

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Department of Economics

AP/ECON 3200 3.0 B: Industrial Organization

Fall 2020 Course Outline

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Office hours: Tuesday 2-3pm (Toronto time)

This is an on-line course. All course material, office hours, and testing will be on-line. Two platform will be used in this course (Moodle and Zoom) through which students will interact with the course material and complete the coursework.

Course web site is on Moodle, which can be accessed from:

<https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/my/>

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.0 or equivalent

I expect that you will be able to perform basic calculus, including simple partial and total derivatives.

Course Description

The objective of this course is to study the effects of various market structures on economic performance and conduct of modern business enterprise. In this course we apply economic theory to analyze factors that determine industry structure, and strategies that companies might use to acquire and use market power in different market situations. Specific topics covered in this course include pricing and product differentiation strategies, strategic interactions among competing firms, advertising, vertical integration and the role of government competition policy.

Technological requirements

- Lectures: the lectures will be pre-recorded and posted along with the lecture notes on the course web site on Moodle.
- Office hours: Virtual office hours are held weekly on Tuesdays (except for the reading week) at 2-3pm, and will be in the form of a video conference using Zoom. Students could access these Zoom meetings from the course Moodle page. Participation in office hours requires high-speed internet connection, along with a computer (or smartphone) with web camera and microphone.
- On-line quizzes will be posted weekly on Moodle.

Required Text

Modern Industrial Organization, by D.W. Carlton and J.M. Perloff, 4th Edition, Addison Wesley, 2005

Course outline

- The course will cover Chapters 1-12, 14, 16, 18.
- Although the lectures will generally follow the textbook, they will depart frequently. The additional material will be included in slides. The most priority should be on lecture slides and then the text.
- Supplementary readings will be posted on the Moodle site. The supplementary readings will serve more than a single purpose. They will find real world examples of some of the concepts we discuss in class. They will also include written work by leading economists on topics that offers new evidence and interpretation of the models and debates presented in class.

Evaluation

- The course grade will be based on on-line quizzes (10%), the midterm test (40%) and the final exam (50%). If the average of the midterm and the final exam is 45 or less, the weight on quizzes become zero and the weights on each of the two tests become 45% and 55%.
- Under no circumstances I will shift the weights from midterm test/quizzes to the final exam.
- Quizzes: Starting with the second week of classes, there will be weekly on-line quizzes held on Moodle. You will have a 5-day window to complete each quiz. Two quizzes with lowest grades will be excluded from calculating of the quiz grade component.
- The **midterm test** will be held during the regular class time for this course on the following date:
 - October 20 at 7pm (Toronto time).
 - There will be no class or new course material delivered on the week of the midterm test.
- Make-up midterm tests. Students who cannot attend the midterm test for a legitimate reason must inform me before the test and provide medical (or other) documentation within one week of the missed test in a manner required by the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. The make-up midterm test will be on October 27 at 7pm. Students who could not complete both the original and the make-up midterm tests must schedule an oral midterm test examination with me before the last week of the term. The oral test will be conducted over Zoon or over the phone with internet connection. Students who would not complete the midterm test by the last week of the term would not be allowed to write the final exam.

- The final exam will be scheduled later during the term by the Registrar's office. The make-up final will be scheduled for some day in the Winter term. The second (and the following) make-up final will be oral conducted via Zoom or a phone with internet connection.
- Practice problem sets and solutions will be posted after completion of each topic.

Important Dates

Classes start / end	Sep. 9 – Dec. 9
Examination Period	Dec. 9-25
Reading week	Oct. 10-15
Last date to add a course without / with permission of instructor	Sep. 22
Last date to drop course without receiving a grade	Oct. 6
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a 'W' on the transcript)	Nov.7 – Dec. 8

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

The Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards (CCAS) provides a [Student Information Sheet](#) that includes:

- [York's Academic Honesty Policy](#) and Procedures / [Academic Integrity Web site](#)
- [Access/Disability](#)
- [Religious Observance Accommodation](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Additional information:

- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling](#)
- [Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy](#)

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for 'full year' courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.
- **"20% Rule"**

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.
- Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Guidelines for Deferred Standing
(Final exam and term work extensions)

A Deferred Standing (extension) is a process by which students who are either unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or submit term work before the Faculty deadline to submit final grades reach an agreement with the course director for an extension to the deadline. The course director may grant deferred standing in the course. In doing so, a date is set for writing the exam or submitting the outstanding work. In order to qualify for Deferred Standing, a student must complete the standard Deferred Standing Agreement form. This form is available at the Office of the Registrar and the Economics Undergraduate Office (1144 Vari Hall).

Deadline:

Senate Policy states, “Normally requests for deferred standing must be communicated within one week following a missed examination or the last day to submit course work” (the period during which the University is officially closed for December holidays and statutory holidays is not counted in the determination of deadline days).

It is the responsibility of students to make arrangements with the course director to complete the course and file the Deferred Standing Agreement form with the appropriate departmental/unit office by the deadline specified on the form. Appropriate Documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed final examination must be provided at the time of requesting the Deferred Standing from the Course Director.

WHAT IS APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION?

MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an **Attending Physician’s Statement** downloadable from the York University’s registrar site (see the attached copy). The physician’s statement must include the following information:

- i) Full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
- ii) State the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered).
- iii) An indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have **SERIOUSLY** affected the student’s ability to study and perform over the period in question.

NOTE: the physician’s office may be contacted to verify that the statement was actually completed by the physician.

NON-MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e. death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket receipt for **emergency travel** (with the date of booking on the ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Having to work at the time of the exam or non-emergency travels **are not** considered valid excuses for missing the exam.

If the course director does not agree to consider requests for deferred standing students then may file a petition with the relevant Faculty-level committee for consideration within the established deadline.