

ECON 80A: MICROECONOMIC THEORY
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
SUMMER 2009

Preliminary Syllabus

Instructor: Nabeela N. Alam (PhD Candidate, Department of Economics)
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Summer Session I: Jun 1 – Jul 3
Class times: MWR 8:45am – 11:15am
Class location: Lemberg 54
Office hours: TBD
Office location: Sachar, PhD Room

Course website available on Latte (<http://moodle.brandeis.edu>)

Prerequisites: ECON 8b, MATH 10a (or equivalent)
Please note that this class requires knowledge of calculus

Course description:

This course employs theoretical analysis to study various topics in microeconomics. We will cover topics such as consumer behaviour, production and costs, partial equilibrium analysis under competitive and monopolistic markets, general equilibrium and welfare analysis, some of which you will have seen in an introductory economics class. We will use the tools we develop, along with some game theory, to study topics in information economics, externalities and public goods. The aim of this course is to provide you with the mathematical tools to structure and evaluate economic problems.

Required course materials:

Textbook: Hal R. Varian, “Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach”, 7th edition (), Norton

Aplia: This is a web-based course supplement found at www.aplia.com. Online subscription for \$45 per student will be required. Further instructions will be made available in class.

Schedule:

Problem sets: There will be 4 problem sets, each will be given out on a Tuesday and will be due the following Tuesday.

Pset #	Date handed out	Date due
1	Mon, June 1	Mon, June 8
2	Mon, June 8	Mon, June 15
3	Wed, June 17	Tue, June 23
4	Tue, June 23	Tue, June 30

Midterm: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 (*time and location TBD*)

Final exam: Friday, July 3, 2009, 9am-12noon

Exams cannot be rescheduled except under extraordinary circumstances.

Grading:

Problem Sets	15%
Case/News Analysis	10%
Midterm	30%
Final	35%
Class Participation	10%

Policy on lateness:

No late problem sets are accepted. This is important given the short nature of the course. As a result, flexibility will be in the form of dropping the grade on the lowest-scoring problem set.

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to be honest in all your academic work. It is your responsibility to be familiar with Brandeis policies regarding academic honesty as described in the Rights and Responsibilities handbook available at <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/rr/>. If you have any questions regarding expectations, please contact me.

Disability Information:

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and you wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Course outline:

(Corresponding chapter and other relevant readings will be available before classes begin)

1. Math review (1 lecture)
2. Consumer Theory (2 lectures)
3. Production and Costs (2 lectures)
4. Competitive markets (2 lectures)
 - Partial equilibrium
 - General equilibrium
5. Monopoly (1 lecture)
6. Game theory (1 lecture)
7. Market structure (2 lectures)
 - Oligopoly
 - i. Cournot competition
 - ii. Bertrand competition
8. Behavioral or Information economics (1 lectures)
9. Externalities and public goods (1 lecture)
10. Final review (1 lecture)