ECON2113 Microeconomics

2026-27 Fall, Department of Economics, HKUST

Prerequisite and Exclusion

Prerequisite: Level 3 or above in HKDSE Economics

Exclusion: ECON 1220, ECON 2103, ECON 3113, ECON 3133, SOSC 1440

Cross-Campus Equivalent Course: FTEC 2320

Generative AI: Allowed

Time and Location

Lecture Time and Location:

L01: Tuesday/Thursday 3:00 PM-4:20 PM, Room LSK1034

L02: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 PM-1:20 PM, Room LSK1034

L03: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 PM-2:50 PM, Room LSK1034

L04: Monday/Wednesday 10:30 AM-11:50 AM, Room LSK1034

L05: Monday/Wednesday 12:00 PM-1:20 PM, Room LSK1034

Tutorial Time and Location:

T01: Wednesday 6:00 PM-6:50 PM, Room LSK1001

T02: Wednesday 9:00 AM-09:50 AM, Room LSK1010

T03: Tuesday 6:00 PM-6:50 PM, Room LSK1001

T04: Thursday 5:00 PM-5:50 AM, Room LSK1014

T05: Monday 6:00 PM-6:50 PM, Room LSK1001

Contact Information

Instructor: Bei Hong (beihong@ust.hk)

Office Hour: Monday 15:00-16:00, LSK6085

TA: SHI, Yun Sasha (sashashi@ust.hk)(T1/3/4)

TSOI, Pang (pangtsoi@ust.hk) (T2/5)

Course Website: https://canvas.ust.hk

Course Description

By studying how consumers and firms make decisions, you will understand how markets allocate resource into most valued uses. You will also learn when markets don't work and what some remedies are in that case. The course emphasizes on Economic way of thinking and its applications.

This course is delivered through lectures and tutorials. Students attend two 80-minute lectures per week. Please **attend all lectures and participate in discussions**. **From Week 2 onwards**, tutorials will be conducted every week at the scheduled time. These sessions are designed to reinforce lecture material through textbook exercises, practice questions, problem set discussions, and exam preparation activities.

Course Materials

Main Textbook: "Microeconomics, edition: 14/E." by Michael Parki. **[PA]**

Supplementary Textbook: "Economics, edition:3" by Daron Acemoglu, David Laibson, John A List **[ALL]**

Any additional material will be included in lecture notes or posted separately on Canvas.

Assessment Scheme

Problem sets: 30% (Course ILOs assessed 1,2,3,4) There are ***4*** problem sets in total. You may complete them individually or in groups of up to four students. Forming a group or working alone is entirely your choice. Group members may submit the same assignment file via Canvas, but each student must still submit it individually in the system and indicate the names of their group members. Late submissions will receive a 50% deduction. No exceptions will be granted for late submissions.

Problem sets are due **two days after the relevant lecture coverage is completed**. The first weekly tutorial after the deadline will mainly discuss the corresponding problem set.

Problem Set	Coverage	L01–L03 Due Date	L04–L05 Due Date
PS1	Lectures 1–6	Sat 19 Sep 2026, 23:59	Wed 23 Sep 2026, 23:59
PS2	Lectures 7–11	Sat 10 Oct 2026, 23:59	Fri 9 Oct 2026, 23:59
PS3	Lectures 16–19	Thu 12 Nov 2026, 23:59	Fri 13 Nov 2026, 23:59
PS4	Lectures 20–22	Sat 21 Nov 2026, 23:59	Wed 25 Nov 2026, 23:59

Midterm: 28% (Course ILOs assessed 1,2,3,4), Time and Location (TBA)

Final: 42% (Course ILOs assessed 1,2,3,4), TBA

Extra Bonus: There is also a maximum of 5 bonus points could be earned for class attendance and participation.

Important Note:
There will be no make-up exams for the midterms. If you are absent from the midterm exam with my approval, the weighting of the midterm exam will be transferred to the final exam. In order to be granted an absence from the midterm exam, you must provide a valid document, such as an original copy of a medical certificate issued by a licensed physician. The absence from the midterm exam without approval will result in a score of ZERO.

