

Syllabus

ECON 303: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
University of Southern California
Spring 2017

Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 13:50 p.m.

Instructor: Prof. **Fanny Camara** Office Hours: Friday 4:00-5:00
Office: KAP 314
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TA: Ali Abbood Office Hours:
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Prerequisites for the course: ECON 203 and MATH 118 or MATH 125

Textbook: *Intermediate Microeconomics*, Hal Varian, 9th ed.

Problem sets: Due at the beginning of class on the due date

Exams: One midterm and a final exam

Grading:

Attendance 10%
Problem sets 30%
Midterm 30%
Final exam 30%

The grade on problem sets will be computed after dropping the lowest grade.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and then converted to letter grades.

A+ 95 - 100	B+ 80 - 84	C+ 65 - 69	D+ 50 - 54	F 0 - 39
A 90 - 94	B 75 - 79	C 60 - 64	D 45 - 49	
A- 85 - 89	B- 70 - 74	C- 55 - 59	D- 40 - 44	

	Topic	Course Outline Readings	Date
I.	Introduction		Jan. 10
		Varian Chapters 1 and Mathematical Appendix	
II.	Consumer Demand		
1.	Budget Constraint and Preferences		Jan. 12
		Varian Chapter 2-3	
2.	Utility		Jan 17
		Varian Chapter 4	
3.	Choice and Individual Demand		Jan 19
		Varian Chapter 5-6	
4.	Topics in Consumer Demand		Jan 24
		Varian Chapter 7-9	
5.	Intertemporal Choice		Jan 26
		Varian Chapter 10	
6.	Uncertainty		jan 31
		Varian Chapter 12-13	
7.	Consumer Surplus		Feb. 2
		Varian Chapter 14	
8.	Market Demand		Feb. 7

Varian Chapter 15 - 16

III. Producer Behavior

1. Technology Feb. 9

Varian Chapter 18

2. Profit Maximization Feb 14

Varian 19

3. Cost Minimization Feb 16

Varian 20

4. Cost Curves Feb 21

Varian 21

5. Firm Supply and Industry Supply Feb 23

Varian 22-23

6. Markets and Auctions Feb 28

Varian 16 and 17

IV. Market Structure and Strategy

1. Monopoly March 2

Varian Chapter 24

2. Monopoly Pricing March 7

Varian Chapter 25

Review Session March
21

Mid-Term Exam		March 23
3. Oligopoly		March 28
	Varian Chapter 27	
4. Game Theory		March 30
	Varian Chapter 28	
V. General Equilibrium		
Exchange		April 4
1.		
	Varian Chapter 29	
2. Production		April 6
	Varian Chapter 30	
3. Welfare		April 11
	Varian Chapter 31	
2. Externalities		April 13
	Varian Chapter 32	
3. Public Goods		April 18
	Varian Chapter 35	
4. Information		April 20
	Varian Chapter 36	
Review		April 25
Review		April 27

Comprehensive Final Exam

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/part-b>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and harassment are prohibited by the university. You are encouraged to report all incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX Office* <http://equity.usc.edu> and/or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://dps.usc.edu>. This is important for the health and safety of the whole USC community. Faculty and staff must report any information regarding an incident to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide outreach and information to the affected party. The sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> fully describes reporting options. Relationship and Sexual Violence Services <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp> provides 24/7 confidential support.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://ali.usc.edu>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* <http://dsp.usc.edu> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

