Microeconomics

Academic Year: (2020 / 2021) **Review date: 10-07-2020**

Department assigned to the subject: Economics Department

Coordinating teacher: MORENO RUIZ, DIEGO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 2

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

OBJECTIVES

Knowledge

This course provides a set of tools appropriate for economic analysis. The applications are broad and include all fields of economics. The student:

- Learns how to set up and solve the most common decision problems economic agents (consumers, firms) face.
- Gets familiar with the main variables that influence the behavior of economic agents.
- Learns the basic concepts of Consumer Theory: preferences, utility functions, marginal rate of substitution, budget set, demand functions, consumer surplus.
- Is introduced to the concepts of uncertainty and risk, attraction and aversion to risk, risk premium, use and value of information.
- Learns the basic concepts of the Theory of the Firm: inputs and outputs, production function, opportunity cost, sunk costs, fixed and variable cost, total, average and marginal cost, short and long run costs, supply function.
- Takes the first steps in the analysis of the implications of regulatory policies in competitive and monopolistic markets (price controls, quotas, taxes and subsidies, tariffs).

Abilities

The course material teaches students how to:

- Frame economic problems by using formal models amenable to quantitative analysis.
- Use standard methods to solve decision problems.
- Apply equilibrium analysis to identify the results of the interactions of economic agents.

Aptitudes

The course encourages students to:

- Analyze economic problems without prejudices, and with precision and rigor.
- Reason critically.
- Learn autonomously.
- Argue a viewpoint showing its foundation and appreciating the merits of other opinions.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

The course focuses on the study of decision problems faced by consumers and firms, and on partial equilibrium analysis. The concepts and tools presented are at the core of Economic Theory. Practical applications are discussed to help understanding and show the potential of the theory. The use of calculus provides economic analysis with a precision and functionality very useful in professional activities.

The program includes the following topics:

I. Consumer Theory: preferences, utility functions, budget sets, demand functions, applications (labor supply, taxes, subsidies, price indices), uncertainty (expected utility, risk attitudes, risk premium, value of information).

II. Theory of the Firm: technology, production function, factors demand, cost functions, supply function.

III. Partial Equilibrium Analysis: competitive and monopolistic markets.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology includes:

- Lectures in which the basic material is presented and discussed. Students are provided with class notes and basic textbook references to complete and deepen their understanding.

- Discussion of real occurring economic problems related to each of the topics.

- Experimental sessions in computer labs and other environments with the objective of helping understanding of the theory, promoting confidence in the theory¿s predictions, and revealing possible flaws.

- Solving and discussing practical exercises helpful to provide students with feedback on their level of understanding and difficulties.

- Class presentations in which students discuss the solution to exercises and/or policy relevant topics, with the objective of developing students¿ ability to analyze and communicate relevant information and participating in fruitful exchanges of opinions.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The course grade is a weighted average of the grade in a comprehensive final exam (60%), and the "class grade" (40%), which is based on two midterm exams given during the course. In the "convocatoria extraordinaria", the grade will be that of that obtained in the exam when this grade is higher that the weighted average described above.

% end-of-term-examination:	60
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	40

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Nechyba Thomas,: Intermediate Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus, , Cengage Learning..

- R. Serrano and M. Feldman: A Short Course in Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus, , Cambridge UP..

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- H. Gravelle y R. Rees Microeconomics, Pearson-Prentice.

- J. Hey Intermediate Microeconomics, McGraw-Hill.

- R. PINDYCK y D. RUBINFELD: Microeconomics, , Prentice Hall..