

## COURSE SYLLABUS

January 2008

**Instructor:** Pham Hoang Van; Cashion A301.1; 710-3521; van\_pham@baylor.edu

**Office Hours:** Tue 2:00-4:00P; Wed 9:15-11:15A

**Course Time and Location:** TR 11:00-12:20A, Cashion 305

**Course Webpage:** Course materials will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Description:** Economists study social phenomena using the idea of *markets*. In this class, we develop the theoretical foundations for the concepts of market supply, demand and equilibrium. Rational individuals make consumption decisions that constitute demand while profit-maximizing firms make production decisions on the supply side of the market. Producers and consumers come together in markets. We study the idea of market equilibrium and the central role of the market price. We look at equilibrium under alternative market structures: perfect competition, monopoly, and situations in between. We will also explore the notion of market efficiency and cases where markets fail to be efficient. Working through the homework problems is essential for learning the material and learning the material is essential for getting a good grade in this class.

**Text (Required):** Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld, *Microeconomics, 6th ed.*, Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2005.

### Grading:

Class attendance and homeworks	15%
Exam #1:	20%
Exam #2:	25%
Final Exam:	40%
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 100%

### Exam Schedule:

Exam 1: Feb 26 Thursday

Exam 2: Apr 15 Thursday

Final Exam: May 12 Monday 4:30-6:30P

**Attendance:** Baylor University policy states that students must attend at least 75% of class meetings. Failure to do so can result in a failing grade.

**Special Needs:** Students with disabilities who request academic accommodations are required to register with the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA): 254-710-3605.

**Outline of Topics**

## 1. Basics of Microeconomics

- Introduction (Ch.1)
- Basics of Supply and Demand (Ch.2)

## 2. The Demand Side

- Consumer Behavior (Ch.3)
- Individual and Market Demand (Ch.4)
- Consumer Behavior under Uncertainty (Ch.5) (time permitting)

**[EXAM 1, Feb 26 Tuesday]**

## 3. The Supply Side

- Production (Ch.6)
- Cost of Production (Ch.7)
- Profit Maximization in a Competitive Market (Ch.8)

## 4. Analysis of Competitive Markets (Ch.9)

## 5. Non-Competitive Markets

- Market Power: Monopoly and Monopsony (Ch.10)

**[EXAM 2, April 15 Tuesday]**

- Market Power: Pricing Strategies (Ch.11)
- Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly (Ch.12)

## 6. Market Failure and Role of Government

- Externalities (Ch.18)
- Information (Ch. 18-19) (time permitting)

**[FINAL EXAM, May 12 Monday 4:30-6:30 PM]**