

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

September 2024

Instructor: Professor Charles Z. Zheng
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Office hours: W 3:40 - 4:40
Delivery mode: In-person
Meeting time(s): Section 001: M 1:30 - 2:30, W 1:30-3:30
Section 002: M 11:30 - 12:30, W 10:30 - 12:30

Classroom: UCC 41

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

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 prerequisite(s) 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.

The antirequisite(s) for this course is **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 in 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

Course Description:

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|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Firm's supply |
| Week 2 | Deployment of inputs |
| Week 3-4 | Lagrange method |
| Week 5 | Review and Midterm Exam 1 |
| Week 6 | Reading Week (including Thanksgiving) |
| 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 |

Textbook and Course Materials:

All materials (exercises included) will be based on the course packet written by Professor Zheng, and the course packet is available in the Campus Bookstore, titled *Elements of Decision: Lecture Notes on Intermediate Microeconomics*.

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 Exam 1 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday Oct 9 during the class meeting time.
- Midterm Exam 2 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday Nov 13 during the class meeting time.
- Final Exam will be scheduled by the registrar.
- During exams students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor.
- Each exam is closed-book and closed-note, allowing calculators without internet access.
- 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 *approved by the instructor before the midterm*, then the student's final exam grade is counted as the student's grade for that midterm. Missed exams without pre-approved, documented official accommodation from Academic Counseling are given a zero mark.
- Due to the flexibility in the assessment described above, academic consideration through *self-attestation will be denied*.
- According to the university policy, once a student opens and starts an online or in-person test, it is no longer permitted to request accommodation.
- Note that in the event that classes move to an online status, the assessment dates, times and choices may change.

Important Notes Specific to This Class:

1. Students are responsible to attend lectures and take notes. Students are encouraged to ask questions or contribute thoughts during lectures regarding the course materials. A student who has missed a lecture should *not* expect a make-up lecture, not even partially, from the instructor.
2. Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor during the lecture, *no part of a lecture is allowed to be recorded*.

3. Please refrain from using internet devices (smart phones, iPads, etc.) during lectures. If you have to use such devices due to emergency, please step outside the classroom to do so.
4. 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.
5. It is likely that some materials in exams are *not* covered in lectures.
6. You are supposed to work out every exercise in every chapter that is partially or entirely covered in the lectures. Consult the TAs for help. Solutions to the exercises will be posted at the course website after the corresponding chapter is covered.

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 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 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.