



# ECON111

## Microeconomic Principles

S3 Day 2014

*Economics*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer

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Contact via "Contact the Unit Convenor - Prashan" link on iLearn

E4A 449

TBA

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit aims to provide an introduction to the main ideas and concepts involved in modern economics; and attempts to provide students with an understanding of how the economy works, what type of problems economists attempt to solve, and how they set about trying to solve them. The unit is primarily concerned with the analysis of individual decision-making units, and the behaviour of firms and industries in the economy, ie with microeconomics. Topics include: consumer choice and demand analysis; the firm and its production and costs; market structures from perfect competition to monopoly; factor markets; income distribution, poverty and discrimination; welfare economics; and market failure and microeconomic reform.

## 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:

Demonstrate a solid understanding of microeconomic theory.

Recognize how microeconomic theory aids decision-making by individuals, business and government.

Undertake any future studies in economics with increased confidence.

Communicate effectively on microeconomic issues.

Apply microeconomic principles to solve problems.

Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Tutorial Assessment</u>	10%	Each Week
<u>Online Quizzes</u>	20%	Weekly
<u>Test</u>	20%	Thursday, 8 January
<u>Final Examination</u>	50%	University Examination Period

### Tutorial Assessment

Due: **Each Week**

Weighting: **10%**

At the beginning of the session, each student will be allocated 10% (i.e., 10 marks) for tutorial work. You will need to work consistently throughout the session to keep this surplus of 10%. Tutorial home-work submission will comprise 5% and participation in questions and answers will make up the remaining 5%.

A separate document with detailed instructions about the tutorial format and assessment will be made available on the unit web page. Your tutor/s will also outline tutorial requirements to you in your first tutorial.

The emphasis in marking the tutorial participation will be on how well you prepare for class. Preparing in your group will greatly help you prepare for providing answers to questions. If you work effectively with your group to understand and explain the essential elements of each topic, your individual learning will be further enhanced in class. Your consistent participation in group work and in asking and answering questions in class is essential for you to achieve learning outcomes 3, 4 and 5, in particular (see below for Learning Outcomes). Your participation in the tutorials will allow you to practise how to apply economic theory to solve problems, to communicate your ideas to others and thereby to improve the confidence with which you undertake future economic studies.

If you miss a tutorial due to unavoidable disruption, you may apply for special consideration (see the Disruption to Studies Policy below). If that application is approved the attendance requirement will be waived for that tutorial.

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government.

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- Apply microeconomic principles to solve problems.
- Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Online Quizzes

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

There will be a total of 5 online quizzes conducted throughout the session on iLearn. This assessment task is intended to give you ongoing feedback on your progress in the unit. Online quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions only.

The dates and topics of each quiz will be advised in class and via iLearn.

Together the online quizzes will contribute 20% to your final mark in this unit. The best 4 out of 5 quizzes will count towards your overall quiz mark.

Please note that no extensions will be granted. Failure to complete any quiz will result in a zero mark for that quiz. The penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration (see the Disruption to Studies Policy below) is made and approved. In such cases the missed assessment will be covered by a supplementary assessment task, this could include an oral assessment task.

If students undertake a quiz off-campus, it is their responsibility to ensure the compatibility of the software they use with that of the university. Technical failures that occur when the quizzes are done off-campus cannot be verified by the university and would usually result in the student receiving zero for that quiz.

The university computing labs are available throughout the weekend and have lab demonstrators to assist with technical issues.

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- Apply microeconomic principles to solve problems.
- Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Test

Due: **Thursday, 8 January**

Weighting: **20%**

The class test will cover material drawn from parts of the unit's subject matter covered to date. The test will consist of multiple choice questions and written-answer questions. The class test will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of basic economic concepts, the economic way of thinking and to use this knowledge to solve economic problems. All students who apply for special consideration (see the Disruption to Studies Policy below) in relation to the class test will be required to sit a supplementary test, if the special consideration application is approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Recognize how microeconomic theory aids decision-making by individuals, business and government.
- Undertake any future studies in economics with increased confidence.
- Communicate effectively on microeconomic issues.
- Apply microeconomic principles to solve problems.
- Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Final Examination

