Unit Outline

ECON6009 Mineral Market Analysis
Trimester 2, 2015

Unit study package code: ECON6009
Mode of study: Internal
Tuition pattern summary:
Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise information refer to the Learning Activities section.
Lecture: 9 x 4 Hours Semester
This unit does not have a fieldwork component.
Credit Value: 25.0
Pre-requisite units: 10939 (v.0) Natural Resources Economics 601 or any previous version
   OR
   ECON6008 (v.0) Natural Resources Economics or any previous version
Co-requisite units: Nil
Anti-requisite units: Nil
Result type: Grade/Mark
Approved incidental fees: Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website. Visit fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm for details.
Unit coordinator:
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Room: 124

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Building: P01
Room: 115

Learning Management System: Blackboard (lms.curtin.edu.au)
Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.

Syllabus


Introduction


The objective of this unit is to learn how to assess the market environment in which a mineral or energy company operates. After this course, students should be able to use the principles of microeconomics to understand the nature and extent of competition in the various mineral and energy industries in both the short run and long run. The course will cover the following areas:

I. Basic Concepts and Models (Day 1)
   A. Short-Run Model of a Commodity Market
   B. Economic Profits, Economics Rents, and the Extractive Sector
   C. Porter’s Five Sources of Competition

II. Extensions (Days 2-5)
   A. Mineral demand
      1. Derived nature of demand
      2. Functions, curves, elasticities
      3. Substitution
      4. Intensity of use
   B. Mineral supply
      1. Functions, curves, elasticities, and adjustment periods
      2. Estimation
      3. Primary supply (individual, joint)
      4. Secondary supply (from scrap)
   C. Market volatility, instability, and episodes
      1. Immediate-run volatility
      2. Short-run instability
      3. Long-run episodes
   D. Market structures
      1. Competition
      2. Monopoly and monopsony
      3. Dominant firms
      4. Oligopoly and oligopsony
   E. Location and product quality
      1. How transportation costs limit the geographic extent of some markets
      2. How differences in product quality are reflected in price in some markets
   F. Institutional pricing arrangements
   G. Sustainability and sustainable development, and other special topics
Curtin Business School (CBS)
Department of Minerals and Energy
Economics

Unit Learning Outcomes
All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of nine graduate attributes during their course of study. These tell an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and attributes which employers say would be useful in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the graduate attributes through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes tell you what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your achievement of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating we can say you will have achieved all of Curtin’s Graduate Attributes through the assurance of learning process in each unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On successful completion of this unit students can:</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Assess the market environment in which a mineral or energy company operates</td>
<td>✏️ 🕴️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use the tools of microeconomics to understand the nature and extent of competition in the various mineral and energy industries in both the short run and long run</td>
<td>✏️ 🕴️</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Determine the appropriate analysis for each market and assess the differences</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Determine the nature of mineral sector demand and supply and consider market interaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Analyse forces that drive markets and the differences in the mineral sector and evaluate the root cause</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Explain the international nature of mineral energy and export markets</td>
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Curtin’s Graduate Attributes

- **Apply discipline knowledge**
- **Thinking skills** (use analytical skills to solve problems)
- **Information skills** (confidence to investigate new ideas)
- **Communication skills**
- **Technology skills**
- **Learning how to learn** (apply principles learnt to new situations) (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)
- **International perspective** (value the perspectives of others)
- **Cultural understanding** (value the perspectives of others)
- **Professional Skills** (work independently and as a team) (plan own work)

Find out more about Curtin’s Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: ctl.curtin.edu.au

Learning Activities

This unit is delivered in blended/intensive mode for Trimester Two, 2013 and the teaching dates are: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 June from 9.00am - 5.00pm
Learning Resources
Other resources

PRE-READINGS


**MONDAY**


- Chapter 5: Peter Howie, “Mineral Demand—The Theory in Practice”

**TUESDAY**
- Chapter 6: Philip Maxwell, “Mineral Supply—Exploration, Production, Processing and Recycling”

**WEDNESDAY**


**THURSDAY**

- Chapter 13: Roderick Eggert, “Mining, Sustainability and Sustainable Development”
Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value %</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Quizzes                        | 30 percent | Week: Sessions 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th June  
                                        Day: 08/06/2015  
                                        Time: 9:00am   | 1,2,3,4              |
| 2. Group project paper and presentation | 20 percent | Week: 12th June  
                                        Day: 6  
                                        Time: 12:00   | 3,4,5              |
| 3. Final exam                     | 50 percent | Week: 13th June  
                                        Day: 7  
                                        Time: 09:00   | 1,2,3,4,5,6        |

Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. Quiz 1 - Beginning of class Session 1 on pre-course readings - Inclass test
Quizes - Beginning of class Sessions 8, 9 and 10 on 9th, 10th & 11th June - Inclass test

2. Assessment 2: Group Project Report and Presentation
   Assignment: Assess the nature and extent of competition in an assigned commodity market, organized around the five Porter forces.
   - Format: Student teams to be identified on Day 1.
   - Outputs:
     (a) one 5-6 page paper, due at the beginning of class on Day 5
     (b) a group presentation of 15-20 minutes on Day 5
   - Elements of the analysis:
     (a) market definition (product, geography)
     (b) the perspective of a specific company or type of company
     (c) systematic assessment of each of the five forces
     (d) specific conclusions about which forces are the most significant threats to profitability in both the short run and long run
     (e) brief discussion of opportunities for both economic profits and rents

3. Final Examination

Pass requirements
Students must attend the intensive teaching session and obtain a minimum mark of 50% to pass the unit.

