



UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD ECONOMY
Sofia, Bulgaria

Course: Microeconomics, Spring 2013.

Language of instruction: English.

Program: Economics in English

Class Schedule:

Lectures by Prof. Dr. Rumen Gechev:

TA Sessions by Asst. Prof. Dr. Petar Stankov

Group	Day	Time	Type	Room
134	Friday	16.50 - 19.15	Micro (Lecture)	2009
1318	Wed.	09.00 - 10.30	Micro (TA Session)	2118
1317	Wed.	10.45 - 12.15	Micro (TA Session)	3007
1320	Wed.	12.30 - 14.00	Micro (TA Session)	4026
1323	Wed.	16.00 - 17.30	Micro (TA Session)	4024
1322	Wed.	17.45 - 19.15	Micro (TA Session)	4024
1321	Friday	12.30 - 14.00	Micro (TA Session)	4009
1319	Friday	14.15 - 15.45	Micro (TA Session)	3002

Teaching load per semester (excluding office hours):

Lectures: 15 weeks x 3 hrs. = 45 hours; TA Sessions: 15 weeks x 2 hrs. x 7 groups = 210 hours

Office Hours:

Prof. Dr. Rumen Gechev: TBD., office 4014

Petar Stankov: Friday, 10:00-12:00, office 4022

E-mail for questions and requests:

- rgechev@unwe.acad.bg
- petar.stankov@gmail.com

Lecture presentations: <http://ucsd.unwe.bg/?m=22>

TA sessions website: <http://home.cerge-ei.cz/pstankov/micros13.htm>

Course Prerequisite(s)

Introduction to Economics

Course Purpose

The purpose of the course is to elaborate on the basic principles of economics which are essential to decision-making on the personal level, business level, and microeconomic policy level. The basic principles were discussed during the Introduction to Economics course. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to analyze simple consumer and producer behavior and their mutual interactions. Students will also learn how the market equilibrium changes in various real-life applications.

**Required Readings, Text**

Michael Parkin. *ECONOMICS*, 5th ed.; or any introductory US and UK textbook in Economics.

Supplemental Readings

- Sloman, J. (2006). *Economics*, 6th Ed., Prentice Hall, or earlier editions available in the library
- Case studies from *The Economist*, possibly also from *Harvard Business Review*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Business Week*. (to be provided by the instructor in advance)

Course Outline

The classes will include readings, multimedia based presentations, and case discussions. In addition, a midterm and a final exam will be administered. To maximize your chances of a good grade, please get acquainted with the following material from the textbook:

1. Efficiency and Equity
2. Markets in Action
3. Utility and Demand
4. Possibilities and Preference
5. Organizing Production
6. Output and Costs
7. Perfect Competition
8. Monopoly
9. Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
10. Inequality, Redistribution and Health Care
11. Labour Markets
12. Market Failure and Public Choice

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the University policies, class attendance is required and classes will start on time. Students are expected to be on time to class and to return promptly from breaks. Excessive lateness may constitute a class absence and may negatively affect your final grade. In addition, a pop-up quiz may be given during any of your TA sessions which, if given, will count towards your grade for up to 10 points from your TA grade. If given, this pop-up quiz cannot be made up for with later takes. Further, if a student is absent from the course for more than 3 TA sessions, they may fail the TA sessions and a final course grade of 2 ("F") will be assigned. Absences from tests will NOT be tolerated. Special arrangements will NOT be possible. Finally, any student failing the TA Sessions will NOT be allowed to take the final exam at all. Therefore, separate grading scales are applied for the TA sessions, and for the entire course.

Academic Honesty

UNWE has a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. Cheating on exams and quizzes will result in failing the entire course. The University's rules on academic honesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to actively participate in the lectures and TA sessions, and conduct readings on a weekly basis. The requirements include a midterm exam and a final exam, apart from the A&P.

