

Name of Subject		Name of Professor
Microeconomics A		Ryuta Ray Kato
Course description and Attainment target		
<p>The aims of this course are to introduce the fundamental framework of microeconomics to students who are not familiar with microeconomics. Thus, no background in economics is required. While use of mathematical tools will be minimized, several key mathematical tools will be taught to help students understand analytical methods. One of the purposes of this course is to let students understand how much the microeconomic framework is useful to tackle many problems in our society, and thus, in particular, focus will be given on applications of the analytical tools common in microeconomics to lots of issues related to public policies. The goal of this course is to let students understand how much the economics framework can be used for actual issues, and also use the framework to explore several hot issues in our society. Thus, students are expected to equip themselves with analytical tools which are getting more and more common in the social science.</p>		
Course content		
Week	Theme	Contents
1st	Economic Models I	Chapter 1
2nd	Economic Models II	Chapter 1
3rd	Preferences, Choices and Utility Maximization I	Chapter 2
4th	Preferences, Choices and Utility Maximization II	Chapter 2
5th	Demand Curves and Elasticity I	Chapter 3
6th	Demand Curves and Elasticity II	Chapter 3
7th	Production I	Chapter 6
8th	Production II	Chapter 6
9th	Cost Functions I	Chapter 7
10th	Cost Functions II	Chapter 7
11th	Profit Maximization and Supply I	Chapter 8
12th	Profit Maximization and Supply II	Chapter 8
13th	Perfect Competition	Chapter 9
14th	Final exam and answers	Final exam and provision of answers
Prerequisites and registration requirements		
<p>There is no specific prerequisite. However, interest in economics and enthusiasm to try to use the economics framework to tackle social problems in our real world are both required. If economics background is relatively weak, strong effort to get familiar with mathematical tools is also essential.</p>		
Preparation for the course		
<p>Students are strongly suggested to go through suggested study materials such as supplementary textbooks prior to each session. If the background in economics and/or mathematical tools is relatively weak, additional materials will be introduced, which should also be studied before attending the session.</p>		
Text books		
<p>Nicholson, Walter, and Christopher Snyder (2015), <i>Intermediate Microeconomics and Its Application</i>, 12th Edition, Cengage ISBN-13: 9781133189022 ISBN-10: 1133189024 Since a very high discount rate for a purchase is applicable only through the instructor, students should contact the instructor before students intend to purchase it.</p>		
Suggested readings		
<p>While any textbook on microeconomics is useful to understand this course, the following book is suggested to go through. Varian, Hal R (2014) <i>Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach</i>, WW Norton & Co ISBN-10: 0393937143; ISBN-13: 978-039393714537143</p>		
Grading policy		
<p>Two written exams (midterm and final exams) : 80% Two assignments : 20% Note: Two written exams (midterm and final) are both open exams.</p>		
Other		