The reviews contained in this file are for the first edition of *Principles of Microeconomics (OpenStax)*.

The second edition of the book was added to the B.C. Open Textbook Collection in April 2018 and the first edition removed June 2018. Although these are reviews of the first edition, we believe they offer valuable feedback that may be of use to potential adopters. As such, we have compiled the first-edition reviews so they are available to anyone interested in adopting this book.

Please keep in mind that these reviews are for the first edition, and that the second edition has been revised to increase clarity, update data and current event impacts, and incorporate the feedback from many reviewers and adopters.

Review of Principles of Microeconomics:
OpenStax (First Edition)

Date submitted
2015-07-03 15:10:01

Reviewer Information

Textbook that was reviewed
Principles of Microeconomics: OpenStax

For what level would this textbook be appropriate?
First Year

My name
Peter Dalley

My title/position
Lecturer

My institution
Thompson Rivers University

Comprehensiveness

The text covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary.
This textbook is quite comprehensive for a first year textbook. It covers a thorough foundation of principles of microeconomics plus a number of chapters dedicated to various applications of microeconomics. There's always a trade off in how a book covers certain topics. This one did seem to noticeably skimp on a few relatively basic models that tend to be covered in more depth in other books. However, it went into some depth on other topics that similar texts would skip over. I would expect chapters 4 and 14 through 20 to be covered only if times permits within a course. These are great applications of theory, but it is unlikely they all could be covered within one course. Also, these selected topics chapters are quite US centric and may lack relevancy and context for canadian students, The key terms at the end of each chapter is very helpful as first year textbooks often contain a lot of new jargon students will have never heard. This book is no exception.
How do you rate the book's overall comprehensiveness?
4

Content Accuracy

Content, including diagrams and other supplementary material, is accurate, error-free, and unbiased.
The text is sufficiently accurate in all areas. As with most texts in economics, there is significant bias towards US examples, case studies and application of concepts. A number of spelling and grammatical errors were found, however they are not so problematic as to cause confusion or misunderstanding
Overall, how do you rate the accuracy of the content?
4

Relevance/Longevity

Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.
The text seems as up to date as any I've seen. The text contains a large number of cases and examples that are time sensitive, but shouldn't be too difficult to update. For the most part, the content itself won't require updating as often. The later chapters, beginning with chapter 11, will likely be more time consuming to update as these are application and policy chapters. In these later chapters, not only will the cases and examples require periodic updating at a similar pace as preceding chapters, but the content itself may change more quickly than preceding in chapters as laws, regulations and the economic environment changes.
Overall, how do you rate the relevance/longevity of the book?
4

Clarity

The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.
This textbook is very well written. The language is clear and concise with enough extra attention given to those concepts that require it. It is a relatively easy read. If any jargon is used throughout the text that requires more explanation than that given within the body of the text, the glossary at the end of each chapter should provide enough clarity for most students to grasp.
Overall, how do you rate the clarity of the book?
5

Consistency

The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.
The authors did a great job building basic terminology and conceptual knowledge in a logical manner so that it can be built upon in later chapters. I have no complaints here. The text is sufficiently consistent.
How do you rate the overall consistency of the text?
5

Modularity

The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting too much disruption to the reader.
This is a particular strength of this text. It covers a wide range of topics within microeconomic theory including numerous chapters on applications. As there is likely too much material in this text to cover in a single course, it permits some flexibility in covering a specific selection and/or reorganization of chapters to focus on specific sub-topics or various course designs.
Overall, how do you rate the modularity of the text?
5

Organization/Structure/Flow

The topics in the text are presented in a logical, clear fashion.
Overall, this book flows well. There are a couple of chapters that seem out of place, but could easily be skipped without loss of coverage. For example, chapter 4 doesn't seem to belong, but course developers could easily skip this chapter. Chapters 11 onwards could be covered in any order as they don't necessarily built on each other. The preceding chapters are well organized and material is covered in a perfectly logical manner, building on concepts at a normal pace.

