

# **BOSTON COLLEGE**

## **Department of Economics**

### **EC 201.03: MICROECONOMIC THEORY FALL 2000**

Instructor: Maurizio Zanardi  
Office: Carney 141  
Office Hours: TTh 10:30 - 11:45 and by appointment  
Phone: 552-3686 (mailbox 2)  
E-mail: zanardi@bc.edu  
Class: TTh 9:00 - 10:15 Campion 231  
Course Homepage: <http://www2.bc.edu/~zanardi/theory/ec20103.html>

#### **1. Course Objectives**

This course develops a theoretical framework with which to analyze consumer and producer behavior. This analysis is then employed to investigate the determination of prices and output in various market situations, the implications for welfare, and the appropriate role for government intervention.

#### **2. Prerequisite**

Principles of Economic - Micro (EC 131).

Although a course in calculus is not required, it is highly recommended. In fact, basic concepts in calculus are necessary to follow the material covered in class. Quantitative as well as graphical analysis will be emphasized throughout the course.

#### **3. Requirements**

The required textbook is: Michael L. Katz, Harvey S. Rosen  
Microeconomics  
Irwin McGraw-Hill, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition  
(available at the BC bookstore)

Exposition in class will closely follow the required textbook so that you are encouraged to read the book before coming to class. However, some extra material may be covered and handouts distributed. Remember that you are responsible for any information and announcement made in class!

The midterm will be in class on October 10 and the cumulative final exam is scheduled for December 14 at 12:30 p.m. Make up exams will not be offered. If you miss the midterm exam for an excusable reason, the weights on problem sets and final exam will be increased.

Problem sets will be distributed every other week and they will be due one week after. No late problem sets will be accepted since the solutions will be distributed and available on-line. You are encouraged to work together but you have to write your own answers otherwise the problem set will not be graded. Problem sets will be part of your final grade but only your best 6 grades out of 7 problem sets will be considered in order to give you some flexibility.

The problem set schedule is:

<b>Problem set:</b>	<b>Due:</b>
PS #1	September 14
PS #2	September 28
PS #3	October 5
PS #4	October 24
PS #5	November 7
PS #6	November 21
PS #7	December 7

The overall grade for the course will be determined in the following way:

Problem sets (6 out of 7):	25%
Midterm exam:	35%
Final exam:	40%

Class participation is an important element of learning. You are encouraged to ask questions and interact as much as possible. Feel free to come to my office hours for any possible question you may have and check the course homepage for assignments and solutions. You may also consider to get tutoring at the Academic Development Center (for appointments: 552-0611).

Be advised that cheating on any exam will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing grade. Please refer to page on Academic Integrity in BC Student Handbook.

#### 4. Course outline

1. Introduction: The market economy  
Chapter 1: pages 1-17.  
Handout: Math review  
(1 class)
2. Consumer theory:  
Chapter 2: pages 21-51.  
Chapter 3: pages 55-85.  
Chapter 4: pages 93-118  
Chapter 5: pages 121-147.  
(3 weeks)
3. Producer theory:  
Chapter 7: pages 197-224.  
Chapter 8: pages 235-256.  
Chapter 9: pages 259-285, 289-293.  
(2 weeks)
4. Market structures:  
Chapter 10: pages 299-323.  
Chapter 11: pages 326-359.  
Chapter 12: pages 370-394, 397-403.  
Chapter 13: pages 409-447.  
Chapter 14: pages 461-480.  
Chapter 15: pages 484-510.  
Chapter 16: pages 520-542.  
(6 weeks)
5. Missing markets:  
Chapter 17: pages 553-582.  
Chapter 18: pages 594-619.  
(2 weeks)

## Tentative class schedule:

Tuesday 5 September:	Chapter 1 Handout Chapter 2	Thursday 26 October:	Chapter 12
Thursday 7 September:	Chapter 2 PS #1 handed out	Tuesday 31 October:	Chapter 12 PS #5 handed out
Tuesday 12 September:	Chapter 3	Thursday 2 November:	Chapter 13
Thursday 14 September:	Chapter 3 Chapter 4 PS #1 due	Tuesday 7 November:	Chapter 13 PS #5 due
Tuesday 19 September:	Chapter 4 Chapter 5	Thursday 9 November:	Chapter 14
Thursday 21 September:	Chapter 5 PS #2 handed out	Tuesday 14 November:	Chapter 15 PS #6 handed out
Tuesday 26 September:	Chapter 7	Thursday 16 November:	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
Thursday 28 September:	Chapter 8 PS #2 due PS #3 handed out	Tuesday 21 November:	Chapter 16 PS #6 due
Tuesday 3 October:	Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Thursday 23 November:	HOLIDAY
Thursday 5 October:	Chapter 9 PS #3 due	Tuesday 28 November:	Chapter 17
Tuesday 10 October:	Midterm	Thursday 30 November:	Chapter 17 PS #7 handed out
Thursday 12 October:	Chapter 10	Tuesday 5 December:	Chapter 18
Tuesday 17 October:	Chapter 10 PS #4 handed out	Thursday 7 December:	Review session PS #7 due
Thursday 19 October:	Chapter 11	Thursday 14 December:	FINAL EXAM
Tuesday 24 October:	Chapter 11 PS #4 due		