

Mathematics for Economists

ECO 740

Section 1

TR 5:30 to 6:45 PM

BHS 132

Stephen M. Miller

BEH 508 (office)

(702) 895-3969 (office)

(702) 895-1354 (fax)

stephen.miller@unlv.edu (e-mail)

<http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/smiller/> (home page)

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Text: *Mathematical Economics*, 2nd edition, by Jeffery Baldani, James Bradfield and Robert Turner (BBT), Thomson Learning, Southwestern, 2005 and *Introduction to Mathematical Economics*, 3rd edition, by Edward Dowling (D), Schaum Outline Series, 2001. The Schaum Outline text proves most useful for those students who need a lot of practice with their math skills.

Office Hours: MW 4:00 to 5:30 PM and by appointment

Objective: Students who successfully complete this course will learn the basic tools of differential calculus, matrix algebra, difference equations, and game theory used in our MA program. In addition, all of the tools receive illustration with economic examples from both microeconomic and macroeconomic theory as well as other specific field courses such as industrial organization.

Evaluation: The course evaluation for each student involves two separate components. First, each student must do the 14 homework assignments. I drop the four lowest scores. Homework assignments are due in the Thursday class, except during Thanksgiving week when it is due on Tuesday. Second, each student will take the three in-class exams. The first two exams are given in the Tuesday class. The final exam is not comprehensive, but only covers the material not covered in exams 1 and 2. The final exam is given during the exam week on Thursday, December 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. While I prefer to maintain some flexibility in the weights assigned to the components in the final course grade, I will weight the component parts as follows: 35% for the graded homework assignments, 15% for the first exam, and 25% each for the last two exams.

WebCampus: This course is a WebCampus course. I will post the course outline, homework assignments, other handouts, and so on at the WebCampus site. You can access this site 24/7, except for scheduled maintenance on the system and unexpected downtimes due to technical glitches.

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Academic Integrity:

Violations to academic integrity (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated. At the instructor's discretion, a student suspected of academic dishonesty may receive an F for the course and be expelled from the class. Additional penalties, up to expulsion from the University or revocation of degree, are possible. Please see page 33 of the UNLV Graduate Catalog, 2005-2007

Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disabilities Services is located within Learning Enhancement Services (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, Suite 137. The phone number is 895-0866 or TDD 895-0652. The e-mail address is drcssc@cmail.nevada.edu.

Course Outline

	Topics Covered	Assigned Readings and Homework Problems
Week 1	Review of derivatives Rules for derivatives Partial derivatives Concavity and convexity Marginal analysis Elasticities Economic models Optimization Examples of optimization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profit maximization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Competitive firm ○ Monopoly ○ Duopoly ○ Oligopoly Simple macroeconomic model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynesian multipliers 	BBT: Chapters 1, including appendix, and 2. D: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8. Practice Problems: A1(a),(b), (f),(h); A2(a),(f); A3(a),(d); A6(a),(c), 2.3, 2.5 Homework 1: 2.15
Week 2	System of equations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matrix form Definition of scalars, vectors, and matrices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition, subtraction, and multiplication Identity matrix Inverse matrix Cramer's rule	BBT: Chapter 3. D: Chapters 10, 11, and 12. Practice Problems: 3.2, 3.3, 3.10 Homework 2: 3.11, 3.12 Homework 1 due.
Week 3	Applying matrix algebra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One competitive market • Two competitive markets • Two firms with differentiated products • Simple and complex duopoly • Simple Keynesian model • IS-LM model 	BBT: Chapter 4. D: Chapters 10, 11, and 12. Practice Problems: 4.1, 4.4 Homework 3: 4.5 Homework 2 due.
Week 4	Partial derivatives Differentials Total differentials Implicit function theorem Level curves Homogeneity, Euler's theorem, and corollary Exam 1 (weeks 1 to 3)	BBT: Chapter 5. D: Chapters 5, 6, and 9. Practice Problems: 5.7(a),(b); 5.8(a),(b) Homework 4: 5.5(c), 5.6(c) Homework 3 due.

