

Syllabus for Economics in the News: Micro Behavior (24F)

Classroom and Time: Mondays 9:10am-12:10pm, at Putong Lecture Building 普 103

Instructor: Joseph Tao-yi Wang ([josephw "at" ntu.edu.tw](mailto:josephw@ntu.edu.tw)), Social Sciences 754

Office Hours: 12:10-1:00pm after class or by email appointment

Class URL: https://homepage.ntu.edu.tw/~josephw/news_principles_micro_24F.htm

Course Description

This is an interdisciplinary course combining news media and principles of economics. For students with no prior knowledge in economics, this is a flipped course in which you first watch videos at NTU OCW (<https://ocw.aca.ntu.edu.tw/ntu-ocw/ocw/cou/110S109>) and then apply principles of economics to news articles assigned. Students majoring in economics may also take this as a capstone course and bring everything they have learned to bear on interesting economic questions found in the news. This course analyzes micro behavior and focuses on microeconomics. After taking the course, you are expected to:

1. Recall basic principles of microeconomics.
2. Analyze assigned news articles with economic principles.
3. Search for interesting news articles and come up with economic questions about them.

Textbooks:

1. News articles assigned.
2. Mankiw, Principles of Economics, 10th ed., Cengage, 2024.
3. Bauman and Klein (2010), Cartoon Introduction to Economics, Vol.1: Microeconomics, Hill and Wang.

Assignments:

1. Weekly Credits (14%): Answer in-class quizzes to receive weekly credit (1%/week).
2. Exam-Giving Contest (6%): Form groups of 3 to propose exam questions based on news articles you find interesting and provide suggested answers. The winning team gets to see their questions in the actual exam.
3. Midterm Exam (40%): 10/21 in-class written exam, focusing on Markets in the News.
4. Final Exam (40%): 12/16 in-class written exam, focusing on Competition in the News.

Note: If you score higher in the final exam, it will count as 70% and the midterm as 10%.

Regrade Policy: Submit requests in writing within one week after exams are returned. All regrades will be performed on the *entire* exam, so your grade may go up or go down.

Course Outline:

[9/2] Competition in the News of 2017: [Review Ten Principles of Economics (Mankiw, Ch.1)]

1. [Free rides boost Kaohsiung MRT traffic by 10 percent](#) (Taipei Times, 12/2/2017)
2. [高捷冬季免費傳捷報! 今尖峰運量增 21%、比首日加倍](#) (自由時報 2017-12-04)
3. [超商雙雄對決科技型態店](#) (via [NTU Library](#)) (經濟日報 2017/12/10)
4. Student Collusion in Professor J's Exam Question Contests (in-class event)

5. [Chunghwa keeps low-cost 4G plan in blow to peers](#) (Taipei Times, 2017/3/2)
6. [電信低價吃到飽打死不退 NCC: 要勇敢](#) (中央社 2017/12/28)
7. [Your Uber Car Creates Congestion. Should You Pay a Fee to Ride?](#) (NY Times, 2017/12/26)

[9/9] Markets in the News of 2017: [Review PPF/Gains from Trade (Mankiw, Ch.2-3)]

1. [Taiwan to levy duty on online purchases over NT\\$2,000](#) (Taiwan News, 2017/05/24)
2. [Busman's holiday: London's buses are losing passengers](#) (Economist, 10/19/2017)
3. [尖叫聲 94 分貝! 孃帶 5 孫租屋 遭投訴迫搬](#) (TVBS, 2017/10/26)
4. [自費醫療 取消收費天花板](#) (via [NTU Library](#)) (聯合報 2017-10-15)

[9/16] Markets in the News of 2022: [Review Supply and Demand (Mankiw, Ch.4)]

1. [In Russia, They Noticed a Rise in the Price of Bulletproof Vests by Thousands of Percent](#) (gamingdeputy.com, 2022/10/1)
2. [In Russia After the Mobilization Soared Prices for Bulletproof Vests](#) (Google Translated of Moscow Times, 2022/9/30)
3. [Mandatory Service Key to Bolstering the Military](#) (Taipei Times, 2022/10/10)
4. [India Restricts Wheat Flour Exports to Ease Record Local Prices](#) (Guardian, 2022/8/26)

