

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY I
ECONOMICS 2150A-002/005
Department of Economics
Western University
September 2024

Instructor: Peter Streufert

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Office hours: Tu 11:30am-12:30pm, W 11am-2pm (ET, via Zoom, except Sep 17, Oct 22)

Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Delivery mode: In person

Meeting time and place:

Section 002. Tu 9:30-10:30am, Th 9:30-11:30am, UC-3110 (no lecture Sep 17, Oct 22)

Section 005. Tu 2:30-3:30pm, Th 2:30-4:30pm, UC-3110 (no lecture Sep 17, Oct 22)

Undergraduate Inquiries: 519-661-3507, 4078 Social Science, 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 Note:

The prerequisites for this course are [1] Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B; and [2] One of MCV4U, Mathematics 0110A/B, Calculus 1000A/B, Calculus 1500A/B, or Mathematics 1225A/B. An antirequisite is Economics 2260A/B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any antirequisite 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:

As stated in the university's academic calendar, this course concerns "theories of the behaviour of consumers and firms, and the theory of competitive markets".

Course Learning Outcomes:

A. Students will have the opportunity:

1. To acquire the mathematical rudiments of maximizing a two-variable objective function subject to a linear constraint.
2. To apply those principles to model a consumer's choice of consumption goods subject to a budget constraint.
3. To apply those same principles to model a producer's choice of inputs subject to a technological constraint.
4. To use further elementary mathematics to model how a price-taking firm maximizes profits given the minimized costs studied earlier.
5. To use further elementary mathematics to model perfectly competitive markets in which both consumers and producers are price-takers.
6. To acquire knowledge of consumer and producer surplus, and to apply those tools to evaluate the effects of government policies.

Textbooks:

B. There are two textbooks. David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, 2020, *Microeconomics, Sixth Edition* is available for purchase in the bookstore. It is abbreviated "BB" below. Peter Streufert, 2021, *Sandbox Examples for Intermediate Consumer and Producer Theory* will be available without cost on OWL (this copyrighted material is for your personal use only). It is abbreviated "SE" below. (An additional resource is the Economics Department's [webpage](#) of math resources for students in required 2100 courses.)

Technical Requirements:

C. Students are required to have a computer with a camera, a microphone, and a stable internet connection. This equipment is needed for the following purposes: (1) to access the resources and announcements on OWL, (2) to participate in office hours on Zoom, and (3) to be prepared for unexpected contingencies.

D. Access to OWL and Zoom resources will be restricted to students with UWO credentials. This is typically done by means of students' UWO email addresses (@uwo.ca or @ivey.ca). For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL (please update your browser frequently).

Marking:

E. The course mark will be determined by two 75-minute midterm examinations (25% each) and a two-hour final examination (50%). The midterms are tentatively scheduled for 10:30-11:45am on Saturday October 5 (tentative), and 10:30-11:45am on Saturday November 9 (tentative). The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar at a later date.

F. Although some examination questions will resemble homework problems, students should not expect that all examination questions will resemble homework problems. Further, little information

about the format of the examinations will be given prior to the examinations. This allows the instructor to more efficiently examine whether students have accomplished the course learning outcomes.

G. As with any course, it is impossible for this course's instructor to perfectly predict the difficulty of examination questions. Because of this, students should not expect that the course mark will equal the average percentage of correctly answered examination questions. Rather, systematic adjustments to such percentages will occur.

Provisions for Fairness:

H. Full examination instructions will be made known as the examinations approach. However, two rules can be expected. (a) During examinations, students may not use any books, or notes, or cell phones, or electronic dictionaries, or any device with graphing or programming capabilities. Cheap calculators will be the only devices allowed. (b) During examinations, students may not communicate about exam content with any person other than the instructor. This implies that students may not talk with the proctors about the exam content.

