

Spring Semester 2012  
Economics 1130  
Tu/Thu 10:30-11:50 in Wilson Hall 205

Nathaniel Baum-Snow  
Robinson 302C

### Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical) – Syllabus

**Overview:** This course will cover the same topics as Econ 1110, but they will be presented through a more mathematical lens. Those without a strong math background will likely find the class difficult, though certainly not impossible. Those with a strong math background are likely to find the presentation of economic theory in this class more appealing than the more heuristic treatment in Econ 1110. Those considering going to graduate school in economics should probably take this class rather than Econ 1110.

**Prerequisites:** I will assume that you understand Econ 11 topics including basic supply/demand diagrams and intuition. In addition, this course assumes knowledge of single-variable calculus. If you have not taken any calculus or are not comfortable with math, you should take Econ 1110 instead. Multivariable calculus (material in Math 0180) will be used extensively throughout the course, but all of the tools used beyond single-variable calculus will be presented in class, though only briefly. I will assume that you are taking Math 0180 (or equivalent) concurrently or have been introduced to multivariable calculus in the past.

**Grading:** Grades will be assigned based on two midterms (25% each), a final (40%) and 10 problem sets (10%). There will be no makeup exams. Make sure to keep the date of the midterms (below) free. If you miss a midterm, you will receive a 0 unless you can provide a note from the dean or your doctor that your absence is justified. In this case only, the other two exams will be reweighted to calculate your grade. Productive class & section participation will work in your favor if you are on the margin between two grades.

**Readings:** Your primary source for material covered in the course will be the lectures. You should view the textbook as a resource for reviewing concepts and providing practice problems. The textbook is *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, 11th Edition* by Nicholson & Snyder. It is available at the Bookstore and on reserve at the library. For some topics, lectures will present the material in more detail than is in the textbook.

**TA & Conferences:** The TA is Isabel Tecu (Isabel\_Tecu@brown.edu). She will conduct the weekly conference which will take place as follows:  
Tentatively Thursdays 7-7:50 (Room TBA)

**Online Course Materials:** Problem sets, solutions and various other materials will be posted on the course page at [mycourses.brown.edu](http://mycourses.brown.edu).

**Problem Sets** are due in class on Wednesdays by noon in the class InBox in the basement of Robinson Hall. All late problem sets will count as a 0. You are encouraged to work together on problem sets. Problem sets will be graded with a check, check-plus or check-minus. Check-minus problem sets will receive half credit while check and check-plus indicate full credit.

**Office Hours:**

Baum-Snow: Mondays 9:00-11:00AM or by appointment in Robinson 302C  
Isabel: Tuesdays 6:00-8:00PM in TBA

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**  
(Exam Dates Will Not Change)

Thu Jan 26: Chapter 1

Jan 31-Feb 2: Chapter 3  
Chapter 2 pp 21-33

Feb 7-9: Chapter 4  
Chapter 2 pp 33-58

Feb 14-16: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 pp 187-195  
Chapter 2 pp 58-63

Tu Feb 21: NO CLASS

Thu Feb 23: MIDTERM I

Feb 28-Mar 1: Chapter 7  
Chapter 2 pp 67-77

Mar 6-8: Chapter 8 pp. 251-277 and Chapter 9

Mar 13-15: Chapter 10 and Chapter 11

Tu Mar 20: Chapter 12

Thu Mar 22: MIDTERM II

Mar 27-29: SPRING BREAK

Apr 3-5: Chapter 13

Apr 10-12: Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 pp 531-540, 551-557

Apr 17-19: Chapter 17 and Chapter 18 pp 641-655

Apr 24-26: Chapter 18 pp 663-672 and Chapter 19 pp 685-708

Thu May 10: FINAL EXAM, 9:00 TO 12:00