

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS I, HONORS
ECONOMICS EC2260A-001/002
Department of Economics
University of Western Ontario

September 2020

All dates and times in this syllabus are strictly based on the time zone in London Ontario.

General Information:

Professor: Charles Z. Zheng
Office: 4026 SSC
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 85461
Email: charles.zheng@uwo.ca
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 11am-11:30am ET on Zoom
Delivery mode: Online asynchronous
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

TA: Charles Gauthier
Office: SSC 4047
Phone: 581-997-1859
Email: cgauth26@uwo.ca
Office hours: Thursday 10:00-12:00am ET on Zoom

TA: Kun Zhu
Office: SSC 4004
Phone: 519-495-6281
Email: kzhu89@uwo.ca
Office hours: Friday 13:30-15:30pm ET on Zoom

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 are: **Economics 1021A/B** and **1022A/B**, or **Economics 1020** or **2001A/B**; and **Calculus 1000A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%), **Calculus 1500A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%), or **Calculus 1100A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%); and a decent math background in multivariable calculus (e.g., partial derivatives and implicit functions), analytic geometry, and linear algebra.

Antirequisite: **Econ 2150A/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(s) and Course Materials:

Required textbook for this course:

Charles Z. Zheng, Elements of Decision: Lecture Notes of Intermediate Microeconomics 1 (exercises included at the end of each chapter), posted on the OWL website of this course.

Tentative Calendar:

Week 1	Firm's supply
Week 2	Deployment of inputs
Week 3-4	Lagrange method
Week 5	Thanksgiving
Week 6	Review and Midterm Exam 1
Week 7	Preference and utility
Week 8	Consumer's decision
Week 9	Revealed preference
Week 10	Review and Midterm Exam 2
Week 11	Zero-sum games
Week 12	Nash equilibrium
Week 13	Review

Communication:

- (i) Course OWL site
 - All course materials will be posted on the course OWL site.
 - Students should check the course OWL site regularly, at least twice per day during weekdays.

- (ii) Regular Q & A meetings on Zoom
 - The timing is the Professor's office hours posted at the top of this syllabus.
 - The time slot is devoted purely for this class and not for the other class that the professor is also teaching.
 - Students are strongly advised to attend the Professor's office hours (Q&A meetings) at their entirety (rather than drop in in the middle of the meeting): otherwise one might ask a question that has been asked and answered before, causing inefficient usage of time for everyone.
 - These meetings will not be recorded.
 - The first meeting is on Wednesday September 9.
 - There will be no meetings in the week of November 3 (Fall Reading Week).
 - The last meeting is on Monday December 7.
 - In addition to the professor's weekly office hours, please take advantage of the TAs' weekly office hours.

- (iii) Email
 - Important announcements will be posted on OWL, which should also email you the announcements immediately after the posting.
 - Please put *Econ 2260* in the Subject when you send the professor or the TAs an email about the course.

Technical Requirements

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone
- Webcam

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Assessments and 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}

Midterm and Final Exams:

- Midterm Exam 1 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 14, 9am ET - 2pm ET.
- Midterm Exam 2 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 18, 9am ET - 2pm ET.
- Final Exam will be scheduled by the registrar.
- Each of the three exams is meant for the duration of 2 hours. However, according to the Universal Instructional Design (UID), I shall provide 5 hours, 9am ET - 2pm ET, to all students to complete the 2-hour exam. According to the university policy based on the UID, this 5-hour duration for the 2-hour exam is sufficient to accommodate students with disabilities. Please do NOT request any other accommodation for disabilities.
- The set of questions in each exam will be posted at the OWL site at the starting time of the exam (9am ET). You will submit your answers to the OWL site. The submission deadline is the end time of the exam (2pm ET).
- During exams students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor.
- Each exam is open-book and open-note, with calculators allowed.
- There is no make-up exam for the midterm exams. 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 professor results in a zero grade.
- Marked midterm exam will be returned electronically through OWL.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

- Read the lecture notes critically, word by word. Be sure to understand every definition, every equation, and every deduction. When in doubt, ask the TAs and, if still in doubt, the professor. Sometimes it might be just a typo in the lecture note: since I update the lecture notes often, typos occur as well; and they help to slow down your reading (the right way to read math).
- Do every exercise at the end of each chapter of the lecture note (unless I tell you to skip in an announcement). Check your result with the solutions posted on the OWL site. Ask the TAs and then the instructor if you need help.
- Exams are based on the materials in the lecture notes and the exercises.
- The lecture notes are updated frequently. The latest version of each chapter is posted on the OWL site, 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.
- Follow suggested timelines posted on OWL site, under the sub-module “Professor’s Daily Log” of the module “Course Materials.”
- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet on a weekly basis for study and peer support.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences 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 Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. 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. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: 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 submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a first term half course:

Thursday September 17, 2020

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Thursday November 12, 2020

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant

documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:
[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#).

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

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.