



Economics

General data

Course code:	M23VZA01E
ECTS credits:	6
Type of the course:	General core course (B1)
Semester:	Fall semester 1
Course restrictions:	<i>Introductory economics courses (micro- macroeconomics) are helpful</i>
Course leader (with availabilities):	<i>Dr. Tamás SEBESTYÉN</i> + 36 72 501 599/ 63150 sebestyent@tkk.pte.hu <i>office: B109</i>
Further lecturer(s) (with availabilities):	-

1. Description and aims

The aim of the module is to provide the students with intermediate knowledge on micro- and macroeconomic issues. The course builds on and develops further introductory knowledge on market mechanisms, consumer choice and macroeconomic principles. Upon completing the course, students get familiar with tools of analyzing the behavior of economic agents, markets and the economy as a whole. While the subject is based on standard intermediate knowledge in micro- and macroeconomics, it provides reference to new developments and encourages a critical approach to these tools and methods of economic analysis. Also, the course refers to actual economic and social challenges to bring the relevance of economic thinking close to students.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

CILO 1: discuss the main tools and results of economic analysis (micro- and macroeconomics), correctly define decision problems, apply the marginal principle to these problems and to recognize the limitations of rational decision making; (PILO1, PILO3, PILO5)

CILO 2: differentiate between market structures and the related company decision problems, discuss several consequences of distortions in market information, think through expected market mechanisms including some aspects of imperfect competition; (PILO3, PILO5)

CILO 3: recognize and overview the main relationships in the macroeconomic environment, estimate the possible effects of several policy interventions and shocks in the short- and long run; (PILO3, PILO5)

CILO 4: develop a healthy critical attitude towards the known/applied methods and tools, structure decision, market and analytical problems, placing them within the learnt logical framework; handle decision problems at the system level, by thinking through wider feedbacks. (PILO7)

3. Content, schedule

1. Introduction: what is economics about?



2. Rationality
3. Marginal analysis: consumer choice
4. Marginal analysis: producer choice
5. Decisions under uncertainty
6. The cornerstone of economics: perfect competition
7. General equilibrium, Pareto-efficiency
8. Market failures: imperfect competition
9. Market failures: asymmetric information
10. Economic growth: capital accumulation
11. Economic growth: technological progress
12. Business cycles: basic forces
13. Business cycles: monetary policy

4. Learning and teaching strategy, methodology

This is a master’s course, so formal teaching is kept at a minimum. On the contrary, students are encouraged and required to prepare for classes in the covered topics by reading and interpreting the respective textbook materials. Classes are then devoted to joint discussion of these topics, on the basis of student knowledge and the tutor’s insights. Also, groupworks, numerical examples, games and other class activities are designed to understand, interpret and use this knowledge, through putting it into the context of some interesting and/or actual economic problems or social challenges. Please bring your laptop, tablet or smartphone to classes so that calculations, online research and games can be done easily.

5. Assessment

Formative assessment elements:

Students are continuously exposed to discussions, encouraged to raise their questions. This allows the teacher to put more emphasis on those parts of the learning material that seems less clear to students. Also, frequently added questions from students drive the course of the classes along a way that they find more interesting, thus enabling a better student-teacher interaction throughout.

Summative assessment elements:

Individual Assessment		% 75	Group Assessment		% 25	
Name of the element	Weight	Type	Details	Retake opportunity	Req.*	Related CILOs
Pre-learning	50%	individual, written (essay), home assignment	Students are assigned specific parts of the study material before each class which they should read in order to come to the classes prepared. This	Students can apply for extra questions in those cases when they notice the teacher about their obstacles to write the scheduled essay on time, and given this notice arrives	Yes	CILO1, CILO2



			preparation is assessed by assigning a random question to every student based on the given topic. These questions require a short written answer explaining a definition, interpreting a concept, etc.	before the deadline of the given task. Not more than 25% of this assessment element can be retasken this way.		
Classwork	50%	individual and group assignments, written and oral tasks, in-class activity	In addition to discussing the learning material, use, interpretation and explanation of the learnt concepts are supported with individual and group assignments, games, numerical exercises which are to be scored.	Students can apply for extra questions in those cases when they notice the teacher about their obstacles to write the scheduled essay on time, and given this notice arrives before the deadline of the given task. Not more than 25% of this assessment element can be retasken this way.	Yes	CILO3, CILO4

* Req.: Completion of the element is required to pass the course, irrespective of the performance in other elements.

6. Learning materials

- Essential
 - Hal. R. Varian: Intermediate Microeconomics. W.W.Norton &Company, from the 8th edition, 2009, latest (10th) edition is from 2019
 - N.G. Mankiw: Macroeconomics. Palgrave Higher Education, from 7th edition, 2009, latest edition (11th) is from 2022
- Recommended
 - S.D. Williamson: Macroeconomics. Pearson Higher Ed, 2017
 - P. De Greuwe: Behavioral Macroeconomics, Princeton University Press, 2012
 - P. Krugman, R. Wells, Kathryn G.: Economics, Worth Publishers, 2008

7. Further information

International aspects embedded with the course
The course aims at general economic principles which doesn't have an explicit international aspect, but being general they can applied in all economic situations, including international economic problems/challenges. However, class discussion reaches out to actual economic problems/challenges as examples and cases to illuminate economic theories, among which several global/international challenges are found.
Ethics, Responsibility & Sustainability (ERS) aspects embedded with the course



Being a course in economics, the subject revolves around utility and welfare, distribution issues are brought to the table as well as challenges in collective decision making when intertemporal (short- and long run) as well as intergenerational decisions has to be made.

Connections to the world of practice of the course

Although this is a theory-based course, discussion of the theoretical material is illuminated with everyday-life examples. Students are also encouraged to bring their WoP experiences in class and then these decision problems are analyzed through the lens of economic principles. Macroeconomic issues are also handled with a practical approach where theoretical models are discussed through their connections to actual economic challenges.