

Intermediate Microeconomics I, Honors
Econ 2260A-001/002
Fall, 2018

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Department of Economics
University of Western Ontario

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Course Website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
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Registration:

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 any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course

Math background:

Calculus

Analytic geometry

Linear algebra

[Economics 1021A/B](#) and [Economics 1022A/B](#), or [Economics 2001A/B](#), and one of MCV4U, [Mathematics 0110A/B](#), [Calculus 1000A/B](#), [Calculus 1500A/B](#), [Mathematics 1225A/B](#) or the former [Calculus 1100A/B](#).

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. 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 Objectives:

Economics is a science on relations among individuals such as trades, contracts, conflicts, households, markets, networks, and societies. The fundamental building block of the analysis and design of such relations is the mathematical method for an individual to make decisions. To introduce such decision-theoretic method in the simplest possible setting, we start by assuming that the counterpart of the individual is not a strategic player trying to game him but rather a dummy such as a purely competitive market, which the individual does not need to haggle with. Given this assumption of pure competition, learning the basic decision-theoretic techniques is what we will do throughout this course, the gateway to more serious trainings in economics.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Formal techniques of decisions for individuals (e.g., consumers, producers) in competitive markets
2. Basic skills in solving constrained optimization problems
3. Introduction to the formal, abstract reasoning in economics

Textbook:

Charles Zheng, *Elements of Decision: Lecture Notes of Intermediate Microeconomics 1* (exercises included at the end of each chapter), posted on <https://sites.google.com/site/charleszhenggameconomist/teaching>.

Grading:

Grade = 60% Final grade + 40% Midterm grade if Final grade is above Midterm grade

Grade = 40% Final grade + 60% Midterm grade if Final grade is not above Midterm grade

Midterm grade = 75% max {midterm 1 grade, midterm 2 grade} + 25% min {midterm 1 grade, midterm 2 grade}

Calendar:

Weeks 1-4 Firm's supply; input-output decision; deployment of inputs

Week 5 Thanksgiving

Week 6 Review and **Midterm Exam 1 (Oct. 17 W, regular lecture time)**

Week 7-9 Lagrange method; preference and utility; consumer's decision; part of demand function

Week 10 Review and **Midterm Exam 2 (Nov. 14 W, regular lecture time)**

Week 11-13 Demand function (continued); Slutsky equation; revealed preference

Important Notes:

1. Students are responsible to attend lectures and take notes. Students are welcome to ask questions during lectures regarding the materials. A student who has missed a lecture should not expect a make-up lecture, not even partially, from the instructor.
2. Usage of cameras, phones, or the internet is prohibited during lectures.
3. Students should wait until the Registrar has announced the final exam dates before making winter break travel commitments. Having to fly home before the final exam date does NOT qualify for a make-up final exam.
4. Midterm exams are conducted during the regular lecture hours on pre-announced dates. There is no make-up exam for the midterms. If a student due to a legitimate reason cannot take a midterm and if the reason has been reported and verified before the midterm, then the student's final exam grade is counted as his/her grade for that midterm. Missing a midterm without a pre-approval from the instructor results in a zero grade.
5. It is likely that some materials in exams are *not* covered in lectures.
6. The lecture notes are updated frequently. The latest version of each chapter is posted on the above-named website, indicated by the date in the "Last update" header of the chapter. Be sure to refresh your web browser (or clean its cache) for it to show the updated version.

Please Note
Department Policies for 2018-2019

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they 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>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
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 an official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A 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:

Deadline to add a first term half course:

Friday September 14, 2018

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Monday November 12, 2018

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

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

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having their value reweighted on a retroactive basis, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.

Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

Students who seek a makeup exam must also provide supporting medical or other relevant documentation that their absence from a scheduled test or exam is beyond their control. Documentation should be submitted to the Academic Counselling Office of the student's *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the scheduled test)**. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. If the documentation submitted is not acceptable, students will receive a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must also 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 religious or compassionate circumstances, students should ask their Academic Counsellor what documentation to provide. If documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple-color form for final exams). Once students have this form, they must contact their instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved by their Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that students will be allowed to write the makeup test/exam.

For final examinations, students need to seek permission from their *home* Faculty Counsellor, Instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in a grade of zero. Students 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 Counselling Office for approval without delay. If approved, makeup examinations will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

The Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html.

"Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the Western Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>. 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 the instructor deems a student's class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.