

BILKENT UNIVERSITY COURSE SYLLABUS

ECON 203, Microeconomic Theory I

Dr. Kevin Hasker

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Professor:	e-mail:	Room:	OH's
Kevin Hasker	hasker@bilkent.edu.tr	AZ25a	TU 10:30, WE 14:30, FR 9:30
Classes		BZ-05	TU 8:30-10:20, WE 15:30-17:20 FR 10:30-12:20
Homepage	http://hasker.bilkent.edu.tr/classes/ECON203/Index.html		

1 Course Description

This class is Economics 101 with more math. You will learn nothing new in this class, just cover the same material in greater depth with—perhaps—some new applications.

The only thing we ever study in economics is the ramifications of two assumptions. Rationality (people aren't stupid) and equilibrium (people aren't surprised). This is the essential reason that we teach the same thing in ECON 101 and ECON 203, because all our analysis is just reworking these two themes. Once you understand and see this meta-structure in everything we do you will begin to really understand economics. This semester I hope to give you that insight.

This class is not a math class or Econ 101. You are responsible for knowing the math and I will not go over material covered in ECON 101. If you understand these two subjects you will be ready to benefit from what is perhaps my greatest strength as an economist: connecting the mathematics to your intuition. This is what I want to achieve this semester.

Class handouts and practice questions will be posted on the web, important announcements will be made via e-mail or the web page.

2 Assessment:

Assignment	Number	Weight	Total Weight
Exams	2	35%	70%
Quiz	1	30%	30%

The quiz will serve as a second midterm. The quiz and exams are not cumulative, but the material is. Students who take exams/quizzes will have their average increased to 80 by adding points to every student's total. Grading will then be based on the standard scale: 90's A/80's B/70's C/60's D. The adjusted scores of students may be over 100. I determine all +/- breaks when submitting grades. In specific, having an average of 95 will probably not be sufficient to get an A instead of an A-. I do not give FX. I will give an FZ to anyone who does not have a total of 30 by the last day of classes.

2.1 Text Book:

The recommended textbook is Thomas Nechyba, (2018) Intermediate Microeconomics An Intuitive Approach with Calculus, 1st Edition (Cengage). It can be purchased or

rented at <https://www.cengagebrain.co.uk>. There will be required handouts posted on the web page.

3 The Schedule:

Week Beginning	Event	Topic	Chapters
6/9/2025		Introduction, Choice Sets and Preferences	0 to 5
6/16/2025		Consumer Choice	6
6/23/2025	Exam FR	Income and Substitution Effects	7,8
6/30/2025		Production, Cost Minimization, and Cost Curves	11,12
7/7/2025	Quiz FR	Profit Maximization	13
7/14/2025	TU Holiday	Partial Equilibrium	14,15,18, 19
7/21/2025		General Equilibrium	15 and 16
7/28/2025	TU last day	General Equilibrium	15 and 16

4 The Fairness Clause:

I make and follow rules and do not make exceptions.

1. Syllabus as Contract: This syllabus is my contract with the students. Any changes will be announced in class and by e-mail.
2. Talking in class: I can give surprise quizzes, and in extreme cases cancel class.
3. Cheating: Points are only given for work shown and there are multiple versions of each test. I will penalize students (a little) for behavior that could lead to cheating, and may assign seating.
4. Make-Ups: Make up exams and quizzes will be harder than the original and the average will not be adjusted to 80. I may make an exception if the student contacts me before the time of the quiz or exam.
5. Grade Discussions: All grade related discussions must be in writing.