



# Business and Economics

## ECON 201 : Microeconomics (15 POINTS)

### Course Prescription

Study of the allocation of scarce resources among competing end uses. Intermediate-level analysis of the economic behaviour of individual units, in particular consumers and firms. Although the focus is on perfectly competitive markets, attention is also given to other types of markets. Analysis also includes concepts of expected utility and uncertainty, and welfare economics.

### Course Overview

This is an intermediate microeconomics course designed to give you a comprehensive study and understanding of various decision economic phenomena, building on simple intuition, and developing theoretical constructs, and analytical tools. The course provides a set of microeconomic models for students who are: (1) intending to advance further with economics; and/or (2) expecting to be involved in business and policy fields; and/or (3) interested in humanities and social science and ways of analysing social processes.

This course uses a concise, example-filled approach to intermediate microeconomic theory. For each concept introduced, worked-out examples are offered with step-by-step solutions. Each lecture will focus on one of the chapters of the prescribed textbook for this course, from presenting the basic theoretical elements, distilling their main ingredients, and offering the main intuition behind each formal assumption and result, up to developing many worked-out examples and related applications. The goal of this course is for each student to be able to understand and analyse microeconomics problems and acquire some essential tools for solving standard exercises, through mastering a common approach for solving similar problems. To that end, we will use simple algebra, and step-by-step derivation of each result for each model considered, so only a basic background in algebra and high-school level calculus is assumed to navigate the material covered in this course.

### Course Requirements

Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 152 or 180 points in Mathematics or Statistics with a GPA of 5 or higher and a B or higher in MATHS 130, 150 or 153

### Capabilities Developed in this Course

Capability 1: Disciplinary Knowledge and Practice

Capability 2: Critical Thinking

- Capability 3: Solution Seeking  
 Capability 4: Communication and Engagement  
 Capability 5: Independence and Integrity  
 Capability 6: Social and Environmental Responsibilities

Graduate Profile: [Bachelor of Commerce](#)

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and apply basic principles of microeconomics (Capability 1, 2, 3, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 and 6)
2. Identify structures of microeconomics models (Capability 1 and 2)
3. Analyse and derive solutions to a wide range of microeconomic models (Capability 1, 2, 3, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 and 6)
4. Be able to describe and discuss the results of various microeconomic models (Capability 1, 2, 3, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 and 6)
5. Apply microeconomics knowledge to real-world situations (Capability 1, 2, 3, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2 and 6)

### Assessments

Assessment Type	Percentage	Classification
Assignments	45%	Individual Coursework
Final Exam	55%	Individual Examination
2 types	100%	

Assessment Type	Learning Outcome Addressed				
	1	2	3	4	5
Assignments	✓	✓	✓		
Final Exam			✓	✓	✓

There will be three take-home tests worth 15% each assigned during the semester and a final (open book) exam worth 55% toward the final grade in this course.

### Workload Expectations

This course is a standard 15 point course and students are expected to spend 10 hours per week involved in each 15 point course that they are enrolled in.

For this course, you can expect 36 hours of lectures (6 hours per week), 6 hours of tutorials (one-hour of weekly tutorials), 9 hours of reading and thinking about the content (1.5 hours weekly), and 9 hours of work on assignments and/or test preparation (an average of 1.5 hours per week for self-assessment, working out solutions to problems for assignment purposes and preparing for the final exam).

It is important to note that most learning can be achieved during class and tutorial time, plus preparation for both classes and tutorials.

Lectures provide a structure to assist your study, introducing the relevant topics, concepts, tools, and providing examples and exercises for you to work on, to begin with.

Tutorial time allows you to practice with the self-assessment exercises and selected end-of-chapter exercises on a regular basis. Weekly tutorials will focus on reviewing self-assessed and selected end-of-chapter exercises. The level of difficulty of exercises chosen for either tutorial sessions or assessments (take-home tests) will be on the easier side. Even if not assessed on those, students can choose to also practice with more challenging exercises, especially if interested in pursuing further studies in economics. Regardless, the available exercises always give students ample opportunity to apply concepts from previous worked-out examples during class time.

## Delivery Mode

### Campus Experience

Depending on the border restrictions in place during the Summer Semester, some students might be based in New Zealand, others still overseas.

For students based in New Zealand:

- Attendance is highly recommended at scheduled activities (lectures and tutorials) to succeed in the course.
- Lectures will also be available as recordings, and so will tutorials.
- Attendance on campus is required for the final exam for those students not enrolled as 'overseas' students.
- The activities for the course are scheduled as a standard weekly timetable.

