
Ennio Emanuele Piano

1George Mason University

November 10, 2018

General information

Thursday, 4:30-7:10 PM, Buchanan Hall (formerly, Mason Hall), D005, Fairfax campus.

Ennio E. Piano, Department of Economics and F.A. Hayek Program, George Mason University, Mason Hall, D137-7.

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Office hours: Thursday, 9:00-10:30 AM or by appointment. Buchanan Hall, F.A. Hayek program office, D137-7.

Course objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce the student to some fundamental mathematical tools for economic analysis. The class will mostly focus on the application of this tool to basic microeconomic analysis.

Required Readings

Textbooks:


Instructor’s notes:

I have prepared detailed weekly notes (available at the links below) with step-by-step derivations of all the main proofs and models that we will cover in class. They will help you both follow the lecture and prepare for homework and examinations. As all human endeavors, the notes will likely contain mistakes. If you happen to find one, please let me know so that I can correct fix the Author files.

Outline of the course

Week 1


Notes
Week 2
Notes

Week 3
Notes

Week 4
Notes (include week 5)

Week 5

Week 6
Applications. Readings: Sydsaeter, ch 7. ***First homework due***
Notes (a), Notes (b)

Week 7
Notes

Week 8
Midterm.

Week 9
Notes

Week 10
Comparative statics. Readings: Sydsaeter, ch 12.
Notes

Week 11
Notes
Week 12

Notes

Week 13

Notes

Week 14
Final.

Other important dates

- September 5th, last day to add and drop classes without penalty.
- September 19th, last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty.
- September 29th, last day to drop with a 66% tuition penalty.
- November 22nd-26th, Thanksgiving recess.
- December 9th, last day of class.
- Thursday, December 14th, 430-715PM, final exam.

Grading

The final grade will be the weighted average of class participation (10%), two homework sets (5% each), a midterm (40%), and a final examination (40%). While not required, attendance is strongly recommended.

The homework sets must be delivered to me in printed copy at the beginning of class (neither electronic drafts nor later work will be considered under any circumstances). There is no make up work for this class.

The grading scale is as follows:
A+: 97-100%; A: 92-96%; A-: 88-91%; B+: 84-87%; B: 80-83%; B-: 76-79%; C: 70-75%; D:66-70%; F: <66%.

Academic integrity

George Mason University's Honor Code requires all community members to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Committee. Plagiarism is not accepted (statements from Macon web site: http://mason.gmu.edu/montecin/plagiarism/htm#plagiarism). The use of electronic devices is prohibited during an exam or a quiz; failure to comply with this will result in your failure of the assignment and potentially the failure of the class. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the GMU Honor Code, which is stated in the George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog.