

Course Description

Advanced Microeconomics

**Department of Economics
Master of Science Program**

Module number and title: E 601, Advanced Microeconomics

Form and usability of the module: Core course for M.Sc. Economics program

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden

Cycle of offer: Each fall semester

ECTS credits: 10

Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (4 SWS), exercise session (2 SWS). The first half of the course is taught by Prof. von Thadden, the second by Dr. Lily Ling Yang. Exercise sessions are held by teaching assistants to be announced at the beginning of the course.

Workload: 300 hours, of which 63 in class and 237 independent study time.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Students are expected to have solid mathematical skills at the level reviewed in the Math Prep Course in Week 0 (26 – 30 August). Students without these skills are expected to prepare prior to the start of the program and to attend the Math Prep Course.

Grading: The entire grade will be based on the final examination taking place in the December exam period after the end of teaching. This will be a written, closed-book exam of 120 minutes.

Goals and contents of the module: The course is a foundational course for the whole Master program, as all theories and applications of modern economics are based on microeconomic foundations. The course has two objectives. First, it provides a self-contained advanced introduction to the core concepts, notions, and tools of much of microeconomics, such as rational individual decision making, general equilibrium, and strategic interactions. Second, it acquaints the students with the formal reasoning and economic intuition behind modern economic analysis.

The course covers the following broad areas:

- 1) Consumer and producer theory
- 2) General equilibrium and welfare
- 3) Games of complete information
- 4) Games of incomplete information

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon successful completion of the course, students will know and be able to apply the basic concepts of microeconomic theory. In particular, they will be able to use the formal mathematical tools necessary for understanding economic research and for analyzing problems in economics and other social sciences. With these conceptual and formal competences, students will be able to critically evaluate economic arguments and conduct and communicate their own research in microeconomics and related areas.

Further information: A list of textbooks will be announced at the start of the course. The following two books cover all topics discussed in the course and much more:

Mas-Colell, Andreu, Michael Whinston, Jerry Green: *Microeconomic Theory*, Oxford University Press, 1995.

Varian, Hal: *Microeconomic Analysis*, Norton, New York and London, 1992.

The mathematics needed for this and other courses in the program is covered, e.g., by

Simon, Carl and Lawrence Blume: *Mathematics for Economists*, Norton, New York and London, 1994.

Hammond, Peter and Knut Sydsaeter: *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis*, Pearson Education, London, 2002.

Expected number of students in class: 70

Contact Information:

Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden, Phone: (0621) 181 - 1914; email: vthadden@uni-mannheim.de; Office: 3.19, VWL-Building; Office hours: upon appointment.

Lily Ling Yang, Phone: (0621) 181 – 3059; email: lily.yang@uni-mannheim.de;

Office: 3.42, VWL-Building; Office hours: upon appointment.