

Syllabus for Advanced Microeconomics I (PhD level)
Fall 2014 Course: Advanced Microeconomics I

Lecture: Monday 8:55 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Meeting Place: Room206, No.4 Lecture Building

Instructor: Tianxu Chen

Office: Room 425, School of Economics
Email: tianxu@mail.shufe.edu.cn
Office Hours: Friday 15:00-17:00, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jian Zhang

Email: zhangjian538@163.com
Office Hours: Tuesday 13:00-15:00, Room 104, School of Economics, and by appointment

Description:

Advanced Microeconomics I: This is the first part of the Graduate Advanced Microeconomics Sequence covering the fundamentals of modern microeconomic theory. It presents fundamental tools of optimization theory and equilibrium analysis, neoclassical models of consumer and firm behavior, and analysis of decision-making under uncertainty.

Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics, calculus sequence and linear algebra

Required Textbook:

The primary textbook for the first half of the course is Advanced Microeconomic Theory, 3rd Ed. by Jehle&Reny.

A more advanced and mathematically rigorous textbook, for those interested, is Microeconomic Theory by Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green.

Homework and Exams: Late homework will not be accepted, unless the student arranges for an exception in advance or provides evidence of an unforeseen and unavoidable circumstance that prevented submitting work on time. There will be five problem sets, one midterm exam and one final exam.

Grading: There will be four regular homework assignments, successful completion of which counts for 15 percent of your grade. There will be two exams, worth 30 and 50 percent separately. The midterm exam (worth 30%) will focus on consumer and firm behavior, and partial equilibrium models, and the final exam (worth 50%) will be cumulative as well as include material on decision under uncertainty, information economics, and welfare. And there will be an in-class presentation (details on Page 3), worth 5 percent for completion.

Absences: This is a demanding class, intended to prepare students for independent research in economics. Absences put you behind schedule, and can severely interfere with your ability to succeed in the course.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Any violation of the academic code of honor will result in a punishment proportional to the crime, as determined by the instructor and student or through the Honesty Committee process.

Expectations: This is a challenging course. The expectation is that students will work to the best of their ability, participate actively in class, and seek help from the other students or instructor when they have trouble understanding material. Unlike undergraduate courses, this class is not intended to introduce you to new ideas and methods, but to push you to master a subject and grow as a thinker, researcher, and economist.

Lecture Schedule: We will spend about two weeks on each of the following:

- Consumer Theory (Chapter 1)
- Topics in Consumer Theory (Chapter 2)
- Theory of the Firm (Chapter 3)
- MIDTERM EXAM : Models of Consumer and Firm Behavior
- Partial Equilibrium (Chapter 4)
- General Equilibrium (Chapter 5)
- Welfare Economics (Chapter 6)
- Selected Topics: Game Theory (Chapter 7) and Information Economics (Chapter 8)
- FINAL EXAM

In-class Presentation: Each student is required to give a small presentation for 25 minutes during the third section of every lecture.

Students could choose topics from the following:

- Healthcare reform in China
- Health system in China
- Medical Saving Accounts in China
- International Healthcare System Comparison
- Environmental Pollution on Infant Health in China
- Marriage and Divorce Market in China
- "Leftover Women" in China
- Any Topic that you think is interesting!

Presentation Schedule:

Starting from Week 4: September 29th

No Class on Week 5 (Holiday)

Continue from Week 6: October 13th

Last Presentation on Week 17: December 29th