



# ECON632

## Intermediate Microeconomics

S1 Evening 2014

*Economics*

### Contents

---

<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>Unit Schedule</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Learning and Teaching Activities</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	8
<a href="#"><u>Changes since First Published</u></a>	10

---

#### **Disclaimer**

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Geoff Kingston

[geoff.kingston@mq.edu.au](mailto:geoff.kingston@mq.edu.au)

Contact via [geoff.kingston@mq.edu.au](mailto:geoff.kingston@mq.edu.au)

E4A 411

Monday 2-4pm

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MCom or MAcc(Prof)MCom or MBioTechMCom or MEd

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is an intensive analysis of the major topics in microeconomics. The unit covers the theory of consumer behaviour, the theory of production and costs, market structures (including perfect competition; monopoly; imperfect competition), factor markets, general equilibrium, game theory and elementary welfare economics. The theory is taught in an applied context.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand and apply microeconomic models to various economic problems and issues.

Identify, define and analyse problems and recommend creative solutions within real-world constraints.

Demonstrate a capacity to work independently including the ability to plan and achieve goals.

Critically evaluate underlying theories, concepts, assumptions and limitations.

Be intellectually ready to participate in public policy discussions arising in business and government environments.

Manage, analyse, evaluate and use information efficiently and effectively.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Test</u>	20%	10 April
<u>Review essay</u>	20%	15 May
<u>Final Examination</u>	60%	University Examination Period

### Test

Due: **10 April**

Weighting: **20%**

A 50-minute test will be held in place of the regular lecture in Week 6. From Week 2 onwards, students will work through a set of tutorial questions on the topics discussed during the lecture of the previous week (see below for topics week by week). Your class test is 50 minutes plus 10 minutes reading time. It will be based primarily on questions along the lines of the numeric/short answer tutorial questions on lectures presented from weeks 1 to 5.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply microeconomic models to various economic problems and issues.

### Review essay

Due: **15 May**

Weighting: **20%**

Write a 1600 word summary and evaluation of any single one of the 4 instant classics on microeconomics that can be found on ILearn. By “review essay” we mean a summary in your own words of the article you have chosen to review, together with an appraisal of it. Choose your own preferred proportions of summary and appraisal. You will receive a slightly higher mark if, other things equal, the article you choose to review is comparatively difficult. Your bibliography need not be extensive. Keep a copy of your essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply microeconomic models to various economic problems and issues.
- Demonstrate a capacity to work independently including the ability to plan and achieve goals.

- Manage, analyse, evaluate and use information efficiently and effectively.

## Final Examination

Due: **University Examination Period**

Weighting: **60%**

A 2 hour final examination for this unit will be held during the University Examination Period in November. The conditions for the requesting and granting of requests for Special Consideration are set out in the Policies and Procedures section of this Unit Guide.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply microeconomic models to various economic problems and issues.
- Identify, define and analyse problems and recommend creative solutions within real-world constraints.
- Demonstrate a capacity to work independently including the ability to plan and achieve goals.
- Critically evaluate underlying theories, concepts, assumptions and limitations.

## Delivery and Resources

### Classes

- This unit provides 3 hours face-to-face teaching per week consisting of 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial
- The timetable for lectures and tutorials can be found on the University web site at: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>

Lectures: Thursday 6pm-9pm, E5A 160. Lecturer: Geoff Kingston

During the semester, unforeseen circumstances may require the cancellation of a lecture and/or tutorial. Any changes will be announced as far as possible in advance both in lectures and on the unit website.

It is assumed that students will attend all lectures and tutorials. Students who miss lectures put themselves at a significant disadvantage for several reasons, including:

(i) Not all the material in the text is covered in the unit, and not all the material in the unit is covered in the text. In some places the text deals with issues in greater depth than is necessary for the unit, and in other places it doesn't go far enough. The lectures contain all the unit material taught at the level required for the assessment tasks, and are your guide to the unit content. The tutorials will demonstrate the way questions in microeconomics are approached.

(ii) The lectures and tutorials will include significant guidance about the style and content of the final exam and recommendations about study technique.

(iii) It is difficult (and often impossible) for staff to provide meaningful assistance to students

outside class times on topics for which they did not attend the relevant lectures and tutorials.

## Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

### Recommended Text

Perloff, JM, (2014), Microeconomics, Theory and Applications with Calculus (3rd Ed), Pearson/Addison Wesley

The text is available for purchase at Co-op Bookshop. A small number are available on reserve in the library. In the text will be an access code and information that will enable you to use a free online study resource MyEconLab that is available with the related textbook Perloff, JM, (2008) Microeconomics, (5th Ed), Pearson/Addison Wesley. While this resource is not directly related to the Perloff text used in ECON632 it may be of use for students seeking extra material.

### **Technology Used and Required**

#### Unit Web Page

Lecture and tutorial material as well as up to date information concerning any aspect of the unit, including any changes to the schedule, will be available to students by logging on to the unit web page at <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>.

The following information will be available on iLearn:

Unit Guide	Announcements
Lecture slides	Online quizzes
Results of Assessment tasks	Tutorials
Consultation hours	Other relevant material

You are strongly encouraged to regularly visit the website and use it as a resource centre to assist with your learning.

If you are unable to access the website because you are not aware of or have forgotten your username and password, please contact the IT helpdesk located on Level 1 of the Library or call 9850 6500. The IT helpdesk will also be able to assist you with using the unit web page. If you have contacted the helpdesk in regard to your username and password and you are still unable to login to the unit web page you should then email details of your problem to the unit administrator, Prashan Karunaratne at [prashan.karunaratne@mq.edu.au](mailto:prashan.karunaratne@mq.edu.au).

Please remember to log out when you have finished using the unit web page. Failure to do so could result in unauthorised access to your unit web page account.

## Teaching and Learning Strategy

This unit is taught as a mix of lectures and tutorials. The lectures are designed to provide the tools which can then be applied in tutorials. The tutorials comprise numerical problems and analytical questions and will be detailed in a separate document on ilearn by the end of week 1. There should be the opportunity to explore issues raised in lectures and to ask questions. The

tutorials aim to improve understanding of macroeconomic theory and policy.

- Lectures:
- Independent learning
- Tutorials –beginning in Week 2

## Unit Schedule

### TOPIC GUIDE

**Topic 1: Introduction, supply and demand**

Perloff Chs 1, 2

**Topic 2: Consumer theory**

Perloff Ch 3

**Topic 3: Demand, consumer welfare & policy analysis**

Perloff Chs 4, 5

**Topic 4: Firms & production, costs**

Perloff Chs 6, 7

**Topic 5: Competitive firms & markets, applications of the competitive model**

Perloff Chs 8, 9

**Topic 6: General equilibrium & economic welfare, monopoly & monopsony**

Perloff Chs 10, 11

**Topic 7: Pricing & advertising, game theory**

Perloff Chs 12, 13

**Topic 8: Oligopoly, factor markets**

Perloff Chs 14, 15

**Topic 9: Uncertainty, externalities & public goods**

Perloff Chs 16, 17

**Topic 10: Information, contract theory**

Perloff Chs 18, 19

**Topic 11: Revision**

## Learning and Teaching Activities

### Lectures

Lectures are intended to provide overviews of the conceptual framework and economic data that are critical to the core themes of the unit. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters before each lecture.

### Independent learning

Learning by doing (about 6 hours each teaching week and 9 hours each week during the 2-week mid-semester recess). ECON632 relies heavily on independent learning where students read the relevant chapter, revise the lecture notes, prepare answers to the tutorial questions and extend themselves by doing additional reading, questions, exercises, problems.?

### Tutorials -beginning in Week 2

A tutorial is an active forum to present to the lecturer/tutor difficulties you encountered when

preparing for the pre-set tutorial questions. Ask your lecturer/tutor questions and further guidance on how to approach questions. Students are expected attempt the tutorial questions before each tutorial.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Academic Honesty

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy at [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)



## Grades

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

- HD - High Distinction
- D - Distinction
- CR - Credit
- P - Pass
- F - Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

## Grading Appeals and Final Examination Script Viewing

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

[http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/new\\_and\\_current\\_students/undergraduate\\_current\\_students/how\\_do\\_i/grade\\_appeals/](http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergraduate_current_students/how_do_i/grade_appeals/)

## Special Consideration Policy

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at:

[http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)

- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
11/02/2014	The Prerequisites was updated.