For students based overseas:

- Listening/Reviewing both lecture and tutorial recordings on a regular basis is highly recommended for students based overseas.
- Attendance on campus is not required for the final exam for students enrolled as 'overseas students'.
- Study material will be available at course commencement and additional material/information will be released progressively throughout the course and as needed.
- This course runs to the University semester timetable and all the associated completion dates and deadlines will apply.

## Learning Resources

Please refer to the Talis reading list provided. This consists of two main resources:

- ***Intermediate Microeconomic Theory: Tools and Step-by-Step Examples***, by Ana Espinola-Arredondo and Felix Muñoz-Garcia, The MIT Press, October 2020, ISBN: 9780262044233, available as an ebook (Kindle version) as well. See <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/intermediate-microeconomic-theory>
- ***Practice Exercises for Intermediate Microeconomic Theory***, by Eric Dunaway, John C. Strandholm, Ana Espinola-Arredondo, and Felix Muñoz-Garcia, The MIT Press, October 2020, ISBN: 9780262539852, available as an ebook (Kindle version) as well. See <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/practice-exercises-intermediate-microeconomic-theory>

The prescribed textbook covers topics from consumer and producer theory, choice under uncertainty, partial and general equilibrium, imperfect competition, game theory, contract theory, to externalities and public goods, as well as provides some new directions in behavioral economics whenever relevant. Lots of self-assessment exercises are available for students to practice with, chapter by chapter.

The companion practice exercises book offers a myriad of detailed solutions to these self-assessment exercises (140 overall), as well as to selected end-of-chapter exercises of various difficulty levels (173 overall exercises, from easy to challenging ones).

### Student Feedback

At the end of every semester students will be invited to give feedback on the course and teaching through a tool called SET or Qualtrics. The lecturers and course co-ordinators will consider all feedback and respond with summaries and actions.

Your feedback helps teachers to improve the course and its delivery for future students.

Class Representatives in each class can take feedback to the department and faculty staff-student consultative committees.

We value students' feedback. Timely communication about what students like and would like to see more of, and what they like less and would like to see less of, will make it for a more enjoyable teaching and learning experience, as well as help to improve the design and delivery of future offerings of this course.

### Other Information

Please refer to the Canvas site for any updates and announcements about this course. Any important communication will be posted on that site for you to be informed about it promptly.

### Digital Resources

Course materials are made available in a learning and collaboration tool called Canvas which also includes reading lists and lecture recordings (where available).

Please remember that the recording of any class on a personal device requires the permission of the instructor.

### Academic Integrity

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting their learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the internet. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against online source material using computerised detection mechanisms.

### Inclusive Learning

All students are asked to discuss any impairment related requirements privately, face to face and/or in written form with the course coordinator, lecturer or tutor.

Student Disability Services also provides support for students with a wide range of impairments, both visible and invisible, to succeed and excel at the University. For more information and contact details, please visit the [Student Disability Services' website](http://disability.auckland.ac.nz) <http://disability.auckland.ac.nz>

### Special Circumstances

If your ability to complete assessed coursework is affected by illness or other personal circumstances outside of your control, contact a member of teaching staff as soon as possible before the assessment is due.

If your personal circumstances significantly affect your performance, or preparation, for an exam or eligible written test, refer to the University's [aegrotat or compassionate consideration page](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/academic-information/exams-and-final-results/during-exams/aegrotat-and-compassionate-consideration.html) <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/academic-information/exams-and-final-results/during-exams/aegrotat-and-compassionate-consideration.html>.

This should be done as soon as possible and no later than seven days after the affected test or exam date.

### Learning Continuity

In the event of an unexpected disruption we undertake to maintain the continuity and standard of teaching and learning in all your courses throughout the year. If there are unexpected disruptions the University has contingency plans to ensure that access to your course continues and your assessment is fair, and not compromised. Some adjustments may need to be made in emergencies. You will be kept fully informed by your course co-ordinator, and if disruption occurs you should refer to the University Website for information about how to proceed.

### Student Charter and Responsibilities

The Student Charter assumes and acknowledges that students are active participants in the learning process and that they have responsibilities to the institution and the international community of scholars. The University expects that students will act at all times in a way that demonstrates respect for the rights of other students and staff so that the learning environment is both safe and productive. For further information visit [Student Charter](https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/student-charter.html) <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/student-charter.html>.

## Disclaimer

Elements of this outline may be subject to change. The latest information about the course will be available for enrolled students in Canvas.

In this course you may be asked to submit your coursework assessments digitally. The University reserves the right to conduct scheduled tests and examinations for this course online or through the use of computers or other electronic devices. Where tests or examinations are conducted online remote invigilation arrangements may be used. The final decision on the completion mode for a test or examination, and remote invigilation arrangements where applicable, will be advised to students at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of the assessment, or in the case of an examination when the examination timetable is published.