

Professor Lixin Ye  
Office hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30PM, 401 Arps Hall

e-mail: [lixinye@econ.ohio-state.edu](mailto:lixinye@econ.ohio-state.edu)  
Phone: 614-292-6883

## Economics 501.02: Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2009

This is a calculus-based intermediate course in microeconomics. This course has essentially two goals. The first is to provide you with the basic tools necessary to tackle economic problems in a systematic way, and the second is to develop basic economic intuitions that can help you understand economic puzzles or policy problems. These two goals are inherently linked: the first provides a general framework to think about the world around us and the second develops intuitions from that framework. Those of you who intend to pursue further studies in economics will require the tools developed in this class for later course work, while those of you with only a casual interest in economics will, I hope, be able to use the intuitions from this course to make more sense of the world around you.

### **Required Text:**

David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam, *Microeconomics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, John Wiley & Sons.

Optional text:

Brian Binger and Elizabeth Hoffman, *Microeconomics with Calculus*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Addison-Wesley.

We will draw materials mainly from Chapters 2 and 3 of Binger and Hoffman for math review.

### **Grading:**

Your course grade will be computed as follows: 20% Homework, 30% Midterm Exam, 50% Final Exam. I do, however, reserve the right to count the final exam more heavily for those who do exceedingly well on it. There will be 6 homework assignments, which will be graded by your TA. No make-up exam for the midterm will be given; students who have a pre-approved excuse for missing the midterm will have the final exam counted for 80% of the grade.

### **Course Website:**

I will post important class announcements and teaching materials (lecture notes, homework, homework solutions) to the course website via Carmen.

## **Course TA:**

Yan Bao

Office Hours: Thursday 3:00PM – 4:00PM

e-mail: bao.25@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Office: 371 Arps Hall

Phone: 614- 247-7180

## **Course Outline (tentative):**

### 1. Introduction (2 classes, Ch. 1-2)

Course overview, introduction to constraint optimization, equilibrium analysis, comparative statics analysis; math review (Binger and Hoffman Ch. 2-3).

### 2. Consumer Theory (approx. 6 classes, Ch. 3-5)

Preferences, indifference curves, utility functions; budget lines; optimal consumer choices; demands; substitution and income effects.

### 3. Production and Cost Theory (approx. 4 classes, Ch. 6-8)

Neoclassical model of the firm, production functions, marginal and average products; return to scale; cost minimization, input demand, cost function; long-run vs. short-run; profit maximization.

### 4. Perfect Competition (approx. 2 classes, Ch. 9-10)

Perfect competition; short-run, long-run equilibrium; consumer surplus, producer surplus; applications: using the perfect competition model to analyze public policy interventions.

### 5. Imperfect Competition and Strategic Behavior (approx. 2 classes, Ch. 11, Ch. 14)

Monopoly; monopolistic competition; price discrimination; Introduction to oligopoly and game theory.

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.