Fair assessment through moderation
Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that student work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessment are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm

Late assessment policy
This ensures that the requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed are fair, transparent, equitable, and that penalties are consistently applied.

1. All assessments students are required to submit will have a due date and time specified on this Unit Outline.
2. Students will be penalised by a deduction of ten percent per calendar day for a late assessment submission (eg a mark equivalent to 10% of the total allocated for the assessment will be deducted from the marked value for every day that the assessment is late). This means that an assessment worth 20 marks will have two marks deducted per calendar day late. Hence if it was handed in three calendar days late and given a mark of 16/20, the student would receive 10/20. An assessment more than seven calendar days overdue will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0.

Assessment extension
A student unable to complete an assessment task by/on the original published date/time (eg examinations, tests) or due date/time (eg assignments) must apply for an assessment extension using the Assessment Extension form (available from the Forms page at students.curtin.edu.au/administration/) as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and provide evidence for exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control that prevent them from completing/submitting the assessment task.

The student will be expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the unit coordinator before the assessment date/time or due date/time. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why he or she was not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners' meeting.

Deferred assessments
If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check your OASIS email for details.
Deferred examinations/tests will be held from DD/MM/YY to DD/MM/YY. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

**Supplementary assessments**

Supplementary assessments are not available in this unit.

**Referencing style**

The referencing style for this unit is Chicago. More information can be found on this style from the Library web site: [library.curtin.edu.au](http://library.curtin.edu.au).

**Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)**

Any conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work is considered to be academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences that will be investigated and may result in penalties such as reduced or zero grades, annulled units or even termination from the course.

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one’s own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Submitting work which has been produced by someone else (e.g. allowing or contracting another person to do the work for which you claim authorship) is also plagiarism. Submitted work is subjected to a plagiarism detection process, which may include the use of text matching systems or interviews with students to determine authorship.

Cheating includes (but is not limited to) asking or paying someone to complete an assessment task for you or any use of unauthorised materials or assistance during an examination or test.

For more information, including student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism, refer to the Academic Integrity tab in Blackboard or [academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au](http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au).
Online Supplementation of this unit

This unit is supplemented in Blackboard, a web-based learning environment that is to be used in conjunction with face to face delivery of the unit. If you are new to online environment, we encourage you to look at the CBS Online section of the website at http://business.curtin.edu.au/schools/cgsb/current_students/studying_online/index.cfm

This website provides useful information about Blackboard. Should you require assistance of any kind, please make sure you direct your queries to the appropriate area in order to get the result you need quickly. For content-related issues, contact your Lecturer. For technical issues relating to your online unit, please fill in the online help form available from the above website. The access to your online unit in Blackboard will become available once the trimester has started.

It is recommended that you access your online unit in Blackboard through OASIS (your student portal at Curtin), where it is located under “My Studies” tab. You can also use a direct link: http://www.lms.curtin.edu.au/. If you use a direct link, you will have to use your login and password, which are exactly the same as for OASIS.

If you have not activated your OASIS logon, please go to http://www.oasis.curtin.edu.au and follow the prompts. If you are a new student, please note that to activate OASIS logon you have to know your student number, which is to be found on your letter of offer.

Scheduled CITS outages

Scheduled Maintenance occurs when Curtin Information Technology Services (CITS) takes one or more University systems offline for up to 12 hours to complete routine repairs. During these Scheduled Maintenance windows major maintenance may take place and may affect multiple systems. You should plan for limited or no access to Curtin systems and network, including the possible absence of internet connectivity.

You will be notified two weeks prior to the Scheduled Maintenance window with a detailed list of affected IT services and their associated outage windows. Notices about scheduled maintenance periods are posted in OASIS and will indicate which systems will be affected. When Blackboard is affected specifically, notices about upcoming outages will also be posted on the Blackboard login page. Please pay attention to these notices as they will affect your access to the system (thus your assessment submission).!

You may also refer to the following link for updates on maintenance work (scroll to the bottom of the screen for “Blackboard Maintenance”): http://cits.curtin.edu.au/support/scheduled_maintenance_service_availability.cfm

Submission of all Written Assignments through Turnitin

The majority of your written assessments will be submitted via Turnitin on Blackboard (submission links are located under the Assessment link on the left hand menu in Blackboard). You will also be given the option to upload a draft copy of each assessment to Turnitin prior to your final submission. If you choose to upload a draft (referred to in Turnitin as a “Revision”), Turnitin will generate an Originality Report to help you pinpoint any referencing issues. Make good use of this feedback to improve your writing before uploading your final submission.