Week 5	<p>Applications of multivariate calculus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced budget multipliers IS-LM-(AD)-AS model Fiscal and monetary policy effectiveness Excise tax on monopolist Duopoly Labor supply Utility maximization Homogeneity of consumer demands Homogeneity of input demands 	<p>BBT: Chapter 6. D: Chapters 5, 6, and 9. Practice Problems: 6.5, 6.14, 6.16, 6.28 Homework 5: 6.6 Homework 4 due.</p>
Week 6	<p>One-variable optimization: Review Two-variable optimization Hessian determinants Multiple-variable optimization Concavity, convexity, and optimization Comparative static analysis</p>	<p>BBT: Chapter 7. D: Chapters 5, 6, and 9. Practice Problems: 7.4(a), 7.9(b) Homework 6: 7.1(d), 7.9(a) Homework 5 due.</p>
Week 7	<p>Examples of multivariate optimization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive firm input choice Efficiency wages Multi-plant firm profit maximization Multi-market monopoly profit maximization Deriving least squares estimates 	<p>BBT: Chapter 8. D: Chapters 5, 6, and 9. Practice Problems: 8.2, 8.4, 8.9 Homework 7: 8.10 Homework 6 due.</p>
Week 8	<p>Constrained optimization Lagrangian method Bordered Hessian determinants Multiple constraints Quasi-concavity, quasi-convexity, and constrained optimization Comparative static analysis Value functions: Preview</p>	<p>BBT: Chapter 9. D: Chapters 5, 6, and 9. Practice Problems: 9.1(d), 9.2(d), 9.3(d), 9.4(d), 9.5 Homework 8: 9.1(b), 9.3(b) Homework 7 due.</p>
Week 9	<p>Examples of constrained optimization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost minimization and input demands Profit maximization and input demands Utility maximization and individual demands Labor supply Pareto efficiency and Pareto optimality Intertemporal consumption: Time preference Macro tradeoffs: Phillips curves 	<p>BBT: Chapter 10. D: Chapters 5 and 6. Practice Problems: 10.3(a), (c),(d), 10.17(c) Homework 9: 10.16(c) Homework 8 due.</p>
Week 10	<p>Professor Viner and the cost curves Value function Envelope theorem Interpretation of Lagrangian multiplier Applications of value function and envelope theorem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duality Roy's identity Shepard's lemma Slutsky equation Cost curves and Professor Viner: Revisited Reciprocity relations Two-part tariffs Ramsey tax <p>Exam 2 (weeks 4 to 9)</p>	<p>BBT: Chapters 13 and 14. D: Chapter 13. Practice Problems: 13.4, 13.6, 14.1 Homework 10: 13.7 Homework 9 due.</p>

<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Applications of value function and envelope theorem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duality • Roy's identity • Shepard's lemma • Slutsky equation • Cost curves and Professor Viner: Revisited • Reciprocity relations • Two-part tariffs • Ramsey tax <p>Difference equations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First order • Phase diagrams • Non-linear • Systems <p>Differential equations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First order • Phase diagrams • Systems 	<p>BBT: Chapter 14 and 15. D: Chapter 13, 16, and 17. Practice Problems: 14.3, 14.5, 15.1(b), 15.2(d) Homework 11: 14.4 Homework 10 due.</p>
<p>Week 12</p>	<p>Difference equations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First order • Phase diagrams • Non-linear • Systems <p>Differential equations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First order • Phase diagrams • Systems <p>Partial-adjustment models Marshallian quantity adjustment Cobweb model Cournot duopoly IS, LM, Fed reaction function Expectations augmented Phillips curves Solow growth model</p>	<p>BBT: Chapter 15 and 16. D: Chapter 16 and 17. Practice Problems: 15.6(b), 15.6(e) Homework 12: 15.2(e), 15.4(e) Homework 11 due.</p>
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>Static games: Complete information Games in normal form Dominance and iterated elimination Nash equilibrium Mixed strategies Applications of static games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-firm investment in natural monopoly setting • Cournot duopoly model revisited • Bertrand duopoly model • Rent-seeking behavior • Public goods • Two-person household allocations 	<p>BBT: Chapter 17 and 18. Practice Problems: 16.6, 16.23 Homework 13: 16.27 Homework 12 due.</p>

Week 14	Applications of static games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-firm investment in natural monopoly setting • Cournot duopoly model revisited • Bertrand duopoly model • Rent-seeking behavior • Public goods • Two-person household allocations Dynamic games: Complete information Games in extensive form Equilibrium in extensive-form games Sub-game perfect Nash equilibrium Two-stage games Repeated games	BBT: Chapter 18 and 19. Practice Problems: 17.1(b), 17.2(c) Homework 14: 17.5 Homework 13 due.
Week 15	Applications of dynamic games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequential bargaining models • Trade policy and oligopoly • Two-stage duopoly game • Repeated games and oligopoly 	BBT: Chapter 20. Practice Problems: 19.1(c), 19.2(c), 20.1, 20.2 Homework 14 due.
Week 16	Exam 3 (weeks 10 to 15)	