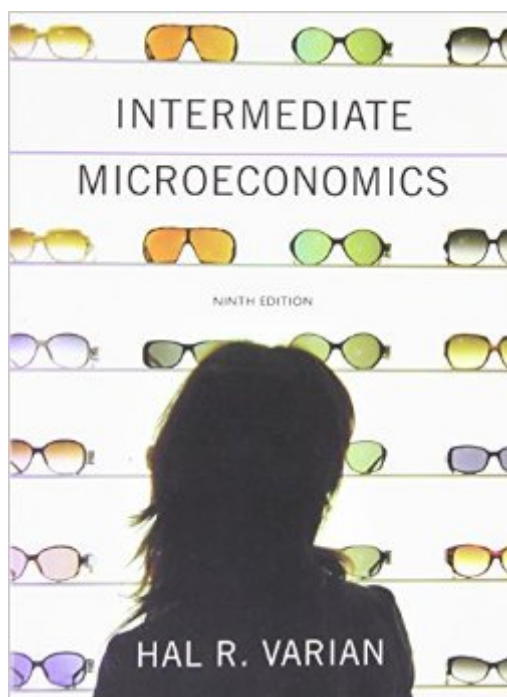


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Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach (Ninth Edition)



Synopsis

Rigorous and modern—the #1 text for Intermediate Microeconomics from the chief economist at Google. This best-selling text is still the most modern presentation of the subject. The Varian approach gives students tools they can use on exams, in the rest of their classes, and in their careers after graduation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This really is an excellent introduction to microeconomics, but its weakness is that it tries to be all things to all people. The author appears to be trying very hard not to scare away potential readers who might be intimidated by calculus. This is a shame, since the level required is not very difficult. All that is really needed is a quick review of the derivative, and the chain rule in particular. Calculus is essential for any further study of economics, so relegating it to the back of chapters does not do students any service. Having said all that, the concepts are very clearly and thoroughly explained. I just wish the math were more 'up front.'

I took an intermediate microeconomics class with this book. Unfortunately the author Varian wanted to make some extra money on the side so the book has only a few problems and examples. Why? Because there is an "accompaniment" workbook. Another \$50, but if you really just want some practice, you can find an older version online posted for free, google it people. (The practice workbook has ~800 questions over the ~30 chapters in the book, and is pretty useful actually) It is a fun read, really it is. It has some great examples in this and is well divided into roughly 30 chapters.

Whatever course your taking, this book is too long for 1 semester so you'll probably skip the later chapters that have more to do with game theory and such. The case studies are good, and the book does a good job explaining utility, CS, PS, allocative efficiency vs. cost effective efficiency, and finally a very good job (covered in 4 chapters) the role and types of monopolists. If your teacher assigns this textbook, its not the end of the world. Im not sure I would pick it up if it wasnt assigned though, its not that level of good.

Varian has done a great job. He got the balance between the math necessary for serious microeconomics, and the examples and jokes necessary to keep the students reading. Using the dual approach (household and producer behaviour), he introduces the reader into microeconomics at a level which makes it possible to move on to more esoteric books like his own 'Microeconomic Analysis', or 'Microeconomic Theory' by Mas-Colell, Whinston, Green. He manages to cover much more than Mankiw can, which is good and necessary to build a solid basis. Yet the book is accessible to anyone familiar with high school math (differentiation and optimization), and requires no economic prerequisites. He also covers several more advanced topics on a stand-alone basis (like economics of information, or game theory) which on the one hand is very useful, as it gives the reader an idea as to where one can head to, but on the other hand is not satisfying as these chapters are necessarily rather superficial. Apart from that, the book is great to built a rigorous basis for household and producer behaviour, and makes it rather easy to go on to much more advanced literature. The math is hidden in the appendices, so it is necessary for a serious understanding to cover these as well, but I don't see any problem with that. This book is as excellent as an introductory micro book can ever be.

This is a decent economics textbook used for my economics class. It has detailed chapters and well drawn figures and good explanations of the material it is presenting, but sometimes skips on the math. A lot of times it will present the big picture and assume you can figure out the math yourself, but it doesn't even tell you which way to go with the math (take derivatives and ratio them then multiply by the price and divide demand is not something I could just figure out myself - I like equations spoon-fed to me).

I used this book for an intermediate micro course I took, and while I cannot say that it instilled in me a burning desire to further study economics, I also did not hate the book. The course I found to be fairly dry as it progressed rather slowly, but from what I read of this book I found myself pleasantly

surprised by its readability. I expected a book that would hold my hand and walk me slowly through every step (which is what I did not want), and even though the book is approachable for students of varying mathematical backgrounds, he was not as afraid as I expected him to be with mathematics. The graphs are generally useful, though sometimes the formatting places them in awkward positions or on subsequent pages. The exercises are fairly routine. It's a fine book, and I'm sure many economics students will find great use from it. For me, though, I don't think I'll be changing teams to join economists any time soon. But, my brief experience was not as bad as I expected.

There are textbooks, and then there are textbooks. This is readable. Unlike so many economics books where you need to wait until after you have the professor's explanations so you can struggle through the print materials, this is written for us mere mortals with clear, concise, ready application examples. Yes, there is some math in the chapters instead of hidden in appendices. There are enough explanations so a reader can translate the Math into English. The author is up-front about readers needing a bit of Calculus. Maybe I was just lucky, but my prof used this book as a launching pad for in depth class discussions so the math was not a barrier but a useful tool. Yes, there are dozens of chapters. Each takes one main idea and breaks it down. Along the way a couple of important related concepts are introduced. Many chapters after the opening section can be skipped without losing anything in subsequent chapters. With a footprint slightly smaller than an iPad and decent sized font, it reads pretty fast for a quantitative book. The Workouts book to accompany is nice, but it does assume that you have an instructor that walks through some of the math applications prior to assigning homework from this. Again, I seemed to luck out with my section. Some of my classmates in later courses sounded less happy with their experience. The production value is a bit low compared to books with four-color graphics, pictures, and lists of web links, but at \$40 it's nearly \$200 cheaper than its competition. And that is GREAT ECONOMICS! I doubt any casual reader would be interested in buying this. If you are thinking about going on in graduate school in economics and need a primer so your core Microeconomics course is not as painful, this is it.

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