

**Economics, Applied**  
**Course Number: 26:223:552**  
**Course Title: Microeconomic Theory**

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Primary Texts: G. Jehle and P. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory* (Boston: Addison-Wesley, 2011)

W. Nicholson and C. Snyder, *Microeconomic Theory* (South-Western, 11th edition)

Felix Munoz-Garcia, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, MIT Press, 2017.

*Other popular textbooks include:*

Kreps, D., *A Course in Microeconomic Theory*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990).

MasCollé, A., M. Whinston, and J. Green, *Microeconomic Theory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).

Varian, H., *Microeconomic Analysis* (3rd edition) (New York: Norton, 1992).

A classic text covering consumer theory is:

Deaton, A. and J. Muellbauer, *Economics and Consumer Behavior*, Cambridge University Press, 1980.

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**PREREQUISITES**

This course will be taught assuming that students have taken an intermediate microeconomics course. Furthermore, students should have a working knowledge of multivariate calculus at a minimum.

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**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*I do NOT tolerate cheating.* Students are responsible for understanding the RU Academic Integrity Policy <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

I will strongly enforce this Policy and pursue *all* violations. On all examinations and assignments, students must sign the RU Honor Pledge, which states, "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment." I will screen all written assignments through *SafeAssign* or *Turnitin*, plagiarism detection services that compare the work against a large database of past work. Don't let cheating destroy your hard-earned opportunity to learn. See [business.rutgers.edu/ai](http://business.rutgers.edu/ai) for more details.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

For those who are interested in learning some of the mathematical techniques, I recommend Fundamental Methods of Mathematical Economics by Alpha Chiang and K. Wainwright or Mathematics for Economists by Carl Simon and Lawrence Blume. Others interested in a more rigorous mathematical treatment are referred to Mathematical Optimization and Economic Theory by Michael Intriligator, Mathematical Methods and Models for Economists by Angel de la Fuente and Real Analysis with Economic Applications by Efe Ok. A nice exercise book for game theory that I recommend is Strategy and Game Theory by Felix Munoz-Garcia and Daniel Toro-Gonzalez.

You may want to review Jehle and Reny, Appendix 1 and 2. Nicholson and Snyder, Chapters 1-3. Other reviews include Varian, Chapters 26-27 and M-W-G, Mathematical Appendix.

## THE ECONOMIC APPROACH TO HUMAN BEHAVIOR

\*Friedman, M., "The Methodology of Positive Economics," in Friedman, M., Essays in Positive Economics (U of C Press, 1966), pp. 3-43.

\*Becker, G., "The Economic Approach to Human Behavior," in Becker, G., The Economic Approach to Human Behavior, (U of C Press, 1976), pp. 3-14.

## DEMAND ANALYSIS AND PREFERENCES

\* Jehle and P. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, Chapters 1-2.

Nicholson and Snyder, Chapters 3-7.

\*Rosen, S., "Hedonic Prices and Implicit Markets," *Journal of Political Economy* 82 (January 1974): 34-55.

\*Becker, G., "A Theory of the Allocation of Time," *Economic Journal* 75, September 1965. Reprinted in Becker, G., *The Economic Approach to Human Behavior*, (U of C Press, 1976), Chapter 5.

Deaton and Muellbauer, *Economics and Consumer Behavior* (Cambridge), chapters 1-4.

Deaton and Muellbauer, chapters 5, 7, 10.

Becker, G.S. and Murphy, K. M., "A Theory of Rational Addiction," *Journal of Political Economy* (4, August, 1988): 675-700.

Chiappori, P., "Collective Labor Supply and Welfare," *Journal of Political Economy* 100 (3, June 1992): 437-67.

Hirshleifer, J. *Investment, Interest, and Capital*, Prentice Hall, Chapter 8.

Deaton and Muellbauer, chapter 14.

\*Friedman, M. and Savage, L., "The Utility Analysis of Choices Involving Risk," in *AEA, Readings in Price Theory*.

\*Pauly, M., "The Economics of Moral Hazard," *American Economic Review*, June 1968: 531-37.

Machina, M.J., "Choice Under Uncertainty: Problems Solved and Unsolved," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 1 (Summer, 1987).

Kreps, David, *Microeconomic Theory*, Chapter 3

## SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS AND THE STRUCTURE OF FIRMS

\* Jehle and P. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, Chapter 3-4.

Nicholson and Snyder, Chapters 9-15.

\*Friedman, Milton, *Price Theory* (Aldine 1976), chapter 5.

Stigler, G.J., *Theory of Price*, 4th ed. (Macmillan, 1988), ch. 7-9.

Topel, R. and Rosen, S., "Housing Investment in the United States," *Journal of Political Economy*, (1988): 718-740.

Rosen, S., "The Economics of Superstars," *American Economic Review*, 1981.

Romer, P., "Increasing Returns and Long-Run Growth," *Journal of Political Economy* 94 (October, 1986): 1002-37.

