

## EC201 Microeconomic Theory

Fall 2002

Prof. István Kónya

### Overview:

The course is designed to introduce students to the main building blocks of economic analysis. We will study the decision making process of consumers, firms and their interactions through markets (equilibrium).

### Text:

The required textbook is „Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach” by Hal R. Varian (6<sup>th</sup> edition). We will also heavily use the accompanying „Workouts in  
<sup>th</sup> edition) by Theodore Bergstrom and Hal Varian.

### Requirements:

I will use some elementary calculus, on the level of the appendices of the textbook. There is a short mathematical overview at the end of the book. Although much of the material can (and will be) presented using graphical tools and intuition, I believe calculus makes it simpler to get the main results. Apart from calculus, you should be able to formulate and solve simple mathematical problems. Since microeconomics uses the logic of mathematics, it can be best learned solving problems instead of just memorizing formulas. You should practice as much as you can, both the problems and quizzes in the workbook.

### Grading:

Midterm: 40%, Final: 40%, Homeworks: 20%. I do not give make-up exams, so make sure you are available on the appropriate dates. I do not grade on the curve, i.e. your grade depends only on your own achievement and not on the others'. You can find more about my teaching and grading style [here](#). Homeworks will be distributed weekly, and your TA will grade them by next week. You can miss or screw up two homeworks: I will throw out the worst two when grading. This means, however, that I do not accept late homework under any circumstances.

### Office hours:

My office is Carney 143 and my office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 3-4:30 or by [appointment](#). Your TA will also have office hours (time and date TBA), you should direct questions about problem set grading to him. You should also check the [course website](#) periodically.

### Syllabus:

- I. Introduction (Varian Ch.1 and Mathematical Appendix)
- II. Consumer Theory (Ch.2-6, 8-10, 12, 14-16)  
MIDTERM (October 22)
- III. Theory of the Firm (Ch.18-25, 27)
- IV. Equilibrium and Welfare (Ch. 30, 33)  
FINAL (December 14)