Due: **University Examination Period**

Weighting: **50%**

End of unit three hour written examination, to be taken during the end of session examination period. The examination will cover material drawn from all parts of the unit's subject matter. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions and written-answer questions. The final exam will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of basic economic concepts, the economic way of thinking and to use this knowledge to solve economic problems. All students who apply for special consideration (see the Disruption to Studies Policy below) in relation to the final exam will be required to sit a supplementary examination, if the special consideration application is approved. Please note that the supplementary examination, held during the university supplementary exam period, will have a different format to the original exam. There will not be any multiple choice questions, the supplementary examination will be based on written answers only. In addition it is reasonable to point out that because students who sit the supplementary examination usually have much longer to prepare for their examination, the supplementary examination will be more difficult and marked at a higher level than the original examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a solid understanding of microeconomic theory.
- Recognize how microeconomic theory aids decision-making by individuals, business and

government.

- Apply microeconomic principles to solve problems.
- Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Delivery and Resources

**Classes** The timetable for classes can be found at the university web site:

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>. A clearer version of the timetable will be available on iLearn.

**Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials** The textbook in ECON111: McTaggart, D., Findlay, C. and Parkin, M., *Microeconomics with MyEconLab*, Pearson Australia, 7th Edition, 2013. The Co-op bookstore has this book and it is recommended that students purchase a copy. A copy of this book has been placed in the reserve section of the library. The publisher provides a range of support material for the textbook, including a website. Information on accessing this material is provided in the introduction to the text. The website material includes trial questions and quizzes. You may find it useful to devote some limited time to these questions and quizzes. They will give you some feedback on how your understanding is progressing. Note however that the bulk of your study time, outside of the classroom, should be devoted to studying

### Additional References

Your recommended textbook will be more than adequate for this unit. Listed below are a series of other texts on microeconomics that you should feel free to consult if you wish. These books cover most of the material covered in your textbook, but each one does so in its own unique way. You may choose to consult these books if you feel that a slightly different presentation of the material might aid your understanding. These books have been placed in the reserve section of the library. Hubbard, G., Garnett, A., Lewis, P. and O'Brien, T., *Microeconomics*, Pearson Education, Australia, 2011. Swann, M. and McEachern, W.A., *Microeconomics: A Contemporary Introduction*, Thomson, Australia, 3rd Edition, 2006.

### Technology Used and Required

**Unit Web Page** The unit uses the learning management system (iLearn) that can be accessed via [iLearn.mq.edu.au](http://iLearn.mq.edu.au). The lecture slides for each week's lecture will be posted on the unit web page, before the lecture. You will find it useful to download the slides prior to the lecture, and bring them to the lecture. The web page is also used to post important notices from time to time. You should check this web page regularly. The unit web page has the facility to allow peer to peer discussion. The unit web page also allows students to put questions to an Online-Tutor. The Online-Tutor will attempt to answer your questions in a timely manner. If you have any problems accessing this web page you should go the Online Teaching Facility support web page at <http://online.mq.edu.au/docs/tecinf.html>

### Learning and Teaching Activities

This unit is taught as a mix of tutorials and lectures. The lectures are designed to provide the tools which can then be applied in tutorials.

Lectures – large group learning (2 hours for each topic)

Lectures are intended to provide an overview of the key concepts explored in the unit. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters before each lecture. Independent learning ECON111 relies heavily on independent learning where students read the relevant chapter, revise lecture notes and prepare answers to the tutorial questions.

Tutorials – small group learning (1 hour for each topic)

Tutorials constitute a critical learning experience of this unit and students must attend. Group work is an essential part of this learning. In ECON111 we emphasise peer-to-peer learning by working as a group through the exercises and learning from others. Your tutor's role is to help you understand the material. Ask your tutor for guidance on how to approach questions and problems.

After the tutorials – the learning continues. At the end of each teaching day, review your tutorial notes, compare your answers to those of friends, members of your group and the discussion board. Note that model answers will not be provided. You get the answers by engaging in all the above activities.

## Unit Schedule

The curriculum has been transformed by integrating the threshold concepts of economics. Each topic will revolve around the threshold concepts of economics. The main threshold concept for each topic has been **underlined in bold**.

