

Microeconomics – course syllabus

Eric Danan*

Fall 2015

This is a four-week introductory course in microeconomics. We will study the microeconomic theory of individual decision making, first in a general setting, and then in the particular settings of consumption and production decisions. Microeconomics (and, in fact, a substantial part of macroeconomics as well) models economic activity as an interaction of individual economic agents, so many subsequent courses will rely on the content we will cover.

The course will rely on the textbook by A Mas-Colell, M Whinston, and J Green, *Microeconomic Theory*, Oxford University Press, 1995. Part I of the book is on individual decision making and contains six chapters. We will cover the first five of them (the last one will be covered in your next micro course). We have eight lectures (two per week) that will be roughly organized as follows:

- Lecture 1. Preference and choice (chapter 1).
- Lecture 2. Consumer choice (chapter 2).
- Lectures 3–5. Classical demand theory (chapter 3).
- Lecture 6. Aggregate demand (chapter 4).
- Lectures 7–8. Production (chapter 5).

Given the limited amount of lecturing time we have (20 hours), I will ask you to read the relevant material in the book ahead of class and will only focus on the most essential or difficult points in class.

Problem sets will be posted online each week. Some of the problems will be discussed in class, but it is your responsibility to work through and solve all the problems. Solutions to the problem sets will also be posted online afterwards. It is also recommended that you work through and solve the problems in the relevant chapters of Mas-Colell.

There will be a final exam at the end of the course.

*THEMA, University of Cergy-Pontoise, CNRS. E-mail: eric.danan@u-cergy.fr. Webpage: www.ericdanan.net.