Intermediate Microeconomics Theory I
Economics 2150A - 002
Department of Economics
Western University

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Class Location: SH 3345
Class Hours: Tuesday 11:30 am-12:30 pm & Thursday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Course Website: https://owl.uwo.ca

Undergraduate Inquiries (Room SSC 4075):
Phone: 519-661-3507
E-mail: econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration and Prerequisites

Registration Note
You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not
registered in this course, the Department will not release your marks until your registration is
corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website
at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm. If you notice a problem, please
contact your faculty academic counsellor right away.

Prerequisite Note
The prerequisites for this course are Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or
Economics 1020 or 2001A/B, and one of MCV4U, Mathematics 0110A/B, Calculus
1000A/B, Mathematics 1225A/B or the former Calculus 1100A/B.
You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequi-
sites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course [in this case Economics 2260A/B].
Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal.

If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and
you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop
the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter
will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

**Course Information**

**Course Objective**

The course will examine the optimal behaviour of economic agents and the interactions between them. Students will be acquainted with techniques and tools which will permit them to analyze the consumers’ and firms’ decision-making processes when these agents are faced with limited resources. The interaction between the consumers and the producers will be examined within the framework of a perfectly competitive market.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students will learn how to express basic consumer choice and producer choice problems using a mathematical framework. Students will be able to solve constrained optimization problems. Students will be able to explain the outcomes of competitive markets using equilibrium analysis and compare different equilibria using comparative statics. Students will learn how to assess the economic policies using these tools.

**Course Materials**

**Textbooks**


**Lecture Slides**

Most of the material taught will come from the required textbook. Students will also be responsible for material covered in the lectures but not present in the textbook. The lecture slides will be posted on the course website; however, they will not contain the detailed solutions and examples provided during class time. If a student misses any classes, he/she will be responsible for obtaining the notes from other students.

**Outline of Topics Covered**

Specific information on required readings will be provided in the lectures. The chapters come from the Besanko & Braeutigam’s *Microeconomics* text.

- Part I: Introduction
1. Analyzing Economic Problems (Chapter 1)
2. Demand and Supply Analysis (Chapter 2)

- Part II: Consumer Theory
  1. Preferences and Utilities (Chapter 3)
  2. Consumer Choice (Chapter 4)
  3. The Theory of Demand (Chapter 5)

- Part III: Production and Costs
  1. Inputs and Production Functions (Chapter 6)
  2. Costs and Cost Minimization (Chapter 7)
  3. Cost Curves (Chapter 8)

- Part IV: Perfect Competition
  1. Perfectly Competitive Markets (Chapter 9)
  2. Competitive Markets: Applications (Chapter 10)

**Evaluation**

**Assessment**

The final grade will be determined based on four assignments (best three) worth 20% each, two midterm tests worth 20% each, and a final examination worth 40%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Midterms</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
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There are total four assignments and best three will be graded as final marks. The first midterm (Oct 3rd) will cover introduction and consumer theory. Midterm 2 (Nov 7th) will cover production and cost theory and some competitive market materials. The final exam will cover all the topics discussed in the course. The time and location of the final examination will be provided by the Registrar’s Office.

**Policy on Missed Exams and Assignments**

If you do not hand in assignments on time, you will receive a mark of zero for that assignment. If you miss the midterm, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor within 48 hours of the exam. Only absences with a valid reason, with proper approved documentation, will be granted accommodation. Otherwise, you will receive a mark of zero. If the midterm is missed, a make-up exam will be given.
Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own academic Programs. Also remember to check your registration to make sure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca.


3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on your official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.

4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge it by using quotation marks where appropriate and referencing with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the current UWO Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html).

   The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form. Those found guilty will have penalties imposed as noted in point 3.

5. It is Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students are responsible for submitting assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.

6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the University's Procedures in the current UWO Academic Calendar (http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg112.html). Please note the relevant deadlines.

   The Department will not consider any appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If after this discussion you remain dissatisfied with a grade or other decision, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for your appeal. A useful form and checklist is provided at (http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals).
7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

   Last day to **add** a full course or First term half course:  
   **Friday, September 12**\(^{th}\), 2014

   Last day to **drop** second term half course without academic penalty:  
   **Wednesday, November 5**\(^{th}\), 2014

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is not an excuse for a make-up. This rule applies to all mid-term tests and final exams in the Department of Economics.

   **Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**

   *Academic Accommodation will **not** be granted automatically on request. You **must** demonstrate by documentation that there are **compelling** medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

   If you decide to write a test or an examination, you must be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis, is **not** permitted. Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations. Airline flights must not conflict with test or final exams.

   If you are requesting a makeup test for a midterm or a final examination, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone, preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test, but definitely within **24 hours** of the date of the test or exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor. If the instructor is not available, you may send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca (Social Science Room 4075). **Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.**

   Students who seek a makeup test or examination must provide medical or other relevant verification that their absence from a regularly scheduled test or examination is beyond their control. Documentation must support your reasons. Medical documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your **home** Faculty as soon as possible (preferably **within 24 hours of the test**) if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. Failure to follow this procedure, or to provide supporting documentation, may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. If your documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

   For personal illness, if you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If
you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstances, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counselor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the academic counselor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple color form for final examinations). Once you have this form, contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup test and exam.

For final examinations, you need permission from your home Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counseling Office for approval without delay. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

**Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation**

Information about the Faculty of Social Science’s policies regarding academic accommodation is found on its website at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp or in Social Science Room 2105. Your “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg111.html. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

**Policy Regarding Class Attendance**

If your instructor views your class attendance as unsatisfactory, you can be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, you will be notified in writing.

**Statement on Mental Health and Support Services**

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for more information and a complete list of resources, as well as how to obtain help.