

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS I
ECONOMICS EC2260A – 001/002
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2022

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30PM to 2:30PM on Zoom
Delivery mode: In-person
Meeting times: Section 001: Mon 1:30 - 2:30PM, Wed 1:30 - 3:30PM
Section 002: Mon 10:30 - 11:30AM, Wed 10:30AM - 12:30PM
Classroom: Section 001: UCC 56
Section 002: SSC 2036
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

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/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 1021A/B** and **Economics 1022A/B**; or **Economics 2001A/B**, and **Calculus 1000A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%) or **Calculus 1500A/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: **Economics 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 Description:

Theories of consumer and firm behavior and equilibrium in competitive markets.

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 and Course Materials:

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

Communication:

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.

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 and webcam
- Scanner/ smartphone

This equipment is needed for the following purposes: (1) to access the resources and announcements on OWL, (2) to participate in virtual office hours using Zoom, (3) to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances. One such circumstance is that, if due to Covid 19 there is another lockdown and classes return to virtual, students may be required write exams on OWL and scan or take pictures of handwritten answers and either send these images to the instructor via email or upload them onto OWL.

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:

Assessment will consist of two midterm exams and a final exam. Midterm 1 is tentatively scheduled for week 5 and Midterm 2 is tentatively scheduled for week 10. The final exam will be scheduled and announced by the registrar.

I will put more weight on your better exams when calculating your course grade. To calculate your midterm grade, I use the following formula:

$$Midterm = 75\% \max\{midterm\ 1, midterm\ 2\} + 25\% \min\{midterm1, midterm\ 2\}$$

To calculate your course grade, I use the following formula:

$$Course\ Grade = 60\% \max\{Final, Midterm\} + 40\% \min\{Final, Midterm\}$$

This scheme allows you to improve over the term, without overly penalizing poor early performance in the course.

The midterms and final exams will each be 2 hours in length and in mixed format.

Note: Use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, etc) and dictionaries are not allowed during exams; electronic devices caught in a student's possession or on will be taken as an attempt to cheat. Students are also banned from wearing or having on their desk any kind of wristwatch/timepiece during exams (time will be displayed on either a wall clock, board or projector). During exams students may use only a non- programmable/non-graphing calculator (but lids/covers must be removed).

Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:

Students **must** follow Western University's procedures for approval of their absence from any exam in order to receive an accommodation. Please see the **Please Note Department Policies for**

2022-2023 section of this syllabus for details on these procedures. Missed exams without approved, documented official accommodation will be given a mark of zero

Students who miss a midterm exam (and approved through academic counselling) **will have the weight of the missed exam shifted to the final exam.** Students must notify me no later than 24 hours after the end of the excused period.

Students who have an approved absence from the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam that may differ in format from the original final exam.

Tentative Calendar:

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

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 of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2022

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, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
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 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 to the instructor.
6. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in 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.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. 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 to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

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 16, 2022**
 - Deadline to drop a first term half course: **Saturday, November 12, 2022**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

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.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- 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. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), 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](#).
- **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. 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 to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, 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/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** 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.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **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.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unity may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.