



ECON8012

Applied Topics in Microeconomics

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

Department of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Jordi McKenzie

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(Admission to GradCertResBus or GradDipResBus) or ECON6032 or ECON6049 or ECON8091

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit refers to the subdisciplines of economics that employ theoretical and/or empirical techniques to understand inherently microeconomic phenomena. The unit examines how applied researchers use their tools to investigate a variety of contemporary economic questions. It focuses primarily on: the development and understanding of the research question(s); the relationship between economic theory and the design of empirical frameworks, and the interpretation of results and the implications for theory and/or policy outcomes, as opposed to technical aspects of the econometric methods involved. The unit is nonetheless suitable for students with limited (or no) prior econometric knowledge.

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:

ULO1: Evaluate how a knowledge and understanding of theories and applications of microeconomics are utilised by academic scholars.

ULO2: Use critical thinking and problem-solving abilities to apply microeconomic theory to real-life economic problems.

ULO3: Apply analytical skills in the synthesis and interpretation of applied research in microeconomics.

ULO4: Communicate a knowledge of microeconomic theories and their applications to both academic and non-academic audiences to a professional standard of written work and presentation skills.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (written assessments)

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55 pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Final Report	20%	No	06/06/2024
Presentation	10%	No	02/06/2025
Class participation	10%	No	Continuous; 06/06/2025 (Peer Report)
Class tests	60%	No	Weeks 4, 8, 12 (During regular lecture time)

Final Report

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours

Due: **06/06/2024**

Weighting: **20%**

The report will summarise and critique an applied research paper from an academic journal that has been approved as suitable by the Unit Convenor. The report will be no more than 2,000 words and will be submitted electronically via Turnitin. Students should have selected and had the research paper approved by the end of Week 7.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how a knowledge and understanding of theories and applications of

microeconomics are utilised by academic scholars.

- Use critical thinking and problem-solving abilities to apply microeconomic theory to real-life economic problems.
- Apply analytical skills in the synthesis and interpretation of applied research in microeconomics.
- Communicate a knowledge of microeconomic theories and their applications to both academic and non-academic audiences to a professional standard of written work and presentation skills.

Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **02/06/2025**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will be required to submit a 10 minute presentation in week 13. Presentations will summarise and critique an applied research paper from an academic journal that has been approved as suitable by the Unit Convenor (this will be the same paper as discussed in the Final Report). Students should have selected and had the paper approved by the end of Week 7.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how a knowledge and understanding of theories and applications of microeconomics are utilised by academic scholars.
- Use critical thinking and problem-solving abilities to apply microeconomic theory to real-life economic problems.
- Apply analytical skills in the synthesis and interpretation of applied research in microeconomics.
- Communicate a knowledge of microeconomic theories and their applications to both academic and non-academic audiences to a professional standard of written work and presentation skills.

Class participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Continuous; 06/06/2025 (Peer Report)**

Weighting: **10%**

Each week during the live lecture, the class will be divided into groups to discuss questions dealing with key aspects of the paper(s) presented that week. This is an extremely important part of the learning process in this unit. Students will have opportunities to demonstrate participation in both small and large group discussions. To be eligible to receive full marks for class participation, students must demonstrate active participation in at least seven of the nine weeks where live lectures are held. Students will also be expected to participate in the assessment of other students' presentations in week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how a knowledge and understanding of theories and applications of microeconomics are utilised by academic scholars.

Class tests

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Weeks 4, 8, 12 (During regular lecture time)**

Weighting: **60%**

There will be three 60-minute class tests, in weeks 4, 8 and 12. The first test will cover the papers studied in weeks 1-3; the second test will cover the papers studied in weeks 5-7; and the third test will cover papers studied in weeks 9-11. Each class test is worth 20% of the final grade in this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate how a knowledge and understanding of theories and applications of microeconomics are utilised by academic scholars.
- Use critical thinking and problem-solving abilities to apply microeconomic theory to real-life economic problems.
- Apply analytical skills in the synthesis and interpretation of applied research in microeconomics.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Each week one or two academic papers will be presented and discussed. All papers are available on iLearn via Leganto. You should read the assigned paper(s) before each class. Lecture recordings and presentation slides will be available on iLearn by 5pm each Friday for the following week's class. You should review the lecture material prior to the weekly meeting that will take place from 3-5pm each Wednesday where the discussion will focus on the set of review questions outlined in the lecture slides.

Unit Schedule

Week	Activities	Assessment
1	Introduction to Block 1, Block 1 paper 1	
2	Block 1 paper 2, Block 1 paper 3	
3	Block 1 paper 4, Review of Block 1	
4		Class test 1
5	Introduction to Block 2, Block 2 paper 1	
6	Block 2 paper 2, Block 2 paper 3	
7	Block 2 paper 4, Review of Block 2	
8		Class test 2
9	Introduction to Block 3, Block 3 paper 1	
10	Block 3 paper 2, Block 3 paper 3	
11	Block 3 paper 4, Review of Block 3	
12		Class test 3
13		Presentation, Peer report, Final report

Policies and Procedures

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

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)

- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)