Other Class Policies

- 1) Mobile phones can be switched on but their sound MUST be off! Mobile phone usage is NOT allowed during both the lecture and the TA session. If you need to use your phone, please quietly leave the room.
- 2) Mobile phones are NOT calculators. You will definitely need a calculator on the exam, and your mobile phone will be switched off during the exam. Therefore, bring a calculator for the exam.
- 3) Laptops are allowed in class for taking notes only. At all times, they should be offline.
- 4) All emails to the teacher regarding either a class question or a request for an appointment will have the subject: "Microeconomics: a question" If you do not address the email in the above way, it risks being considered as spam by the mail filters.
- 5) All appointments will be arranged for on the premises of the UNWE. It is strongly advised that students use the office hours provided instead of scheduling a special appointment. In that way, their question or request will be dealt with much more efficiently.
- 6) Ideally, all class lecture notes and presentations will be distributed BEFORE each lecture on the class web-site or on the group email, so that students can print them and take notes on them. Therefore, students are responsible for checking the class webpage at least once a week, and their emails more often. Additional class policies may be distributed via email. The class webpage will be provided in due course.
- 7) Student evaluations will be held on the last TA session, and will be made publicly available up to one month after the final exam on the class website.
- 8) The semester runs from 28. Jan. 2013 till 18. May 2013: 15 weeks. The exam period is from 20. May 2013 till 9. June 2013. The make-up exam period is from 17. June 2013 till 30. June 2013.
- 9) Students are strongly advised to avoid planning any trips during exam periods, including participation in the Work and Travel programs. Exams outside the exam periods will not be administered. Those who fail to show up for any exams will fail the course.
- 10) Additional class policies may be enforced in due course to address pressing issues. Those will be distributed on the group email. Please inform your teachers by email of your group email.

GRADING METHODS AND CRITERIA

Activity	PERCENT	DESCRIPTION
Midterm Exam and a possible Pop-up quiz	40	A comprehensive, multiple-choice exam encompassing the material prior to, and including the last lecture and TA session before the given exam or quiz.
Final Exam	50	A comprehensive multiple-choice exam.
Attendance	10	Case studies and class discussions
TOTAL	100	

Two grades will be given **before** the final grade is determined: the *Teaching Assistant (TA) grade*, and the *final exam grade*. The **final course grade** will be a simple average of the two.

The final exam grade will be adjusted according to the maximum number of points received on the final exam. Exactly half of the maximum number of points will serve as a threshold for passing the final exam. The interval between the passing threshold and the maximum will then be divided into 4 equal subintervals. Students in each of the 4 subintervals will receive identical grades: 6, 5, 4, and 3, respectively. The remaining students will fail the entire course.

The TA grade is a function of the midterm exam performance and the attendance, and will be

determined as follows:

Points	TA Grade	Points	TA Grade
>43	6.00	>25	3.00
>37	5.00	<=25	2.00
>31	4.00		

The maximum number of points on the TA grading scale is 50: 40 from the midterm exam, and 10 pts. for attendance. Each TA session has a $10/x$ pts. contribution to the grade, where x is the number of TA sessions. Bonuses of up to 1 point apply to everyone who attended *all* TA sessions without exceptions. Up to 1 bonus point may be given on the midterm exam as well.

The **final course grade** will be an average of the final exam grade, and the TA grade, and will be assigned in favor of the student, e.g., if the final exam grade is 5, and the TA grade is 6, then the student's final grade will be 6. However, if one of the two grades is 2, then the student will fail.

EXAM DATE WORKFLOW

To ensure a smooth exam day, please abide by the following rules strictly. Students are obliged to take the final exam and to arrive no later than 15 minutes before the exam. At the time of the final exam, all students are obliged to come with **both** their student grade books, and a valid ID. Bring calculators, as no mobile phones will be switched on. The final course grades will be distributed either on the same day the final exam is held, or on the day after the final exam, at a designated time and place on the premises of the UNWE. At that time, exactly two students from each group will collect all the grade books from the teachers and will hand them back to the rest of the students in their groups. The reason for this is to avoid a massive gathering of people at the same time and place in the school which hampers the rest of the normal workflow. Each group is free to choose its own representatives. In addition, anonymous grades will be sent out to the class email. If necessary, those will be uploaded on the [class website](#) as well.

We wish everyone good luck!
Prof. Dr. Rumen Gechev, Dr. Petar Stankov