



Microeconomics II Course Descriptor

Course Title	Microeconomics II	Faculty	Economics
Course Code	NCHEC534	Course Leader	Dr Mike Peacey
Credit Points	15	Teaching Period	Hilary
FHEQ Level	Level 5	Date Approved	June 20202
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory (Economics Major), Optional (PPE Economics Pathway)		
Pre-requisites	Introduction to Microeconomics		
Co-requisites	None		

COURSE SUMMARY

This course builds on the Introduction to Microeconomics course at Level 4, and underpins some Level 6 courses. Unlike Microeconomics I, the material will generally be unfamiliar to the students. The focus is on game theory and information economics. The course is designed to develop students' skills in economic reasoning, strategic thinking, and the difference between short-run and long-run analysis.

COURSE AIMS

- Provide students with a set of abstract tools that they can use to analyse strategic interactions between rational decision makers.
- Show students some of the situations in which game theory is applied to solve microeconomic problems.
- Help students understand how uncertainty can be introduced and analysed in microeconomic problems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1b model the interaction between rational decision makers
- K2b have knowledge of some of the microeconomic applications of game theory

SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1b identify how the structure of a game, and the payoff of a player will affect the decisions taken

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1b present complex economic ideas in a way which can be easily understood by a non-specialist audience

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 15 x large-group hours
- 10 x seminar hours
- 1.5 x tutorial hours (individual or group tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 150.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- The course will develop the students' strategic thinking and ability to think in terms of models, through the content covered. Thinking in terms of models is applicable to a variety of careers in economic analysis and other analysis of society, where it is important to be able to abstract away from imperfect real-life situations, and conceptualise events and ideas on a higher level without getting lost in the details.

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, for example weekly exercises are provided and written answers are expected on a weekly basis.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Examination	100	N/A	1.5 hours	N/A

The examination will consist of a number of questions from which the student will have the choice of answering a specified number. Both the examination and the written assignment will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during seminars. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings and reports) and through generic internal examiners' reports, both of which are posted on the College's VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Binmore, K (2008). *Playing for real: a text on game theory*. Oxford University Press.

Rasmusen, E (2007). *Games and information*. Blackwell Publishing.

Varian, H. (2010), *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, London: W.W. Norton.

JOURNALS

Akerlof, G. (1978) *The market for "lemons": Quality uncertainty and the market mechanism*. *Uncertainty in Economics*. 84(3) 235-251.

Binmore, K, A Rubinstein, and A Wolinsky. (1986) *The Nash bargaining solution in economic modelling*. *The RAND Journal of Economics*: 17(2) 176-188.

Spence, M. (1973). *Job Market Signaling*. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 87(3) 355-374.

INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study the following topics:

- Uncertainty
- Game Theory
- Applications in Game Theory
- Asymmetric Information

Title: NCHEC534 Microeconomics II Course Descriptor					
Approved by: Academic Board					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Location	Proposed next review date
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
Modifications (As per AQF4)					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Modification (including category number)		
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy'		