

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**FALL 2009**  
**INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS - ECON 32040**  
Website: <https://vista8.kent.edu>

<b>Instructor:</b>	Emmanuel Dechenaux	<b>Office:</b>	474 BSA
<b>Class Time:</b>	MW 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Office Hours:</b>	T 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
<b>Room:</b>	205 BSA	<b>Office Phone:</b>	330-672-1106
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### Course description

The purpose of this course is the study of individual decision-making and of the market as an economic institution. Microeconomic theory provides the framework required for a rigorous analysis of how individual consumers and producers make decisions, how competition takes place via the market and how the market allocates resources. The foundations of consumer and producer theory are presented first, followed by an in-depth study of the implications of different market structures such as perfect competition, monopoly and oligopoly for pricing behavior and social welfare. We will also discuss externalities and public goods as important sources of market failure. Although the focus will be on theory, numerous examples and applications will be presented.

### Prerequisites

The prerequisites for this class are Econ 22060 (Principles of Microeconomics) and Econ 22061 (Principles of Macroeconomics).

### Text

The textbook is *Microeconomics and Behavior* by Robert H. Frank (McGraw Hill, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.).

Unless otherwise mentioned, you are required to read all articles handed out in class or posted on Vista.

### Exams and Homework

There are two midterm exams, one final and five homework assignments. The weights used to determine your course grade are as follows:

Homework	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final	30%

**Important note:** You can drop your score on one of the two midterm exams. In this case, I will use a weight of 35% for the exam you decided to keep, 30% for the homework and 35% for the final.

There will be five homework assignments over the course of the semester. Homework assignments will be handed out **in class** and are due **before class starts** a week later. An assignment that is turned in at the end of class on the due date will be considered late. Unless otherwise mentioned, your answers to homework questions should be **typed**.

**Make up exams** are only given to students with a **valid, university-defined excuse**, which they must present in advance. Poor preparation is not a valid excuse (see the University Policy regarding make-up exams).

### **Tentative exam dates and holidays**

Exam 1        Monday, October 5 (Highly subject to change)  
Exam 2        Monday, November 16 (Highly subject to change)  
Final         Thursday, December 17, 10:15 – 12:30 p.m. in 205 BSA

Holidays: Labor Day (September 7), Veterans Day (November 11). We will meet on November 25.

### **Indicative Grading Scale**

I will use the plus/minus system (to some extent).

> 92 %	A	73-79%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
83-89%	B	60-69%	D
80-82%	B-	<59%	F

### **Topics Covered (Tentative, 14 weeks)**

Important note: Typically, you will not be responsible for the entire textbook chapter. **I will provide more specific information about what to read over the course of the semester.**

1. Introduction and review of Supply & Demand (Chapters 1 and 2)        1½ weeks
2. Rational consumer choice (Chapters 3, 4 and 5)        2½ weeks
3. Decision-making under uncertainty (Chapter 6)  
(and Information problems)        1½ weeks

I will not cover chapters 7 and 8 as such, but may draw from that material to complement our discussion of the other chapters.

#### **Exam 1**

4. Production (Chapters 9, 10)        1½ weeks
5. Perfect competition (Chapter 11)        1½ weeks
6. Monopoly and Price Discrimination (Chapter 12)        1½ weeks

#### **Exam 2**

7. Game theory and behavioral economics (Notes, Part of Chapter 7)        1 week
8. Oligopoly (Part of Chapter 13)        1 week
9. Externalities and Public goods (Chapters 16 and 17)        1 week

## The Following Policies Apply to All Students in this Course

- A. Students attending the course who do not have the proper prerequisite risk being deregistered from the class.
- B. Students have responsibility to ensure they are properly enrolled in classes. You are advised to review your official class schedule (using Student Tools/Flashfast) during the first two weeks of the semester to ensure you are properly enrolled in this class and section. Should you find an error in your class schedule, you have until Sunday, September 6, 2009 to correct the error with your advising office. If registration errors are not corrected by this date and you continue to attend and participate in classes for which you are not officially enrolled, you are advised now that you **will not** receive a grade at the conclusion of the semester for any class in which you are not properly registered.
- C. Academic Honesty: Cheating means to misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of your academic work (e.g., tests, papers, projects, assignments) so as to get undeserved credit. The use of the intellectual property of others without giving them appropriate credit is a serious academic offense. It is the University's policy that cheating or plagiarism results in receiving a failing grade for the work or course. Repeat offenses result in dismissal from the University.
- D. For Fall 2009, the course withdrawal deadline is Sunday, November 8, 2009. Withdrawal before the deadline results in a "W" on the official transcript; after the deadline a grade must be calculated and reported.
- E. Students with disabilities: University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through the office of Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit [www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas) for more information on registration procedures).