



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MADRID CAMPUS

Faculty of Business Administration & Economics

1 Course Information

Course Title:	Intermediate Microeconomics
Course Number:	ECON3140
Semester:	Spring 2018
Prerequisite:	ECON1900 and MATH1320/1420
Credit Hours:	3
Meeting Day(s):	Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Meeting Time(s):	12:00 – 12:50
Room:	PRH-5

2 Instructor Information

Name:	David Howden
E-mail:	david.howden@slu.edu (please use the prefix “ECON3140” to start the subject line in all e-mails pertaining to this class. For example: “ECON3140 – I will be absent on Friday”)
Office Location:	PAH, Attic
Office Hours:	Monday 15:00-18:30, and Tuesday/Thursday, 14:00-17:30
Contacting me:	First, ask questions in class (it helps and others will likely have the same questions). Second, come see me during my office hours as listed above. Third, if neither of these options is possible, please send me an e-mail and alternative arrangements can be decided on.

3 Textbook and Other Instructional Material

Required Reading:	Thomas Nechyba. 2017. <i>Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus</i> , 2 nd International Ed. South-Western Cengage.
Supplements:	Occasional papers will be given to you. These will be delivered to you in class, and will be used for discussion purposes to explain classroom concepts in the context of the Spanish/Global economy.

4 Course Description

This course gives an in-depth look at agents’ (i.e., individuals’) maximizing behavior under the constraints of incomes and prices – how do we get the most out of what we have. The production decisions facing firms are assessed in light of the prices they face in the factor or

input markets – how to produce to maximize profits. Comparisons between varying degrees of market conditions, from perfect to imperfect, are analyzed with resultant differences in welfare levels. This course will provide the analytical tools necessary to see how real-world economic phenomena obtain, and condition your mind to use the economic-way-of-thinking.

5 Course Outline

This course is divided into two broad sections. The first assesses the supply decisions facing firms given levels of technology and input prices. The second section will bring our two sets of agents together –consumers and producers – to focus on how markets function in both competitive and noncompetitive settings.

6 Learning Objectives

After successfully completing *Microeconomics*, students will be able to:

1. Competitive Market Model: Use the competitive market model to analyze the effects of government policies.
2. Utility Maximization: Compute and graph optimal consumption bundle.
3. Cost: Use a firm's cost curves to find SR and LR shut down prices.
4. Firm in a Competitive Market: Apply marginal analysis to determine the quantity of output firms choose to produce to maximize profit.
5. Alternative Market Structures: Compare and contrast the perfectly competitive market outcome with monopoly outcome to compute the social cost of a monopoly.

7 Course Requirements

Grading: Letter grades are based on a 100 percent grading scale. The percentage you earn determines your course letter grade (i.e., your “final grade” in this course).

Grading Scale: A mark of x on an examination or assignment will result in a(n):

$90.0 < x < 94.9 = A-$	$95.0 < x \leq 100 = A$	
$80.0 < x < 82.9 = B-$	$83.0 < x < 86.9 = B$	$87.0 < x < 89.9 = B+$
$70.0 < x < 72.9 = C-$	$73.0 < x < 76.9 = C$	$77.0 < x < 79.9 = C+$
	$60.0 \leq x < 69.9 = D$	
	$x < 59.9 = F$	

Grade Breakdown:	Midterm examinations (22.5% each):	45%
	Final examination (cumulative):	30%
	Quizzes:	20%
	<u>Writing assignment:</u>	<u>5%</u>
	Total:	100%

Midterm Exams: The midterm examinations will be given as closed book, containing questions ranging from multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Final Examination: The final examination will be cumulative with an emphasis on the material learned during the final third of the course.

Quizzes: At the end of each Wednesday class we will have a brief 10 minute quiz. The quiz will test subject matter learnt the previous week. In total this accounts for 20% of your final grade, which makes each quiz worth approximately 1% of your final grade. I will drop your lowest two scores. The quizzes are not meant to be tricky or overly difficult, but to ensure that you are up to date on the course material and allow me to gauge this.

Writing assignment: A writing assignment (approximately 3 pages long) will be assigned during the second half of the course, immediately following the midterm. It will be due before the end of the semester, to allow time for me to grade it before the completion of the class. The topic and other guidelines are to be determined.

Late Policy: Midterm and final examinations must be written on their respective dates. No alternative examinations will be scheduled except in the case of excused medical absences. Cases of excused medical absences must be petitioned for through the Chair of the department. Make-up midterms are subject to approval by the professor, the Chair and the Department of Business and Economics. All changes to the final examination must be approved by the Academic Dean.