[9/23] Markets in the News of 2021: [Review Elasticity (Mankiw, Ch.5)]

1. S. Korean drivers panic buy urea after China tightens supply (Reuters, 2021/11/5)
2. Seoul looking to tap into industrial urea stockpile for diesel cars (Korea Herald, 2021/11/4)
3. China to ship 18,700 tons of urea to South Korea (Korea Herald, 2021/11/10)
4. Taiwan plans to introduce carbon pricing mechanism by 2023 (CNA, 2021/10/13)
5. Notability blinks on charging users more, grandfathers in existing users (2021/11/3)
6. COVID-19 pandemic in Taiwan - After first case reported (Wikipedia)
7. Face mask price drops as government weighs in, factories return to work (China Post, 2020/1/31)

[9/30] Markets in the News of 2020: [Review Intervening the Market (Mankiw, Ch.6)]

1. [投書]YouBike 2.0 試辦後, 台灣公共自行車要邁向什麼樣的未來? (報導者 2020/9/16)
2. 向山旅館再開說明會, 邵族人拒出席表達強烈反對 (環境資訊中心 2020/10/30)
3. 雲林豬價下跌, 張麗善向中央喊話重視養豬產業 (中央社 2020-09-22)
4. 學者質疑: 政府都說沒影響, 幹嘛訂豬價下限 (聯合報 2020/9/18)
5. 日本開放美萊豬, 進口量不增反降 (自由時報 2020/10/27)
6. 7 月豬肉進口量暴增 1.5 倍, 農委會: 遞延效應 (農傳媒 2020/08/12)
7. Overtourism a blessing and curse for Taiwan's outlying islands (Taiwan News, 2020/08/01)

[10/7] Markets in the News of 2019: [Review Markets and Welfare: Application to Taxation and Trade (Mankiw, Ch.7-9)]

1. 不只物價變貴 非洲豬瘟對中國衝擊全方位 (中央社 2019/10/24)

2. 猪价行情提前上涨! 四季度活猪价将会突破 2016 年的历史高点 (猪价格网 2019-06-28)
3. 惡性通膨來了? 中國 10 月豬肉價格狂飆近 2 倍 物價全面上漲 (信傳媒 2019/10/31)
4. 中國豬價狂漲 中小學午餐費調漲或換菜 (中央社 2019/11/1)
5. Gold sales likely to decline 50% on Dhanteras (India Times, 2019/10/9)
6. Inside Wisconsin's Disastrous \$4.5 Billion Deal With Foxconn (Bloomberg, 2019/2/6)

[10/14] Markets in the News of 2018: [Review Externalities (Mankiw, Ch.10)]

1. Venezuela raises minimum wage 3,000% and lots of workers get fired (Bloomberg, 2018/09/14)
2. Chinese economy slowing faster than expected, worst yet to come (南華早報, 2018/10/31)
3. Argentina says exports soyoil to China for first time in 3 years (Reuters, 2018/8/28)
4. EU to offer billions of funding for electric battery plants (Financial Times, 2018/10/14)
5. Canada passed a carbon tax that will give most Canadians more money (Guardian, 2018/10/26)
6. Sask. environment minister says Ottawa's carbon tax change mirrors province's approach (CBC, 2018/8/1)

[10/21] Markets in the News of 2016: [Review Public Goods and Common Resource (Mankiw, Ch.11)]

1. 風數據》YouBike 收費多 5 元 趕走了哪些人? (風傳媒 2016/7/18)
2. 蔬菜搶收供應量暴增 今菜價跌一成 (蘋果日報 2016/9/27)
3. 台大農場畜產品漲價 牛奶、羊奶漲一成多 (蘋果日報 2015/09/01)
4. The 58 Billion Hidden Cost of the Flu on the US Economy (CNBC, 2016/10/28)
5. 讀書能多活兩年? 耶魯大學發現讀書與長壽之間的聯繫 (端聞 2016/08/12)
6. 中國金牌數銳減變「小三」 原因竟是... (蘋果日報 2016/8/17)

