





This learning unit is not open to incoming exchange students!

Language :	Dutch
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the problems studied by economists, the elementary concepts of micro-economic analysis, a basic economic cycle and the role of markets as a coordination mechanism • Understand the analysis of competitive markets • Study the behavior of firms • Evaluate the functioning of markets, and identify and understand different solutions to market failures • Apply these concepts to carry out a rigorous analysis of several "real-life" economic problems and economic policy recommendations; • Process information found in general media efficiently and carry out effective research, and critically synthesize the contents of economic articles/texts.
Evaluation methods	<p>Written exam (90% of final result) and paper assignment (10 of final result).</p> <p>The final exam requires a knowledge of the theoretical concepts as well as the ability to apply those concepts to the resolution of applied exercises (similar but not identical to those treated in the exercise sessions) and the analysis of real-life economic problems.</p>
Teaching methods	<p>a) Plenary lectures During the plenary lectures, the professor presents the concepts and mechanisms associated to the different models. Those lectures will follow the course outline presented above. From a methodological point of view, numerous press articles will be used as bibliographical support beyond the reference book. The objective is twofold: train the students to a careful reading and synthesis of economic texts, as well as draw the students' attention to the omnipresence of economic questions in the public debate.</p> <p>b) Exercise sessions (TA sessions) The exercise sessions are carried out in small groups, and aim at checking knowledge acquisition as well as applying the theoretical concepts presented in class to solve exercises and case studies. So as to benefit from those sessions, the students should have reviewed the corresponding lectures.</p> <p>c) Personal work Regular personal work is critical for success. As the course goes on, each student is expected to devote sufficient time so as to make sure he/she understands the subjects being treated. The revision period at the end of the semester should not be the occasion to discover the course contents, but rather to strengthen the comprehension of a course that is already known by the student. Personal meetings with the course assistants and the professor can be arranged for the students who specifically ask it.</p> <p>d) Paper assignment Each student will hand in a short paper in which concepts of the course are applied to a press article, chosen by the student from a list of press articles made available on the course website.</p>
Content	<p>The Economics 1 course will start with a presentation of the economic model of demand and supply in order to provide an analysis of the mechanisms of competitive markets (price determination, equilibrium quantity, etc.). It will also be the occasion to investigate the impact of some public policies such as price control and indirect taxation on the competitive equilibrium.</p> <p>The course will then determine why, and under which conditions, free trade can be viewed as an efficient way to coordinate the actions of specialized economic agents. Through a careful examination of the (utopic) necessary conditions a market must fulfil to be considered perfectly competitive, it will be brought to the students' attention that those conditions are seldom (if ever) respected: the course will then provide an overview of several market failures, as well as study in detail several types of imperfect competition.</p> <p>Finally, the question of the possibility (and the necessity) of public intervention in a market economy will remain a central focus throughout the course.</p> <p>Part I: Introduction Chapter 1: What is economics? - basic concepts (Decoster & Ooghe, ch 1) Chapter 2: Individual rationality and social interaction (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 2)</p> <p>Part II: Supply and demand - how markets work Chapter 3: The market forces of supply and demand (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 3) Chapter 4: Elasticities and shocks (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 4)</p>

	<p>Chapter 5: Supply, demand and government policies (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 5)</p> <p>Part III: Firm behavior in competitive markets</p> <p>Chapter 6: The firm as an organization (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 7)</p> <p>Chapter 7: Technology and costs of production (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 8)</p> <p>Chapter 6: Profit, output and perfect competition (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 10)</p> <p>Part IV: Market failures and welfare analysis</p> <p>Chapter 8: The monopoly (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 10)</p> <p>Chapter 9: Imperfect competition (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 11)</p> <p>Chapter 10: The invisible hand? (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 12)</p> <p>Chapter 11: Public goods and Externalities (Decoster & Ooghe, ch. 13)</p>
Bibliography	<p>Ouvrage de référence: André Decoster et Erwin Ooghe, Economie. Een inleiding, édition 2017, ISBN 9789462701090. Disponible au service de reprographie</p> <p>Syllabus: Tom Truys, Economie 1. Disponible au service de reprographie</p>
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPB

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French-Dutch-English)	COTB1BA	5		
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-Dutch-English)	SOTB1BA	5		
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-Dutch-English)	SPTB1BA	5		