

# ECON2113 Microeconomics (L01)\*

Fall 2021

## 1 Basic Information

<i>Lectures</i>		<i>TA Sections</i>	
Section L01	Wednesday 4:30PM - 5:50PM Friday 4:30PM - 5:50PM G012, LSK Bldg	Section T01	Friday 3:00PM - 3:50PM Rm 2302, Lift 17-18
Instructor	Robin Kaiji Gong <a href="mailto:rkgong@ust.hk">rkgong@ust.hk</a> 6058, LSK Bldg OH by appointment	Teaching Assistant	TBA <a href="mailto:ecastor@ust.hk">ecastor@ust.hk</a> 6066, LSK Bldg OH by appointment

*Notes:* Until further notice, lectures and tutorials will be conducted in mixed-mode lite, following the university's instructions.

## 2 About the Course

### 2.1 Course Description

Microeconomics studies markets based on decisions made by individual actors in an economy such as consumers, firms and government, facing scarcity of resources. In this introductory course, you will learn fundamental concepts and tools in microeconomics, and how to apply them in real-life settings.

### 2.2 Course Materials

Textbook: "*Microeconomics, 13th ed.*" by M. Parkin, published by Pearson International.  
(You can click on [this link](#) to purchase.)

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

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\*This version: 20 August, 2021.

## 2.3 Assessment Scheme

Assessment Activities	Weights	Descriptions
Problem Sets	20%	There are 5 problem sets; they will be posted every two weeks. Work in groups with 3 or 4 people; each group only needs to submit one copy. Students should form their own groups no later than Sep. 15. Answers are submitted through Canvas; late submission will not be accepted. Each PS will account for 3%; the remaining 5% will be peer evaluation score.
Midterm Exam	30%	The midterm exam is scheduled on 20 October. The midterm (and final) exam will be on paper.
Final Exam	50%	The final exam is scheduled between 7-18 December. The final exam is cumulative; it will cover all materials taught during the term.

*Note 1:* Members of the same problem set group will receive the same scores for problem sets except for the peer evaluation score. The peer evaluation score of each student will be determined by his/her groupmates.

*Note 2:* In the case of absence at the midterm exam due to medical reasons, the student is required to submit medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner before the exam date. Appropriate documentation will be required for absences due to other reasons before the exam date. If a student cannot attend the midterm exam for some valid reasons, the final exam will account for 80% of total score. However, if a student misses the midterm exam without any reasons, their midterm score will be 0 and there will be no replacement.

*Note 3:* For absence at the final exam due to medical or other reasons, the students need to submit proofs and obtain approvals from the Academic Registry (see: [Academic Registry](#)). For medical reasons, the student should also notify the instructors with certificates from registered medical practitioners before the exam date. For other reasons, the students should provide the approvals from the Academic Registry to the instructors before the exam date. If a student cannot attend the final exam for some valid reasons, a make-up exam will be scheduled as soon as the student is available. Note that the instructor has the final discretion on all arrangements for the make-up exam. If the students miss the final exam without any approvals or notifications, their final score will be 0 and there will be no replacement.

## 2.4 Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Understand and apply theories on markets: including the market price determination, the efficiency and fairness of market system, the conditions under which markets can perform well, and how the market will change in responding to changing environment. (PILO #4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
2. Understand the framework to address the role of government and able to apply it: when and in which direction the government should intervene the markets, also how to evaluate the impact of relevant government's policies on markets.(PILO #4.1,4.2,4.3)
3. Understand consumers' optimal decision making and apply it. (PILO #4.1,4.2, 4.3)
4. Understand firms' optimal decision making under different market structure and apply it. (PILO #1.1, 1.2, 4.1,4.2,4.3)
5. You may apply economic analysis to the real-life problems. (PILO #9)

## 2.5 Course Format/Teaching Approach

1. Lectures: Explain key concepts and their applications (ILOs: 1,2,3,4)
  - In-class discussion: Encourage class participation and critical thinking (ILOs: 1,2,3,4)
2. Tutorials: Review basic math, discuss answers to homework questions and additional economic issues (ILOs: 1,2,3,4)

## 2.6 Other Organizational Matters

### Course Website

Lecture notes, problem sets (solutions), and any additional materials will be posted on [Canvas](#).

### Email Policy

Email serves two purposes: to schedule office hours and to ask questions. Please put [ECON2113-L01-YOURNAME] in the title of your email so I can process the requests/questions faster. Normally I will reply within 24 hours.

### Learning Environment

You are welcome to use laptops or other electronic devices for learning purposes in the classroom. However, distracting behaviors, such as chatting, eating, or making phone calls, are not allowed in the class. Please refer to the following website for the guideline for good learning environment: [Regulations for Student Conduct](#).

### Academic Honesty and Integrity

Honesty and Integrity is 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 by visiting following website: [Academic Honor Code and Academic Integrity](#). The code will be strictly enforced, and any violation cases will be reported to the university.

### Mixed Mode Lite

The lectures will be conducted in mixed mode lite. You are encouraged to attend the class physically if you are in Hong Kong during the fall semester. For those not in Hong Kong, you can join the class via Zoom and ask questions or participate in discussions using the chatbox. All lectures will be recorded and the video links will be published on Canvas.

## Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Session	Topic
<u>Part 1: Introduction</u>		
1-Sep (Wednesday)	1	Chapter 1: What is Economics?
3-Sep (Friday)	2	Chapter 2: The Economic Problem
<u>Part 2: How Markets Work</u>		
8-Sep (Wednesday)	3	Chapter 3: Demand and Supply (1)
10-Sep (Friday)	4	Chapter 3: Demand and Supply (2)
15-Sep (Wednesday)	5	Chapter 4: Elasticity (1)
17-Sep (Friday)	6	Chapter 4: Elasticity (2)
22-Sep (Wednesday)*		No class (The day following the Mid-Autumn Festival)
24-Sep (Friday)	7	Chapter 5: Efficiency and Equity
29-Sep (Wednesday)	8	Chapter 6: Government Actions in Markets
1-Oct (Friday)		No class (National Day)
6-Oct (Wednesday)*	9	Chapter 7: Global Markets in Action
<u>Part 3: Households' Choices</u>		
8-Oct (Friday)	10	Chapter 8: Utility and Demand
13-Oct (Wednesday)	11	Chapter 9: Possibilities, Preferences, and Choice
15-Oct (Friday)	12	Midterm Review/Q&A
20-Oct (Wednesday)		<b>Midterm Exam</b>
22-Oct (Friday)	13	Chapter 11: Output and Costs (1)
27-Oct (Wednesday)*	14	Chapter 11: Output and Costs (2)
29-Oct (Friday)	15	Chapter 12: Perfect Competition (1)
3-Nov (Wednesday)	16	Chapter 12: Perfect Competition (2)
5-Nov (Friday)	17	Chapter 13: Monopoly
10-Nov (Wednesday)*	18	Chapter 14: Monopolistic Competition
12-Nov (Friday)	19	Chapter 15: Oligopoly
<u>Part 5: Market Failure and Government</u>		
17-Nov (Wednesday)	20	Chapter 17: Externalities
<u>Part 6: Factor Markets, Inequality, and Uncertainty</u>		
19-Nov (Friday)	20	Chapter 18: Markets for Factors of Production
24-Nov (Wednesday)*	21	Chapter 19: Economic Inequality
26-Dec (Friday)	22	Final Review/Q&A
<b>TBD (between 7-18 December)</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>

*Note 1:* The course schedule is subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced via Canvas.

*Note 2:* Problem sets will be due at 23:59 on dates marked with \*'s.