



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

EXC 3520 Microeconomics

Programme

Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) (2. year)

Responsible for the course

Department

Department of Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

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 in industries.

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge

Students will be trained in the systematic analysis of consumer and firm behaviour in various market situations, and shall learn to understand the efficiency of resource use given different market forms (perfect competition, monopoly and monopolistic competition). The exam contains more formal optimization problems than is customary in a standard course at "principles" level at a US university.

Acquired skills

Students shall be able to solve basic microeconomic optimization problems, and to understand the main principles of economic modelling.

Students will be able to reason based on graphs and standard optimization problems, where the Lagrangian technique is mentioned, and they will develop both intuition and technical skills during the course.

Reflection

Students will be encouraged to reflect on and distinguish between the impact market changes have on efficiency versus their distributive effects, and to be conscious the distinction between efficiency goals and other considerations not captured by the market analysis.

Prerequisites

EXC 2910 Mathematics or equivalent.

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.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Pindyck, Robert S. and Daniel L. Rubinfeld.. 2009. Microeconomics. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Pearson Prentice Hall. Selected parts

Recommended reading

Course outline

1. Introduction to microeconomic analysis
2. Demand, supply and market equilibrium
3. Consumer behaviour
 - The budget constraint and consumer preferences
 - Effects of changes in price and income levels
 - Demand functions and elasticities

4. Firm behaviour
 - Production theory
 - The optimal use of input factors
 - The cost of production
 - The profit objective
5. Market theory
 - Perfect competition
 - Effects of taxation
 - Monopoly
 - Oligopoly
 - Game theory
6. Market forms and resource allocation.

Computer-based tools

No specified computer-based tools are required.

Learning process and workload

The course comprises 36 hours of teaching and 6 hours of review of exercises and discussions in class.

Coursework requirements

Three (3) compulsory assignments will be given during the course. To be able to attend the final exam at least two (2) of the assignments must be approved by the lecturer. A minimum level of performance will be demanded for the exercises to be passed (e.g. a minimum number of questions must be correctly answered). Further information will be given in the lectures and through It's learning.

Activities	Hours
Lectures	36
Review of exercises	6
Work on compulsory assignments	18
Student preparations	36
Exercises	49
Independent study	50
Exam	5
Recommended use of time	200

Use of hours

36 hours - Lectures

6 hours - Review of exercises and discussions in class

3 hours - Administration of assignments

45 hours total

Coursework requirements

There are 3 mandatory exercises during the semester of which 2 must be approved by the lecturer in order for the student to attend final exam. See Learning process and workload.

Examination

A five-hour individual written examination concludes the course.

Examination code(s)

EXC 35201 – written examination accounts for 100% of the grade in the course EXC 3520 Microeconomics, 7.5 credits.

Examination support materials

BI-approved exam calculator. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS BA II Plus™

Examination support materials at written examinations are specified under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note the use of calculator and dictionary.
<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

A re-sit examination is offered every term.

Students who have not received passing marks for two of the three assignments must retake the assignments during the next scheduled course. Students that have not passed the written exam or who wish to improve their grade must retake the exam in connection with the next scheduled course.

Additional information