Overall, how do you rate the organization/structure/flow of the text?
4

Interface

The text is free of significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.
Navigation was a breeze. The table of contents in the PDF was hyperlinked to each section making navigation as easy as it could be. The tables were well formatted and easy to read. The case studies and examples were well highlighted making them easy to find and well separated from the main body of the text. I found no issues in this text with regards to navigation, interface or readability.

Overall, how do you rate the textbook's interface?
5

Grammatical/Spelling Errors

The text contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
With the exception of a few typos, the text is generally free of errors. Those that were found did not distract from the content.

How do you rate the grammar and spelling of the text?
4

Diversity and Inclusion

The text reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, religion. It does not include insensitive or offensive language in these areas.
The text is extremely US centric. Most of the case studies and examples are based on US material. This is most problematic in chapters 11 onwards where the material could use a significant Canadian revision. Most of the discussion on legal and regulatory frameworks have little value in a Canadian context. In most classroom textbooks, this type of content undergoes significant Canadian revisions prior to be adopted in canadian classrooms.

Overall, how do you rate the diversity and inclusion of the text?
2

Recommendation

Do you recommend this book? If not, why?
As much as this text is very well written, organized and thorough, I would be hesitant to adopt it because of the extent to which it lacks Canadian context. The first 10 chapters are perfectly useable but would require an instructor to add Canadian content on the fly. However, the later chapters, although very well written and organized, are far too specific to the U.S. to be of significant value in a Canadian classroom studying applied microeconomics in a Canadian context. If this text was given a significant Canadian revision, I would feel very comfortable recommending it. Otherwise, it remains a very good book for studying principles of microeconomics within the U.S. economy.

Review of Principles of Microeconomics: OpenStax (First Edition)

Date submitted
2015-06-08 07:01:32

Reviewer Information

Textbook that was reviewed
Principles of Microeconomics: OpenStax

For what level would this textbook be appropriate?
First Year

My name
Emma Graham

My title/position
Teaching Assistant

My institution
Simon Fraser University

Comprehensiveness

The text covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary.
This book provides a comprehensive introduction to fundamental microeconomic concepts. It is structured very similarly to other microeconomic textbooks, with subsequent chapters building on concepts introduced in previous chapters. 'Key terms' lists are placed throughout the book, which are helpful to understanding the material discussed in each chapter. The index is comprehensive as well and I was able to find very specific items with ease.

How do you rate the book's overall comprehensiveness?
5

Content Accuracy

Content, including diagrams and other supplementary material, is accurate, error-free, and unbiased.
The content is accurate and error-free, but would benefit from a Canadian verison, as there are subtle differences in regulations, markets, etc. The application of theory seems to have a slight liberal bias, unsurprisingly. Material is presented in a fair and balanced way, overall.

Overall, how do you rate the accuracy of the content?
4

Relevance/Longevity

Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.

The book benefits from being a very new publication, and the examples used (eg: Obamacare, Keystone) make the material more relevant and interesting. However, since the examples are political in nature, this book will need frequent updating to ensure it remains relevant. It may benefit from using more sustainable examples for its theory applications.

Overall, how do you rate the relevance/longevity of the book?

4

Clarity

The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.

This book uses straightforward, clear, and non-academic/stuffy prose, which makes the content very easy to read and understand. 'Key terms' lists are distributed frequently throughout the book, which explains any terms or jargon that may be unclear to the reader. Overall, it is a very well written book.

Overall, how do you rate the clarity of the book?

5

Consistency

The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.

This textbook utilizes a very systematic framework to introduce the material. The layout and order of content is very similar to other microeconomic texts, beginning with consumer choice, moving onto supply/demand, then different economies, etc. This order makes learning microeconomics for a beginner very straightforward.

How do you rate the overall consistency of the text?

5

Modularity

The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting too much disruption to the reader.

