



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

EXC 2407 Microeconomics

Program

Bachelor in Business Administration - (2. year)

Responsible for the course

Christian Riis

Department

Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Microeconomics deals with the behaviour of individual economic units, such as consumers, workers, investors, owners of land and business firms. Microeconomics explains how these units make economic decisions. Another important concern of microeconomics is how these economic units interact in markets and industries.

Objective

The purpose of the course is to train students in the systematic analysis of consumer and firm behaviour in various market situations. The course also analyzes the efficiency of resource use given different market forms (perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly).

Prerequisites

EXC 2610 Mathematics or equivalent.

EXC 2407 Microeconomics is the standard introductory course in microeconomics. Algebra and elementary calculus are required as a background for students taking this course - up to and including partial derivatives. The reasoning in the course is based on graphs and standard optimization problems, where the Lagrangian technique is mentioned. We try to develop both intuition and technical skills in the course. The exam contains more formal optimization problems than is customary in a standard course at "principles" level at a US university.

Compulsory literature

Books:

Pindyck, R.S. & D.L. Rubinfeld. 2005. Microeconomics. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall. (Selected parts)

Recommended literature

Course outline

1. Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis
2. Demand, supply and market equilibrium
3. Consumer Behavior
 - The budget constraint and consumer preferences
 - Effects of changes in price and income levels
 - Demand functions and elasticities
4. Firm behavior
 - Production theory
 - The optimal use of input factors
 - The cost of production
 - The profit objective
5. Market theory
 - Perfect competition
 - Monopoly
 - Oligopoly
 - Game theory
6. Market forms and resource allocation.

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

The course is based on 36 lecture hours.

Evaluation

A five-hour individual written examination concludes the course.

Evaluation code(s)

EXC 24071 - Written exam accounts for 100% of the final grade in the course EXC 2407 Microeconomics, 6 credits.

Aids at the examination

Advanced calculator is permitted.

Support materials at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based student handbook. Please note use of calculator. <http://www.bi.no/studenthandbook>

Makeup exam

A re-sit is held in at the next scheduled exam in the course.