Instructor: Steven Russell (Professor of Economics): please call me “Steve”

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Office hours: MW 1:15-2:15 p.m., 4:30-5:30 p.m. or by appointment

You can leave messages for me on the voice mail system or by calling or visiting the Economics department office, which is located in 516 Cavanaugh Hall (274-4756). Faculty mailboxes are on the right as you enter the office. Another good way to contact me is by electronic mail. (If you leave me a voice mail message then it will be converted into a .wav file and sent to my e-mail.)

E-mail note: I read my regular IUPUI email ( @iupui, ) more regularly than my OnCourse e-mail. So if you need to reach me in a hurry, it’s best to use my regular e-mail. Unfortunately, my IUPUI e-mail gets overloaded very quickly if people send me files with attachments. So if you are attaching a file to a message, please use my OnCourse e-mail.

Prerequisites: Intermediate-level microeconomics
Knowledge of the basic principles and techniques of calculus, especially univariate and multivariate differentiation. (See Chapters 6 and 11 of your text.)

Class meets: MW 3:00-4:15 p.m., CA 323
First meeting: Monday, August 19
Last meeting: Monday, December 9

Text: Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis, edition
by Knut Sydsaeter and Peter Hammond, with Arne Strom
Pearson, 2012

This text is on sale in the campus bookstore (Barnes and Noble), which is in the student center.
Supplements: My lecture notes for the course.

I will make these notes available via OnCourse, in stages. They consist partly of my interpretation of and commentary on the material in the textbook, partly of material from a closely related textbook (*Further Mathematics for Economic Analysis*, same authors, second edition), and partly of material I have added. Towards the end of the semester we may cover material I do not have lecture notes written for.

Course Plan

This course covers two main topics: calculus and related topics, and optimization theory.

Exams:

There will be an exam on the material on calculus and related topics, when we finish that material. There may be an in-term exam on optimization theory before the final exam.

The final exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Assignments:

My plan is to give an assignment almost every week. The assignments will include questions and problems requiring numerical calculations, analytical derivations, informal and formal proofs, and graphical analysis.

In both this course and the other graduate courses I have taught (E522, Grad Macro, and E583, Advanced Topics in Macro) I have often had two problems about the assignments that I hope to avoid this semester. The first problem is that there often have been a few students who haven’t take the assignments very seriously – hoping, I think, to survive by doing well on the exams. In almost every case, this strategy is a spectacular failure. Part of the reason it was so unsuccessful is that performance on the assignments determines a very substantial percentage of the course grade (see below). The other part is that it is almost impossible to do well on the exams without having completed the assignments.

The second problem has been that many students have needed my help with the assignments, but only a few have been willing to seek my help regularly. Again, I think there have been two reasons for this. One of these has been that too many people have tried to work out the assignment problems during the day or two before they were due, which hasn’t left them much time to ask questions. The other has been that people have been afraid to ask questions, perhaps out of fear of embarrassment. I am not sure what I can do about the second reason, except to assure you that I am not at all intimidating, and I am willing to spend as much time as necessary helping students with assignment questions – starting from the beginning, if necessary.

In addition, I am going to try to arrange a weekly assignment study session, perhaps on Friday, where we can talk about current assignment questions or go over questions from previous assignments.
Grading:

The final grade will be based on total points earned on exams and assignments, appropriately weighted. Individual exams and assignments will not be letter graded, but I will report the distribution of the scores. In the case of exams, this score report will include estimates of the grades that might be associated with different ranges along the score distribution.

Points earned on assignments will have a weight of 40-60 percent in determining the final course grades. Points earned on the exams also will have a weight of 40-60 percent.

Academic misconduct:

Indiana University policies concerning academic misconduct (cheating and plagiarism) are described in the IUPUI Campus Bulletin for 2012-2014 under Policies, Academic Policies & Procedures, A. Academic Misconduct. The bulletin is available online.

I encourage people to work together on the assignments. The only qualification is that I want each student to turn in her/his own version of the assignment solutions, whether or not s/he has obtained these solutions in collaboration with other students. Cheating on exams, including take-home portions, will be punished very harshly if detected.