I. University policy on academic considerations is described here. Within that document, please be especially sure to read parts 1-4 in the Policy section. Note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

J. There are no make-up midterm exams. Rather, an excused midterm's weight will be shifted to the final exam.

K. If a student takes both midterms, and scores higher on the final than on their worst midterm, the course mark will be calculated by placing 15% of the weight on the worst midterm, 25% on the other midterm, and 60% on the final.

L. If a student misses the final exam, University and Economics Department policies require that they (a) request academic consideration from the counselors and (b) contact the instructor, both within 48 hours. Failure to do so will typically invalidate any excuse in all but extreme circumstances. Make-up final exams will be scheduled by the instructor. (Note that Paragraph I also applies to make-up final exams.)

M. Students who have been excused from one or more exams may find that their final exam differs in form and/or content from the final exam given to students who have written all exams at the regularly scheduled times. For example, a student who has not written one of the midterms may find that their final exam (whether regularly scheduled or make-up) has more questions concerning the material that would have been tested on the unwritten midterm. Or, for another example, a student writing a make-up final exam may find that their final exam has questions on different topics than those tested in the regularly scheduled final exam, and that those questions need to be answered by essay rather than short-answer or multiple-choice. Such alterations are not intended to change the expected difficulty of the exams.

Schedule:

N. Although the course will cover the standard topics from first-semester intermediate microeconomics, the course will present the material in a different and more accessible order. For this reason, the readings below appear to be scrambled. (The specific readings below are tentative and incomplete. Please see the OWL site for the actual readings.) The October midterm should find us well into Part 2, and the November midterm should find us almost halfway through Part 3. (Part 4 will require very little time.)

Part 1. Constrained optimization with one choice variable (readings are tentative)

Output from one input. BB Sections 6.1, 6.2

Producer theory with one input. BB Section 1.2, 6.2 (some readings are relevant in two places)

Utility from one consumption good. BB Section 3.2A, SE Chapter C

Consumer theory with one consumption good. BB Sections 2.2, 2.3, SE Chapter C

Part 2. Equilibrium among one-choice-variable agents (readings are tentative)

Profit maximization, BB Section 9.1, 9.2, SE Chapter M

Perfect competition, BB Section 2.1, 5.4, 9.1, 9.5, 9.A

Government intervention, BB Sections 10.1, 10.2, 10.3

Part 3. Constrained optimization with two choice variables (readings are tentative)

Expenditure on two consumption goods and the price ratio. BB Section 4.1, SE Chapter D

Utility from two consumption goods and the MRS. BB Sections 3.2B, 3.3, SE Chapter E

Indifference curves over two consumption goods. BB Section 3.1, SE Chapter F

Utility maximization with two consumption goods. BB Section 4.2, SE Chapters G, H

Comparative statics with two consumption goods. BB Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, SE Chapter J

Output from two inputs. BB Sections 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 7.1

Producer theory with two inputs. BB Section 7.2, 7.3, 8.1, SE Chapter K, L

Part 4. Equilibrium among two-choice-variable agents

(Revisit Part 2 and make small modifications)

Privacy, Copyright, Conduct:

O. Students may not record office hours or any other online session. This is to protect the privacy of the other students.

P. All course materials are protected by copyright law. Thus a student may not reproduce (or allow others to reproduce) any of the course materials, unless it for the student's own educational purposes.

Q. Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024

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. A *[new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment](#)* policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students *cannot* self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
4. **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.
5. **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 4.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to **DROP/WITHDRAW** first term full or half course: **Mon, Dec 2, 2024**

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 **48 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 unit 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.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

To pass an essay course, students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

¹ From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbing.pdf

² From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage from someone else’s work and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university.

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. ***Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.***

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on ‘style guides’. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library’s homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” under Tools on the homepage.

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The “new view of unemployment” which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are “1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey” (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor’s instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University’s Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available

electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (Economic Literature) is an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotero*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html.

Essay Prize in Economics

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.

Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling, and grammar. The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed. The deadlines for instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st
Winter courses: May 1st

The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.