Pindyck, Robert S. "Irreversibility, Uncertainty, and Investment," *Journal of Economic Literature*, (September 1991): 1110-1152.

\*Arrow, K. "The Economic Implications of Learning by Doing," *Review of Economic Studies* (June 1962).

Nordhaus, W.D. "Do Real Output and Real Wage Measures Capture Reality? The History of Lighting suggests not." in Bresnahan and R.A Gordon, *The Economics of New Goods*, (1997): 29-66.

Carlton and Perloff, *Modern Industrial Organization* (Scott-Foresman, 1990), chapter 3.

\*Coase, Ronald, "The Nature of the Firm," *Economica*, 1937; reprinted in Stigler and Boulding (eds.), *Readings in Price Theory*.

Grossman and Hart, "The Costs and Benefits of Ownership: A Theory of Lateral and Vertical Integration," *Journal of Political Economy* 94 (1986): 691-719.

\*Coase, Ronald, "The Problem of Social Cost," *Journal of Law and Economics* 3 (1960): 1-44.

\*Alchian, A.A. and Demsetz, H., "Production, Information Costs, and Economic Organization," *American Economic Review*, 1972

Holmstrom, Bengt, "Moral Hazard in Teams," *Bell Journal of Economics* 13 (Autumn,1982): 324-40.

## MARKET EQUILIBRIUM

\*Jehle and P. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, Chapters 5 and 8.

Jehle and P. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, Chapter 9.

Hildebrand and Kerman, *Introduction to Equilibrium Analysis*, ch. 1.

Mas-Colell, A, Whinston, M. and Green, J., *Microeconomic Theory*, Chapters 13-16, 17-20

Jones, R. "The Structure of Simple General Equilibrium Models," *Journal of Political Economy*, 1965.

\*Stigler, G.J., "Economics of Information," *Journal of Political Economy* 72 (Feb. 1964): 44-61.

\*Hayek, F.A., "The Use of Knowledge in Society," *American Economic Review* 35 (September 1945): 519-30.

\*Akerlof, George, "The Market for Lemons: Qualitative Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 84 (1970): 481-500.

\*Rothschild, M. and Stiglitz, J., "Equilibrium in Competitive Insurance Markets," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1976.

Kreps, op cit, chapters 6, 16, 17

Rubenstein, A., "Perfect Equilibrium in a Bargaining Model," *Econometrica*, 1982: 97-110.

Carlton and Perloff, chapter 6.

Roth, Alvin, "The Evolution of the Labor Market for Medical Interns and Residents: A Case Study in Game Theory," *Journal of Political Economy* 92 (1984): 991-1016.

\*Lazear, E. and Rosen, S., "Rank-Order Tournaments as Optimal Labor Contracts," *Journal of Political Economy* 89 (1981): 841-64.

Tirole, Jean, *The Theory of Industrial Organization* (MIT Press, 1988), Chapter 3, sections 3.0-3.4.

\*Alchian, A.A., "Uncertainty, Evolution, and Economic Theory," *Journal of Political Economy* 58 (3, June 1950): 211-21.

## BUSINESS PRACTICES AND MARKET STRUCTURE

Carlton and Perloff, Chs. 9, 11, 19, 20.

Dixit, A. and J. Stiglitz, "Monopolistic Competition and Optimum Product Diversity," *American Economic Review* 67 (1977).

Spence, Michael, "Product Selection, Fixed Costs and Monopolistic Competition," *Review of Economic Studies* 43 (1976): 217-35.

Tirole, op cit., Chapters 5.0-5.6, 6.0-6.6, 8.0-8.2, 9.0-9.4.

Baumol, W., Panzer, J, and Willig, R., *Contestable Markets and the Theory of Industry Structure* (Harcourt Brace, 1982), ch. 2.

Loury, G.C., "Market Structure and Innovation," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (August 1979): 395-410.

Farrell, J., and Saloner G. "Standardization, Compatibility and Innovation," *Rand Journal*, 1985: 70-83.

\*Klein, Benjamin and Leffler, Keith B., "The Role of Market Forces in Assuring Contractual Performance," *Journal of Political Economy* 89 (August 1981):615-41.

\* indicates required reading

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## SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need accommodation for a *disability*, obtain a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides student-centered and student-inclusive programming in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu).

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If you have experienced any form of ***gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment***, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides help and support. More information can be found at <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/>.

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If you are a military **veteran** or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services. <http://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

If you are in need of **mental health** services, please use our readily available services.

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[Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services–New Brunswick: <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of **physical health** services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers Health Services – Newark: <http://health.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Health Services – New Brunswick: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of **legal** services, please use our readily available services: <http://rusls.rutgers.edu/>

Students experiencing difficulty in courses due to **English as a second language (ESL)** should contact the Program in American Language Studies for supports.

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[Optional items that many faculty include:

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand the RU Academic Integrity Policy.

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand this syllabus.]