Intermediate Microeconomics
Econ 301
Summer 2003

Instructor: Dzmitry Asinski;
Office: 280E Heady Hall, 294-7236;
Email: dasinski@iastate.edu (this is the best way to reach me, so send me emails whenever you have any questions/problems with this course);
Office hours: TWR 11:00-noon and by appointment (I realize that some of you will probably be working during these times, so feel free to set up additional meetings with me).

Time and Location: MTWF 9:50-10:50 in 2020 Agronomy Hall (notice that each meeting is exactly one hour in length and not 50 min. as it normally is during the spring/fall semesters).

Course Description:
Microeconomics studies the decisions made by the economic agents (individuals, households, and firms) under the condition of scarcity. For example, we (as consumers) are limited by our budgets, and we want to derive the most satisfaction out of our money when buying the goods and services. The course will rely heavily on graphical analysis. In addition, a number of analytical tools will be used throughout this course, such as basic optimization techniques and game theory. We will try to cover as many of real world applications and examples as possible.

Texts:
Required:

Additional texts:

All of these books are available on the reserve in the Econ/Sociology reading room, 368 Heady Hall.

TA: Qiaoying Wu, 301 Curtiss, qyw@iastate.edu, 294-8190.
TA Office hours: Mondays 1:30 -4:30.

Grading policy:
The evaluation will be based on the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% class participation and homework assignments</td>
<td>40% midterm exam</td>
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Homework and Exams:
There will be one midterm exam and one final exam; in addition I will give 6 homework assignments during this semester. The assignments will be given out on Mondays and will be due in a week next Monday in class. This deadline will be enforced because I will post the answers to each homework assignment on the webpage on the day it is due. You may work in groups on the homework, but each of you still has to turn in a copy of the solution. It is important that you do your
homework because the exams will contain problems similar to the ones given in the homework assignments. I will spend some amount of time each Friday explaining the solutions to the homework.

Below is the schedule of homework assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Distributed</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hw1</td>
<td>Friday, May 23</td>
<td>Monday, June 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hw2</td>
<td>Monday, June 2</td>
<td>Monday, June 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hw3</td>
<td>Monday, June 9</td>
<td>Monday, June 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hw4</td>
<td>Monday, June 16</td>
<td>Monday, June 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hw5</td>
<td>Monday, June 23</td>
<td>Monday, June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hw6</td>
<td>Monday, June 30</td>
<td>Monday, July 7</td>
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</table>

The **midterm** will cover the material of the first four weeks (first three homework assignments); it **will be held in class on June 25**. The final exam will be cumulative but the questions from the second part of the course will carry the larger weight. **The final exam will be held during the last class, July 11.**

There will be no make-up exams. If you miss the midterm exam you will be assigned a zero for it, unless you have a well-documented proof of medical or family emergency. In the latter case, the final will carry the 80% weight. You must take final to pass the course.

**Questions during the lecture are welcome.**

**In general, if you have any problems/concerns, feel free to contact me.**

**The tentative outline of topics (chapters are given in parentheses):**

- Intro and basic concepts (ch.1)
- Supply and demand framework (ch.2,3)
- Consumer behavior and Uncertainty (ch.4,5, 17.1-17.3)
- Theory of the firm (ch.6,7)
- Market structure (ch.8,9,11,13)
- Efficiency (ch.10)

I am not sure how far we’ll be able to go in 8 weeks of classes, but time permitting we’ll touch upon some fascinating topics like price discrimination, asymmetric information, and contracts (ch.12, 19, 20), public goods and externalities (ch.18), time and capital markets (ch.16).