# Nankai University

# Undergraduate Course Syllabus

# 1. Course Information

| Course Name                              |               | Intermediate Microeconomics   |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
|--|---------------|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Course Number                            |               | FINA0116  |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Course Type                              |               | Compulsory course Liberal Arts Education Elective course Liberal Arts Education Compulsory course Professional Elective course Professional |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Credit                                   |               | 3 Lectu<br>Hour   | re<br>rs 48  | Pra<br>ctic<br>um 0<br>Hou<br>rs | Total<br>Hours 48 |  |  |
| Grading Structure                        |               | Percentage system Pass/Fail System  |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Course Provider                          |               | School of Finance   |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Prerequisite<br>courses                  |               | Calculus, Principle of economics  |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Course Director                          |               | Qingyuan Zhang  |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Course Textbooks and Reference Materials |               |   |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
| Textbooks                                | Authors       |   | Title  | Publishing<br>House              | ISBN              |  |  |
|  | Hal R. Varian |   | Intermediate<br>Microeconomics: A<br>Modern Approach | Norton                           | 9781324034292     |  |  |
| Au<br>Reference<br>Materials             |               | Authors   | Title  | Publishing<br>House              | ISBN              |  |  |
|  |               |   |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
|  |               |   |  |                                  |                   |  |  |
|  |               |   |  |                                  |                   |  |  |

### 2. Prerequisite Description

- **Calculus:** Before selecting this course, one must have earned the credit of one of these courses:
  - Calculus;
  - Advanced mathematics;
  - Analytics.

Student should gain basic knowledge of:

- Limits and continuity;
- Differentiation;
- Derivatives;
- Integration;
- Polar coordinates;
- Infinite sequences and series;
- Partial derivatives;
- Multiple integrals.
- **Principle of economics:** Before selecting this course, one must have earned the credit of one of these courses:
  - Principle of economics;
  - An introduction to economics.

Student should gain basic knowledge of:

- Supply and demand;
- Government's influence on supply and demand;
- Elasticity;
- Utility and consumer's behavior;
- Producer's behavior and costs;
- Market structure;
- Perfectly competitive market;
- Monopoly;
- Oligarchy and game theory;
- Efficiency of the market;
- Externality;
- Public resources;
- Basic macroeconomic measures;
- Growth of economy;
- IS-LM and AS-AD model;
- Saving and investment;
- Unemployment;
- Monetary policy;
- Inflation.

### **3. Course Introduction**

Intermediate microeconomics is a basic course for undergraduate students majoring in finance. It studies how rare resources are effectively distributed in their different optional functions to meet the need of human beings to a great extent. It has become a theoretical foundation for many other subjects as a theoretical course. The course includes:

- The theory of consumer behavior;
- Production, cost theory;
- Market structure
- Theory of factor market
- General equilibrium theory;
- Welfare economics;
- Microeconomic policy.

This course aims to teach students the most fundamental topics in modern intermediate microeconomics and give them a solid foundation in economic analysis.

In cultivating students' abilities, this course emphasizes developing their consciousness and ability to think and explore problems, paying attention to economic hot and challenging problems, and related social issues. The course makes students capable of integrating theoretical economic knowledge, explaining and analyzing economic problems, and providing suggestions and countermeasures to solve economic problems. The course will also help students understand the fundamental laws of economic operation, improve and enhance their ability to observe economic phenomena, analyze and solve economic problems, and prepare them for future economic management and social work.

#### 4. Course Content and Teaching Arrangements

| Num | Content  | Hours | Туре                |
|-----|--|-------|---------------------|
| 1   | Chap 1: Consumer behavior  | 4     | Lecture, discussion |
| 2   | Chap 2: Individual needs and market demands  | 4     | Lecture, discussion |
| 3   | Chap 3: Inter-period options and uncertainty   | 3     | Lecture, discussion |
| 4   | Chap 4: Production theory  | 4     | Lecture, discussion |
| 5   | Chap 5: Cost theory  | 3     | Lecture, discussion |
| 6   | <b>Chap 6:</b> Profit maximization and competitive supply short-run and long-run choices | 4     | Lecture, discussion |
| 7   | Chap 7: Competitive markets  | 4     | Lecture, discussion |
| 8   | Chap 8: Monopoly   | 4     | Lecture, discussion |
| 9   | Chap 9: Pricing in markets with imperfect competition                                    | 3     | Lecture, discussion |
| 10  | Chap 10: Monopolistic competition and oligopoly  | 6     | Lecture, discussion |
| 11  | Chap 11: Factor markets  | 3     | Lecture, discussion |

| 12 | Chap 12: Externalities and public goods | 3 | Lecture, discussion |
|----|---|---|---------------------|
| 13 | Chap 13: Information asymmetry          | 3 | Lecture, discussion |

### 5. Course Assessment

The course assessment consists of two main parts, one part is quiz and homework, accounting for 30%. The other part is a closed-book examination, which assesses students' knowledge mastery and accounts for 70% of the total.