[10/28] Midterm Exam

[11/4] Competition in the News of 2022: [Review Cost of Production (Mankiw, Ch.13)]

1. How Will America Deal with Three Way Nuclear Deterrence (Economist, 2022/11/29)
2. How disappointed Taylor Swift fans explain Ticketmaster's monopoly (Vox, 2022/11/21)
3. South Korea's Education Success Faltering (Blumberg, Taipei Times, 2022/11/15)
4. The Guilt of a South Korean Cram School Mogul (Korea Herald, 2017/09/09)
5. Why Workers Just Won't Stop Quitting (BBC, 2022/08/19)

[11/11] Competition in the News of 2021: [Review Competitive Markets (Mankiw, Ch.14)]

1. Q3'21 Was a Record Quarter for Foldable Smartphones, Samsung Enjoys a 93% Share per DSCC Report (DSCC press release, 2020/12/31)
2. 台灣大哥大併台灣之星開啓電信新時代, 業者分析: 低價吃到飽將消失 (中央社 2022/1/3)
3. 上一篇文章談到找工作刷題的問題... (洪士灝臉書 2021/12/29)
4. The Presidential Election of National iDaiwan University Revisited

5. Walmart Draws Anger In China Over Xinjiang (Wall Street Journal, 2021/12/28)

[11/18] Competition in the News of 2020: [Review Monopoly and Monopolistic Competition (Mankiw, Ch.15, 16)]

1. National health insurance premium rate raised to 5.17% (CNA, 2020/12/31)
2. The Pandemic Is a Prisoner's Dilemma Game (New York Times, 2020/12/20)
3. Giga-Sweatshop Meets Corporate Overlords: An Exclusive Look Into How Tesla China Runs its Shanghai Gigafactory 3 (Pingwest.com, 2020/9/16)

[11/25] Competition in the News of 2019: [Review Oligopoly (Mankiw, Ch.17)]

1. What has gone wrong at MotherCare? (BBC, 2018/11/5)
2. Why airlines are rushing to add premium economy seats: Revenue from upgraded meals and wider seats rivals business class for profits (Financial Times, 2019/11/29)
3. 深度評論：台灣薪資停滯的成因與解方 (蘋果日報 2019/12/17)
4. 破 2000 元的 5G 資費，你會埋單嗎？用囚徒困境，看懂為何台灣 5G 標金會飆破天價 (商業週刊 2019/12/30)
5. 5G 競價規則出爐！3.5GHz 頻段 27 區段底價 9 億元 需求超過 27 加價 3% (風傳媒 2019/10/16)

[12/2] Competition in the News of 2018: [Review Factor Markets, Earnings and Discrimination (Mankiw, Ch.18, 19)]

1. 主計總處透露高薪密碼：考研究所/進大公司/考台電 (經濟日報, 12/30/2018)
2. Pacific trade pact takes off with tariffs cut in six nations (Reuters, 2018/12/29)
3. Kery 買 Tesla 昂貴電動車的祕技：開 Uber (癮科技 2018/12/26)
4. The Presidential Election of National iDaiwan University
5. 台大校長遴選 2 關 3 輪投票，不是小學生選班長 (聯合報 1/31/2018)

[12/9] Competition in the News of 2016: [Review Frontiers of Economics (Mankiw, Ch.22)]

1. The Taiwanese see themselves as Taiwanese, not as Chinese (Washington Post, 1/2/2017)
2. Shipping Alliances Shore Up Industry, Unsettle Customers (WSJ, 1/3/2017)
3. Ex-Google employee alleges unequal pay (USA TODAY, 7/21/2015)
4. Tech firms shell out to hire and hoard talent (Economist, 11/5/2016)

[12/16] Final Exam