This text does a good job of breaking up large concepts, making content easily digestible and less overwhelming for the reader. There are a sufficient number of chapters, and frequent headings within chapters to further break up content. While not overly obvious, this text does seem to self-reference more than other microeconomic texts I have read. Overall, the layout of this book is very visually-appealng, and helps the reader learn.

Overall, how do you rate the modularity of the text?

4

Organization/Structure/Flow

The topics in the text are presented in a logical, clear fashion.

This text presents the topics in a very logical way. Each chapter builds upon material introduced in past chapters, and no concept is introduced out of the blue.

Overall, how do you rate the organization/structure/flow of the text?

5

Interface

The text is free of significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.
The colour blue is used frequently throughout the book, for both headings and the charts/graphs/diagrams. The charts are clear, but could benefit from more contrast. For example, I would find the graphs easier to read if the functions were red, rather than everything (axis, numbers, function, labels) being the same blue colour.

Overall, how do you rate the textbook's interface?
4

Grammatical/Spelling Errors

The text contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
This text contains no grammatical errors.

How do you rate the grammar and spelling of the text?
5

Diversity and Inclusion

The text reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, religion. It does not include insensitive or offensive language in these areas.
This text is not culturally insensitive or offensive. As mentioned earlier, there seems to be a slight left-wing leaning based on the examples used, but the examples are largely tolerant and inclusive of different cultures/backgrounds.

Overall, how do you rate the diversity and inclusion of the text?
5

Recommendation

Do you recommend this book? If not, why?
This book would benefit greatly from a Canadian edition. Also, as mentioned, the examples could benefit from being less dependent on current political events, to avoid it from becoming quickly outdated.

Review of Principles of Microeconomics:
OpenStax (First Edition)

Date submitted
2015-03-23 15:48:07

Reviewer Information

Textbook that was reviewed
Principles of Microeconomics: OpenStax

For what level would this textbook be appropriate?
First Year

My name
Sazid Hasan

My title/position
Teaching Assistant

My institution
Simon Fraser University

Comprehensiveness

The text covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary.
Pretty comprehensive for introductory level microeconomics. Includes a variety of applications. Index and glossary are helpful and effective.
How do you rate the book's overall comprehensiveness?
4

Content Accuracy

Content, including diagrams and other supplementary material, is accurate, error-free, and unbiased.
Didn't find any error.
Overall, how do you rate the accuracy of the content?
5

Relevance/Longevity

Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.
This book contains a number of real life numeric examples. The examples are still up-to-date but they should be updated at least in each alternate year in future. Updates should be straightforward, however whether recent data will still fit the context must be checked prior to updating them.

Overall, how do you rate the relevance/longevity of the book?
4

Clarity

The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.
Easy to understand and well-written.

Overall, how do you rate the clarity of the book?
4

Consistency

The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.
Yes.

How do you rate the overall consistency of the text?
4

Modularity

The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting too much disruption to the reader.
Good. To improve further, I would suggest using two columns in the body text and include side notes (definitions, key points) in the discussion.

Overall, how do you rate the modularity of the text?
3

Organization/Structure/Flow

The topics in the text are presented in a logical, clear fashion.
Yes. Pretty straightforward and clear.

Overall, how do you rate the organization/structure/flow of the text?
4

Interface

The text is free of significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.
In most of the cases fine. A few tables is spread over two pages. It will be better if each table can be presented in a single page. Given size of the tables, I think it is possible.

Overall, how do you rate the textbook's interface?
3

Grammatical/Spelling Errors

The text contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
I did not find any.

How do you rate the grammar and spelling of the text?
5

Diversity and Inclusion

The text reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, religion. It does not include insensitive or offensive language in these areas.
Surely not insensitive or offensive. Covers a number of nice examples that should be attractive to all.

Overall, how do you rate the diversity and inclusion of the text?
5

Recommendation

Do you recommend this book? If not, why?
I think the book is appropriate in a Canadian context. Occasional revision about the numeric data should be enough for next few years at least.