Class code: SP14_ECON-UA_9010_1_001

Instructor Details

Dr. Donald Verry

Office Hour:

*Day and Time:* Details to be agreed at first session

*Location:* Drayton House  Room 306. (Map available with online course material). This is part of University College London and is 10 minutes walk from Bedford Square.

email for appointment if this clashes with other classes.

Class Details

Intermediate Microeconomics, Spring 2014.

Tuesdays 10am -1pm.

Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites

Economic Principles II (V31.0002 or C30.0001) and Calculus I (V63.0121).

Class Description

The aim of the course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the core concepts and methods of microeconomics. The course can serve as a foundation for subsequent enrolment in more advanced undergraduate electives which require a microeconomics background. Students will develop their understanding of economic models specified in standard mathematical and/or game theoretic terms. Course content includes core topics of consumption, production, and decision-making by firms (both with and without market power) as well as the analysis of market failure due to public goods and externalities. These topics are analyzed more deeply and more rigorously than in introductory principles courses. Depending on time available, the course will cover a selection of further topics. These include some or all of: uncertainty, asymmetric information, general equilibrium, and behavioral economics. Because this course caters to the policy concentration stream, the level of mathematics is somewhat lower than it would be on the theory concentration, and the course will make extensive use of diagrams and stress the intuition of results. Nevertheless, intermediate microeconomics is rigorous and analytical. The calculus prerequisite is there for a reason; while the level of mathematics is not advanced, all students of intermediate microeconomics must be prepared for some mathematical analysis.

The course is taught in 14 three-hour sessions. Each of these will be a combination of traditional lectures, problem-solving, discussion of homework and assessments, and open question and answer time. The mix of these components is not fixed and will vary from week to week.

The topics listed below for each session should be regarded as a guide. While the objective is to adhere as closely as possible to the outline, the rate at which the course progresses can not be predicted exactly (unless the teacher is unresponsive to the needs of the class). For this reason, it may be possible to proceed more rapidly (and introduce some supplementary topics) or necessary to take things a bit more slowly, in which case some minor reductions of the course content may
Desired Outcomes

At the completion of the course students should:

- be familiar with the main elements and techniques of microeconomic theory at intermediate level.
- be able to solve and interpret stylized problems based on microeconomic models.
- be able to use these models to analyze real-world microeconomic phenomena and to evaluate issues of microeconomic policy.

Assessment Components

The assessment has three components:

- Final exam (2.5 hours): 45%.
- Two mid-term tests of approximately 90 minutes duration. The dates are given below and more information on the format will be provided in class and on NYU Classes. Highest graded mid-term 25%. Other mid-term 20%.
- Homework and class participation: 10%. This component is an evaluation of commitment and effort rather than a reward for producing correct answers to homework or to questions asked in class.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Clear and thorough analysis, responding directly to questions set. Demonstration of both rigor and the ability to explain economic intuition.

Grade B: Well organized, clearly expressed response to questions asked. Evidence of good analytical skills and appropriate reading.

Grade C: Answers broadly correct with effective grasp of basic concepts. Ability to apply material from textbook and lectures, but lacking depth and subtlety.

Grades D & E: Some effort and understanding although analysis may be incomplete and/or flawed.

Grade F: Evidence of lack of effort and/or containing significant errors in even basic parts of answer. Incomplete/incorrect exposition of material from textbook/lecture notes. Lack of understanding of significant portions of core course content.

Required Text(s)


Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)

There are many good intermediate microeconomics texts. Here are three popular and respected ones, any of which you could use as a backup/supplement to the main text. You should use a recent addition, preferably the latest:

Perloff, J. M. Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus
Pindyck, R. and Rubinfeld, D Microeconomics
Varian, Hal R. Intermediate Microeconomics

For those who have not read it, Freakonomics, in one of its several versions, is quite fun. An
interesting non-technical coverage of some of the course material is: McMillan, John *Reinventing the Bazaar*. Further reading can be suggested on request.

### Internet Research Guidelines

Not applicable to this course.

### Additional Required Equipment

None

### Session 1

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### Session 2

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#### 1st homework due.

### Session 3

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th February 2014</td>
<td>Demand and consumer welfare <strong>BB</strong> chapter 5.</td>
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#### 2nd homework due.

### Session 4

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#### 3rd homework due.

### Session 5

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<td>25th February 2014</td>
<td>First mid-term assessment.</td>
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### Session 6

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#### 4th homework due.

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#### 5th homework due.

### Session 8

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<td>18th March 2014</td>
<td>Market power I; monopoly and monopsony, price discrimination, bundling. <strong>BB</strong> chapters 11 &amp; 12.</td>
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#### 6th homework due.

### Session 9

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<tr>
<td>25th March 2014</td>
<td>Market power II. Monopolistic competition, Cournot, Bertrand and Stackelberg models of oligopoly. <strong>BB</strong> Chapter 13.</td>
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7th homework due.

Session 10
1st April 2014
Second mid-term assessment.
Game Theory I
BB chapter 14.

Session 11
8th April 2014
Game Theory II
BB Chapter 14.
8th homework due.

Session 12
29th April 2014
Risk and uncertainty
BB chapter 15.
9th homework due.

Session 13
6th May 2014
Public goods and externalities
BB chapter 17.
10th homework due.

Session 14
13th May 2014
General equilibrium
BB chapter 16.

Session 15
20th May 2014
Final Examination.

Classroom Etiquette
Please arrive punctually as lectures begin on time and late arrivals disrupt others. Phones must be turned off during classes (there is a break in each session during which phones can, of course, be used). Laptops, tablets etc can be used to follow lecture handouts but for no other purposes. NYU has a no-eating policy in its Bedford Square classrooms.

Required Co-curricular Activities
None

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
London has a rich menu of lectures and events, many of which are directly or indirectly relevant to economics students. In particular both the London School of Economics and University College London have interesting public lecture series and are within easy reach of the Bedford Square site. Details of such programs are circulated to students by NYU-L.
A brief profile is available on the course website.

NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.
Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral
examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.