

## Economics 212: Microeconomic Theory

### Mount Holyoke College

**Professor:** Melanie Guldi

**Office:** 117 Skinner

**Office Hours:** Tues. 2-4pm & by appt.

**Email:** mguldi

**Phone:** ext. 2145

**Course Website:** [http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/mguldi/212\\_F06/212\\_F06.html](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/mguldi/212_F06/212_F06.html)

**Meeting Times:**

**M,W:** 1:15pm-2:30pm CLAP 306

**F:** 1:15pm-2:05pm CLEV 001L

**Prerequisites:** Economics 103 and Mathematics 101

**Course objective:** This is a core course for the Economics major. The goal of this course is to provide students with the tools necessary to perform rigorous Microeconomic evaluation seen in more advanced Economics courses.

**Text:** Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach, seventh edition by Hal R. Varian. ISBN: 0393927024. There is also a companion study guide: Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics by Theodore C. Bergstrom and Hal R. Varian. Although I have not listed the study guide as “required” course materials, you may find it a useful source of extra problems to work through.

**Exams:** Exams will be given in class on October 27 and December 1. There will be a self-scheduled final. If you miss an exam, you will be given a zero on the exam unless you have an excused absence for reasons such as religious holiday or a documented medical emergency. If you require special accommodation to take the exams, please meet with me so that we can make arrangements.

**Problem Sets:** Problem sets (homework) will be assigned throughout the course. The purpose of the problem sets is to give students the opportunity to work through examples to enhance their learning experience. Students are encouraged to work together on assignments. However, each student must turn in her own handwritten work. Problem sets are due on the Friday (fourth hour) when they will be discussed.

#### **Grading:**

Problem Sets (Due dates TBA):	20%
Midterm I (October 27):	25%
Midterm II (December 1):	25%
Comprehensive Final (Self-Scheduled):	30%

**Tentative Schedule of Readings:** Actual time taken to cover the material may vary from what is listed below. Material may be added as the course progresses.

- I. Basic Consumer Demand Theory  
Chapters 1-6, 7 (skip 7.4-7.7), 8, 9 (skip appendix)
- II. Extensions and Applications of Demand Theory  
Chapters 14 (skip appendix), 15, 16
- III. Theory of the Firm  
Chapters 18, 19 (skip 19.10 and appendix), 20 (skip 20.2), 21-25
- IV. Special topics and applications of Micro Theory  
Chapters 31, 33 (skip appendix), 34, 36 (36.8-36.10 and appendix), 37

**Updates to this syllabus and other course materials will be posted on the course website.**

*If a learning disability or religious holiday will require any special arrangements, please come to my office hours or schedule an appointment during the first two weeks of the semester so that I can do my best to accommodate your needs.*