Attendance: Consistent attendance is strongly encouraged for a thorough understanding of the concepts at hand. Active participation in classroom discussions is an instrumental component of this process. Concepts that are unclear to you personally are likely concerns shared among your peers as well. Economics is not a discipline which can be learned in isolation quickly prior to being graded. A strong correlation between classroom attendance and participation and course comprehension exists, and will reflect not only in this component of the grading scheme, but also in your examination marks as well. Students will be responsible for all announcements, information, problems or course changes that are made during lecture times. Students who wish to refrain from classroom participation may see me, and alternatives may be arranged.

Please show up to class regularly and promptly. Lateness is not only disruptive, it is inexcusable (unless you have a valid excuse). I make a strong effort to give timely performance in class and expect the same of you.

Warning: If you want to receive a good grade it is vital that you attend class and stay current with the material. If you miss a class for any reason it is up to you to obtain notes through someone else. I am more than happy to discuss economics (both topics discussed in class or ones that have special interest to you). However, do not expect me to repeat or summarize any lectures that you have missed. Average midterm and final examination grades typically fall into the “D” range. To preemptively answer a question that you may have – *yes*, this class is extremely difficult. But hard continual work and dedication can ensure that you are well prepared for examinations when the time comes.

Important Dates: Jan. 21: Last day to drop a class without a grade of W or to add a class.
Last day to choose audit (AU) or pass/no pass (P/NP) options.
Mar. 9: Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W.
Apr. 4: Registration for fall 2018 semester opens.

8 Academic Accommodations and Learning Resources

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

1. Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
2. University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.
3. Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

9 Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%20%206-26-15.pdf.

As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

10 Student Outcome Assessment

Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of your work for this course, including any exams, assignments and/or submitted papers may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

11 Title IX

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 91-700-1979) To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:

12 Reading Schedule

Please complete all the following readings prior to each class. We may progress slower or faster than the following outline, hence, all dates are subject to minor changes. Examination dates are finalized. Supplementary readings may be assigned prior to each class to aid in the following class' discussion.

PART I: THE THEORY OF THE CONSUMER

Week 1: Introduction

January	10	Wednesday	Introduction
January	12	Friday	Chap. 1

Week 2: Consumer's Economic Circumstances

January	15	Monday	Chap. 2
January	17	Wednesday	Chap. 2
January	19	Friday	Chap. 2

Week 3: Economic Circumstances in Labor and Financial Markets

January	22	Monday	Chap. 3
January	24	Wednesday	Chap. 3
January	26	Friday	No class

Week 4: Different Types of Tastes

January	29	Monday	Chap. 3
January	31	Wednesday	Chap. 4
February	2	Friday	Chap. 4

Week 5: Doing the Best We Can

February	5	Monday	Chap. 4
February	7	Wednesday	Midterm 1 (in class)
February	9	Friday	Chap. 5

Week 6: Income and Substitution Effects

February	12	Monday	Chap. 5
February	14	Wednesday	Chap. 5
February	16	Friday	Chap. 6

Week 7: Wealth Effects

February	19	Monday	Chap. 6
February	21	Wednesday	Chap. 6
February	23	Friday	No class

Week 8: Demand for Goods and Supply of Labor and Capital

February	26	Monday	Chap. 7
February	28	Wednesday	Chap. 7
March	2	Friday	Chap. 8

Week 9: Consumer Surplus and Deadweight Loss

March	5	Monday	Chap. 8
March	7	Wednesday	Chap. 8
March	9	Friday	Chap. 9

Week 10: Consumer Surplus and Deadweight Loss

March	12	Monday	Chap. 9
March	14	Wednesday	Chap. 9
March	16	Friday	Chap. 9

PART II: THE THEORY OF THE PRODUCER**Week 11: Short-Run Producer Model**

March	19	Monday	Review
March	21	Wednesday	Midterm 2 (in class)
March	23	Friday	Chap. 10

Week 12: Semana Santa

March	26	Monday	No class
March	28	Wednesday	No class
March	30	Friday	No class

Week 13: Short and Long-Run Production Decisions

April	2	Monday	Chap. 11
April	4	Wednesday	Chap. 11
April	6	Friday	Chap. 11

Week 14: Monopoly

April	9	Monday	Chap. 12
April	11	Wednesday	Chap. 12
April	13	Friday	Chap. 23

Week 15: The First Welfare Theorem

April	16	Monday	Chap. 23
April	18	Wednesday	Chap. 23
April	20	Friday	Chap. 15

Week 16: General Equilibrium

April	23	Monday	Chap. 15
April	25	Wednesday	Chap. 15
April	27	Friday	Chap. 16

Week 17: Wrap-up and review

April	30	Monday	Wrap-up and review Assignment due (in class)
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May	9	Wednesday	Final examination, in class 12-2:30pm
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