ECONOMICS 6201 (FALL 2009)  
MICROECONOMICS II  

PROFESSOR XENIA MATSCHKE†

Brief Description

Economics 6201 is the first course in the Ph.D. microeconomics sequence. It covers the classical topics of individual choice by households and firms and competitive equilibrium, an introduction to the theory of choice under uncertainty, and the theory of public goods and externalities. Grading is based on an in-class midterm (35%), an in-class final (45%), and a number (4-5) of short, unannounced in-class tests (20%). These tests are actually at the intermediate microeconomics level, to help students better see the linkages between the intermediate microeconomics material and the more advanced Ph.D. version of micro theory.

Text

There are three recommended texts:

- *Microeconomic Analysis, 3rd ed.* by Varian,
- *Microeconomic Theory* by Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green,
- *Advanced Microeconomic Theory, 2nd ed.* by Jehle and Reny.

Varian is on the easy side, Mas-Colell is on the hard side. Jehle and Reny is probably at the same level of difficulty as our class, but I am not going to follow the text very closely. All the exam-relevant material will be presented in class; however, it is often advisable to have books at hand for clarification of class material, further background reading, and also additional practice problems. So while the above books are not required, they are all highly recommended, and if you have the money and a general interest in microeconomic topics, I suggest you buy them all.

Course Content

1. Theory of the Firm
   - Varian: Ch. 1-6
   - MWG: Ch. 5
   - JR: Ch. 3
2. Consumer Theory
   - Varian: Ch. 7-10
   - MWG: Ch. 1-4
   - JR: Ch. 1, Ch. 2.1-2.3
3. Choice under Uncertainty
   - Varian: Ch. 11

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4. Competitive Equilibrium
   - Varian: Ch. 13, 17-18, 21.1
   - MWG: Ch. 10, 15, 16, 18B
   - JR: Ch. 4.1, 4.3, 5
5. Public Goods and Externalities
   - Varian: Ch. 23-24
   - MWG: Ch. 11

**Class Time**

Monday and Wednesday 11-12.15 a.m. in 311 Monteith.

**T.A. Sessions**

Approximately every two weeks, there will be additional meetings with the teaching assistant for this class to discuss sample problems. I am going to post the sample problems online. It is advisable to first try them at home before coming to the T.A. meeting in order to better benefit from the discussion.

**Class Home Page**

I will post handouts and sample problems at [http://web2.uconn.edu/matschke/teaching/6201.htm](http://web2.uconn.edu/matschke/teaching/6201.htm).