If you require further information about how to reference correctly, please visit the Library website (http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?pid=141214), book in to a Library workshop, or access the online Referencing module in the SUCCESS for CGSB Students Blackboard site (this link to the SUCCESS site appears alongside the other Blackboard sites you have access to).

Assessment Guidelines

Marks for each assignment are posted into the Blackboard Grade Centre (assessable through My Grades section in Blackboard), which is the University’s official repository for all grades.

This policy, taken from the University’s Assessment and Student Progression Policy, ensures requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed, are fair, transparent, equitable and penalties are consistently applied.

Assessment Extension Policy

The Assessment and Student Progression Manual details the University’s policies and procedures that ensure that the evaluation and approval of requests to complete an assessment task or submit an assignment (or other work) at a later date is fair, transparent, equitable and auditable.

Below is an overview of key points of the policy. Students are strongly advised to read the policy in full before applying for the extension:

- An application for an Assessment Extension must be submitted prior to the assessment date/time (for an assessment event) or due date/time (for submission of work). If an extension is granted, the Unit Coordinator will determine a new due date and time. An extension will normally be up to 7 working days after the initial due date/ time.
- Where an Assessment Extension extends beyond the date of the Board of Examiners the interim grade ‘Deferred Assessment’ shall be used.

Criteria for Assessment Extension

Exceptional circumstances that may warrant approval of an assessment extension include but are not limited to:

- Student illness, injury, or medical condition of such significance that completion of the assessment task was not possible and this supported by a medical certificate or equivalent;
- Family issues (for example family illness or bereavement etc.) of such significance that completion of the assessment task was not possible. Supporting documentation would be required;
- Commitments to participate in elite sport or other activities that warrant favourable consideration;
- Commitments to assist with emergency service activities (for example, bushfire protection); or
- Unavoidable and unexpected critical work commitments (for example, relocation, changes to fly-in/fly-out schedules). A letter from the employer clearly supporting the student’s claim is required.

(Please note: heavy workload will not normally provide a basis for granting an extension. Students are asked to manage their workloads in relation to both their organisation and their course of study.)
Application for Assessment Extension

- Application for Extensions must be made on the appropriate form (Assessment Extension Form) [http://students.curtin.edu.au/administration/forms.cfm](http://students.curtin.edu.au/administration/forms.cfm) and should be submitted via email to the Unit Coordinator before the assessment due date/time.
- An application may be accepted up to 5 working days after the due date time where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why they were not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date.

The Unit Coordinator shall notify the student of the outcome of their application for assessment extension within 5 working days of the application. If the assessment is rejected the student will be advised in writing of the reasons for this and of any further right of appeal.

Referencing Style

Students must use the Chicago author-date 16th edition referencing style when preparing assignments. More information can be found on this style from the Curtin Library website: [http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing](http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing)

When using EndNote, the style system that should be used is Chicago 16th B Curtin.

Important Information for Students:

Please read the Current Students section of the CGSB website [http://business.curtin.edu.au/schools/cgsb/current_students/index.cfm](http://business.curtin.edu.au/schools/cgsb/current_students/index.cfm) for further information on the following:

- unit availability
- timetables
- re-enrolment procedures
- fee information
- the CGSB Alumni Chapter, and
- Emergency Procedures

Any enquiries concerning your enrolment can be sent to currentstudents@gbs.curtin.edu.au

Enrolment

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- the University’s Guiding Ethical Principles
- the University’s policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University’s policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all these things is available through the University’s “Student Rights and Responsibilities website at: [students.curtin.edu.au/rights](http://students.curtin.edu.au/rights)

Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant family responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact Student Equity at eesj@curtin.edu.au or go to [http://eesj.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm](http://eesj.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm) for more information.


It is important to note that the staff of the university may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance. For general wellbeing concerns or advice please contact Curtin’s Student Wellbeing Advisory Service at: [http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/student_wellbeing_service.htm](http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/student_wellbeing_service.htm)
Recent unit changes

Students are encouraged to provide unit feedback through eVALUate, Curtin's online student feedback system. For more information about eVALUate, please refer to evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/.

To view previous student feedback about this unit, search for the Unit Summary Report at https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/student/unit_search.cfm. See https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/dates.cfm to find out when you can eVALUate this unit.

Recent changes to this unit include:

Updated Journal Articles and assignments
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Module Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Study Questions and Assessment Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>Group presentations &amp; special topics</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Assessment 2: Group Project Group presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>Examination in class</td>
<td>All, including pre-course assignments</td>
<td>Assessment 3: Examination eVALUate opens 27th July closes 16 August</td>
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