

COURSE SYLLABUS

Academic year 2010-2011

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Degree:	Finanzas y Contabilidad
Double Degree:	Derecho y Finanzas y Contabilidad
Course:	Microeconomics (Microeconomía - English group)
Module:	Module 1: Basic Training in Business and Economics
Department:	Economía, Métodos Cuantitativos e Historia Económica
Academic Year:	2010-2011
Term:	Segundo semestre
Total Credits:	6
Year:	1º
Type of Course:	Básica
Course Language:	Inglés

Teaching model:	A1	
a. General/background:		70%
b. Theory-into-practice/developmental knowledge-building		30%
c. Guided Academic Activities:		

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2. TEACHING TEAM INFORMATION

2.1. Course coordinator Nicolás Porteiro Fresco

2.2. Teachers	
Name:	Nicolás Porteiro Fresco
Faculty:	Faculty of Business Administration
Department:	Dept. of Economics, Quantitative Methods and Ec. History
Academic Area:	Economic Analysis
Category:	Profesor Titular de Universidad
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3. ACADEMIC CONTEXT

3.1. Course Description and Objectives

Economics is a social science which, as well as having a large theoretic and conceptual content, also has practical relevance, as it can be applied to existing difficulties. The basic objective of this subject is to provide students with a global vision of the way in which economic markets work. For this we will take an approach based on a study of consumer and producer behaviour.

This subject will enable students to advance in the analysis of:

Consumer and Production theory, competitive equilibrium, non-competitive markets.

Students are expected to acquire basic theoretic knowledge of market function; to develop intellectual as well as practical problem-solving skills and to encourage positive attitudes, values and habits which will benefit the development of their career

3.2. Contribution to the Training Plan

Students will learn basic elements of microeconomic analysis. The course will provide them with the ability to analyse business behaviour as well as the surroundings within which they operate. In particular, students will gain the knowledge to be able to analyse and respond to a diverse range of difficulties which businesses are faced with. The understanding of microeconomic concepts is fundamental in decision making processes, the elaboration of economic policies and the application of knowledge of how modern economics works.

There are two main objectives: to offer a complete vision of market economics and the role of prices in different markets as a means of social organisation and to familiarise students with microeconomic analysis as well as the analytic tools used for this.

Students will be provided with versatile theoretic and practical knowledge which will enable them to effectively develop their career.

3.3. Recommendations or Prerequisites

In order to take part in this subject, students must have previously completed a course in introduction to economics which will have provided them with the knowledge of basic concepts which will be studied in more depth in this subject. Additionally, basic mathematical knowledge is required as this subject will be based on analytic development of microeconomic models.

Microeconomics is based on mathematic reasoning and the mathematical language will



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without doubt make the analysis more difficult. Students must therefore have adequate previous knowledge of mathematics. They must be familiarised with optimization methods, representation of functions and graphic analysis.

It would also be useful to be aware of the economic concepts which will be studied. For this, it would be useful to read a general newspaper every day.

Students do not have to memorise the theory and the analytic tools used for problem-solving. On the contrary, students are expected to understand theoretic concepts and be able to apply them adequately in order to solve existing economic problems within a business.

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4. SKILLS

4.1 Degree Skills Developed during this Course

The following are skills which will be obtained through this course. Many of these are not exclusive to this subject and will also be acquired in other subjects.

Systemic:

- Awareness of surroundings and social issues
- Self-study skills
- Creativity
- Initiative and entrepreneurship
- Motivation for quality

Personal:

- Ability to criticise and self-criticise
- Ethical commitment
- Ability to work under pressure

Instrumental:

- Ability to analyse and synthesise
- Oral and written communication in Spanish and English
- Ability to analyse and look for information from different sources
- Problem-solving skills
- Decision-making skills

4.2. Module Skills Developed during this Course

Encourage the analytical and technical abilities needed to make economic decisions. Get the student used to make mathematical reasonings, emphasizing the role played by the assumptions.

Develop the student's capacity to i) analyse rigorously new problem, using the tools learned in the course and ii) reason in a rigorous and systematic way.

Accustom the student to analyse reality from a cross-disciplinary point of view.

Foster the student's capacity to apply the theoretical knowledge to practical matters.

To understand and use the "scientific method".

4.3. Course-specific Skills

To know and apply basic knowledge of Microeconomics:

- Understanding of the role of economic agents (consumers and businesses) and of the function mechanisms of the market.



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- Understanding of the basics of consumer theory in order to evaluate their behaviour regarding the alternatives which are offered by the market.
- Understanding of economic institutions as a result of theoretic or formal representations on how the economy works.
- To analyse market theory in the allocation of resources and determining prices.
- To analyse the way in which businesses with lots of competition maximise their benefits.
- To form microeconomic examples which help the strategic process and decision-making.

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5. COURSE CONTENT (COURSE TOPICS)

1. Consumer theory
 - 1.1 Consumer preferences and the concept of utility
 - 1.2 Consumer decision and Individual demand

2. Production and Costs
 - 2.1 Technology
 - 2.2 Production Costs

3. Profit maximization and competitive markets
 - 3.1 Firm and market supply curve in the short run
 - 3.2 Long run equilibrium
 - 3.3 The efficiency of competitive markets

4. Monopoly
 - 4.1 Monopoly power
 - 4.2 Social costs of the monopoly
 - 4.3 Price setting under monopoly power

5. Game theory and its applications
 - 5.1 Game theory and Nash equilibrium
 - 5.2 Applications: Oligopoly



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6. METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCES

The course will be structured as a combination of theoretical and problem-solving lectures. In the latter we will correct problem sets that will be made available to students sufficiently in advance of the corresponding lecture. The problem sets will give you practice working with the concepts introduced in the class and also to prepare you for the exams. Students active involvement in solving the problem sets is strongly encouraged and will be taken into account in the final grading.



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7. ASSESSMENT

Grades will be weighted in the following way:

- GT (70%): the evaluation will consist of a final exam. It will include both theoretical and practical exercises.
- PT (30%): the evaluation will consist of both an exam at the end of term and a number of in-class activities throughout the course. 20 % of the grade will be obtained during the course. The remaining 10% will be obtained during the final exam.

Finally, the grade corresponding to the activities developed during the course (20%) will be preserved for the resit exam (July). The remaining (80%) will be evaluated in the final exam



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8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

ISBN	TITLE	EDITOR	YEAR
978-0132080231	Microeconomics (7th Ed.)	Prentice Hall	2008
978-0393934243	Intermediate Microeconomics (8th Ed.)	W.W. Norton	2009