be eligible to participate in the retake process, it is required for students to have been previously been evaluated for at least two thirds of the total evaluation activities of the subject."* Section 3 of Article 112 ter. The recovery (UAB Academic Regulations).

Additionally, for a student to participate in the retake process, it is required that he or she to have achieved an average grade of the subject between 3.5 and 4.9.

The date of the retake exam will be posted in the calendar of evaluation activities of the Faculty.

Students who take this exam and pass, will get a grade of 5 for the subject. If the student does not pass the retake, the grade will remain unchanged, and hence, student will fail the course.

The grading of the retake examination will be qualitative, with two possible results: "pass" or "no pass". If the grade is "pass", the grade will be equal to 5. If the grade is "no pass", the student will not pass the subject and his final grade will be the existing grade prior to the retake examination.

## Irregularities in evaluation activities

In spite of other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate, and in accordance with current academic regulations, *"in the case that the student makes any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation activity, it will be graded with a 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that can be instructed. In case of various irregularities occur in the evaluation of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be 0"*. **Section 10 of Article 116. Results of the evaluation. (UAB Academic Regulations).**

## Standards of behavior

Aside of any other disciplinary measures that are considered to be adequate, and in line with the current academic rules, the professor may reduce the average grade obtained in the "additional evaluation activities" by up to 2 points out of 10 to any student who repeatedly does not follow the rules of behavior in class. The professor will announce these rules at the beginning of the course.

The proposed evaluation activities may undergo some changes according to the restrictions imposed by the health authorities on on-campus courses.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final Exam	50 %	2	0.08	3, 2, 4, 5, 1, 6, 7, 8, 15, 14, 13, 12, 9, 11, 10, 16
Practices and partial evaluations	50 %	4.5	0.18	

## Bibliography

Varian, H. *Intermediate microeconomics: a modern approach*, 9th edition. W.W. Norton and Company Inc.

Earlier editions are also fine provided their chapters are properly reindexed to the topics covered in this syllabus.

## **Software**

There is no specific software for the class. However, some knowledge of Wolfram|Alpha may be useful. Wolfram|Alpha is available via internet browser under any operating system.