In the case of a missed final (with a valid excuse), a make-up exam will be given as soon as possible; the make-up exam time will be determined by the instructor without negotiation; the make-up exam is usually harder. Sick leave notice must be issued before the exam time, if any (for example, if the exam begins at 9:00am, you should send an email to me before 8:59am and obtain a medical proof within the day).

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Examine and discuss the concepts, methodologies, and analytical frameworks of microeconomic analysis in detail. (SILO #1,#3)
2. Analyze the decision-making processes of consumers and firms, and apply economic principles to determine optimal strategies. (SILO #1, #3)
3. Analyse and apply theories on markets, including market price determination, the efficiency and fairness of the market system, the conditions under which markets can perform well, and how the market will change in responding to a changing environment. (SILO #1, #3)
4. Evaluate the framework for government intervention in markets, apply it to determine when and how the government should intervene, and assess the impact of relevant policies on market outcomes. (SILO #1, #3)

Rubrics for Final Grade

Excellent Performance (A range): Students demonstrate a strong grasp of the course material and effective application of economic methods taught. They excel in problem sets and perform exceptionally on exams. They exhibit exceptional analytical skills and critical thinking skills. Consistently contribute to class discussion.

Good Performance (B range): Students demonstrate a solid understanding of course materials, proficient use of economic methods taught. They are competent in completing problem sets. They show commendable analytical skills and effective critical thinking. Regular participation in class discussion.

Satisfactory Performance (C range): Students demonstrate an adequate understanding of course material and can apply economic methods taught to familiar problems. They are able to complete problem sets in time. They display acceptable analytical skills and critical thinking in exams and participate in class discussion.

Marginal Pass (D range): Students demonstrate basic understanding of course material, inconsistent use of economic methods taught, and marginal performance in problem sets. They show basic analytical skills and critical thinking in exams. Their participation in class discussions is inconsistent.

Fail: Students demonstrate insufficient understanding of the course material and lacks the necessary problem-solving skills. They display limited ability to think critically or analytically and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Their participation in class discussion is minimal.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Honesty and Integrity are central value in HKUST. Please be aware of the importance and maintain high standard of honesty in the problem sets and examinations in this course. Please familiarize yourself to the university rules and the HKUST academic honor code. The code will be strictly enforced, and any violation cases will be reported to the university.

Lecture Schedule (Subject to Minor Change)

Topics	Readings
Part I: Introduction	
Lecture 1: What is Economics?	[PA]: Ch 1,2 & [ALL]: Ch 1, 3
Lecture 2: The Economic Key Principles	
Part II: How Markets Work	
Lecture 3: Demand and Supply (1)	[PA]: Ch 3 & [ALL]: Ch 4
Lecture 4: Demand and Supply (2)	
Lecture 5: Elasticity (1)	[PA]: Ch 4
Lecture 6: Elasticity (2)	
Lecture 7: Government Actions in Markets (1)	[PA]: Ch 5, 6 & [ALL]: Ch 10
Lecture 8: Government Actions in Markets (2)	
Lecture 9: Global Markets in Action (1)	[PA]: Ch 2, 7 & [ALL]: Ch 8
Lecture 10: Global Markets in Action (2)	
Lecture 11: Global Markets in Action (3)	
Part III: Consumers' Choices	
Lecture 12: Consumers' Choices (1)	[PA]: Ch 8, 9 & [ALL]: Ch 5
Lecture 13: Midterm Review	
20 or 21 Oct, Time and Location (TBA)	
Lecture 14: Consumers' Choices (2)	[PA]: Ch 8, 9 & [ALL]: Ch5
Lecture 15: Pop Mart & the Emotion Economy	
Part IV: Firms and Markets	
Lecture 16: Output and Costs (1)	[PA]: Ch 11 & [ALL]: Ch 6
Lecture 17: Output and Costs (2)	
Lecture 18: Perfect Competition (1)	[PA]: Ch 12
Lecture 19: Perfect Competition (2)	
Lecture 20: Monopoly (1)	[PA]: Ch 13 & [ALL]: Ch 12
Lecture 21: Monopoly (2)	
Lecture 22: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	[PA]: Ch 14, 15 & [ALL]: Ch 14
Lecture 23: Oligopoly Games	[PA]: Ch 15 & [ALL]: Ch 13
Lecture 24: Final Review	