#	Topic Content *	Threshold Concepts covered	Chapter
1	Production Possibilities Frontier	<b><u>Economic Modelling</u></b> Opportunity Cost Marginal Analysis	1 & 2
2	Producer Theory	Opportunity Cost <b><u>Marginal Analysis</u></b> Economic Modelling	13
3	Perfect Competition	<b><u>Opportunity Cost</u></b> Marginal Analysis Economic Modelling Interactions Between Markets	14
4	Demand & Supply	Opportunity Cost Marginal Analysis <b><u>Economic Modelling</u></b> Welfare & Efficiency	3

#	Topic Content *	Threshold Concepts covered	Chapter
5	Monopoly	Economic Modelling Welfare & Efficiency <b><u>Interactions Between Markets</u></b>	10
6	Monopolistic Competition	<b><u>Elasticity</u></b> Welfare & Efficiency Interactions Between Markets	15
7	Elasticity	<b><u>Elasticity</u></b> Interactions Between Markets	4
8	Economics of the Environment	Marginal Analysis <b><u>Welfare &amp; Efficiency</u></b> Interactions Between Markets	9
9	Efficiency	<b><u>Marginal Analysis</u></b> Welfare & Efficiency	5
10	Govt. Actions in Markets	Marginal Analysis <b><u>Welfare &amp; Efficiency</u></b>	6
11	Oligopoly	<b><u>Economic Modelling</u></b> Interactions Between Markets	16
12	Consumer Theory	Opportunity Cost <b><u>Marginal Analysis</u></b> <b><u>Economic Modelling</u></b>	12
13	Trade	Opportunity Cost <b><u>Comparative Advantage</u></b>	2

\* The Unit Schedule is subject to change depending on the lecture pace. A clearer day-by-day version will be made available via iLearn.



## Learning and Teaching Activities

### Lectures - large group learning (2 hours for each teaching topic)

Lectures are intended to provide an overview of the key concepts explored in the unit. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters before each lecture.

### Independent learning

ECON111 relies heavily on independent learning where students read the relevant chapter, revise the lecture notes and prepare answers to the pre-set tutorial questions.

### Tutorials - small group learning (1 hour for each teaching topic)

Tutorials constitute a critical learning experience of this unit and students must attend them. Group work is an essential part of this learning. In Econ111, we emphasise peer-to-peer learning by working as a group through the exercises and learning from others (the tutor and fellow students). Participation in question and answer (Q&A) in class will allow you to not only learn, but develop the ability to communicate what you have learnt to others. This will in turn reinforce your learning. Your tutor's role is to help you understand the topics by showing how tools learnt in lectures are applied in the tutorial. Your tutor should be your first point of contact if you encounter any difficulties with the course material or tutorial exercises. Ask your tutor for guidance on how to approach questions/difficulties.

### After the tutorials - the learning continues

At the end of each teaching day, review your tutorial notes, compare your answers to those of your friends/group and consult the discussion board for further postings on the topic. NOTE: Model answers to tutorial questions WILL NOT be provided. You are required to attend your allocated class to receive feedback and answers, as well as to participate in Q&A.

## 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/p](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/p)

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

## 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.

## Graduate Capabilities

### Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate a solid understanding of microeconomic theory.
- Recognize how microeconomic theory aids decision-making by individuals, business and government.
- Undertake any future studies in economics with increased confidence.
- Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Assessment
- Online Quizzes
- Test
- Final Examination

## Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Recognize how microeconomic theory aids decision-making by individuals, business and government.
- Undertake any future studies in economics with increased confidence.
- Recognise how economic theory can explain observed human behaviour.

## Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Assessment
- Online Quizzes
- Test
- Final Examination

## Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Undertake any future studies in economics with increased confidence.
- Apply microeconomic principles to solve problems.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Assessment
- Test
- Final Examination

## **Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcome**

- Communicate effectively on microeconomic issues.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Assessment
- Final Examination

## **Changes from Previous Offering**

The non-invigilated assignment has been replaced with an invigilated class test.

The online quizzes were increased from 10% to 20% of the overall assessment - this keeps the non-invigilated components at 20%.

The final exam was reduced from 60% to 50% - this keeps the overall course at 100%.

The ordering of the topics has been augmented in line with the educationalist literature on "Threshold Concepts".