

**Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University**  
**AP/ECON 3200 3.0 Industrial Organization (Sec B) [Fall 2021]**  
**Course Outline**

**1.1 Course Webpage**

eclass (Moodle): [eclass.yorku.ca](https://eclass.yorku.ca) (available by the first day of class).

**1.2 Prerequisite**

AP/ECON 1000 3.00 or equivalent. Course credit exclusion: GL/ECON 3370 3.00.

[*Instructor's note:* Calculus procedures, including simple partial and total derivatives would be integrated in this course. Please see section 2.3 for more details]

**1.3 Course Instructor/Contact**

**Instructor:** Dr. Simin Seury, Department of Economics, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, CANADA. Phone: N/A. Email: [seury@yorku.ca](mailto:seury@yorku.ca)

**Office Hours:** Fridays 12:00 – 13:00 & Mondays by appointment (Zoom link will be posted on eclass)

**1.4 Lecture (Time/Location/Delivery Mode)**

Lecture: **Tuesdays 19:00-22:00 (EST). Room: ACW 206**

**Delivery: In-person** (subject to change due to health policies announced by York University related to Covid-19); students should be available during these hours for in-person live and synchronous lectures/tests/presentations and/or other synchronous activities.

**Time-zones:** Times for all activities, e.g. lectures, tests/exams, due dates, are according to **local Toronto time (EST)**. (Errors in calculations are not an acceptable reason to miss tests/deadlines).

**2.1 Course Description**

The primary focus of the course is to study non-strategic and strategic behaviour of firms and industrial organizations under different market structures, with emphasis on imperfectly competitive markets. Topics include pricing and product differentiation strategies, strategic interactions among competing firms, entry deterrence, advertising, integration, and the role of government competition policy.

**2.2 Course Text / Requirements:**

**Required Textbook:** *Industrial Organization* by Lynne Pepall, Dan Richards, George Norman, 5th edition, Wiley – E-Textbook (available on Wiley.com, Amazon.ca and CourseSmart.com. This is the main reference for our course. I will use the latest edition, but you can use an older edition.)

Supplementary references will be posted on the Moodle site, which would include real world examples, and work by leading economists, including some materials from the following text: *Modern Industrial Organization*, by D.W. Carlton and J.M. Perloff, 4th Edition, Addison Wesley, 2005.

**2.3. Tentative Topics**

- Introduction to IO, Competition and Market Structure.
- The Firm, Industry and Market Power.
- The Firm, Technology and Costs.
- Cartel, Oligopoly, and strategic behaviour.
- Oligopolistic Competition: Static and Dynamic Games, Sequential entry.
- Price Discrimination and Monopoly: Linear and Nonlinear Pricing.
- Product differentiation, Commodity Bundling, Tie-in Sales.
- Non-cooperative strategic behaviour. Entry Deterrence. Predatory pricing, price fixing and other advanced topics in pricing.

- Mergers, acquisitions, and restraints.
- Government Policies and Their Effects, International Trade: Monopoly and Monopolistic competition.

A **Tentative (Weekly) Schedule** would be posted in the course page with more details. Your instructor reserves the right to make small changes to the coverage as the course develops. Knowledge of AP/ECON 1530 (or equivalent) materials would be extremely useful in this course, as most of the course materials are based on microeconomics (theory and applications) with calculus.

### **3.1 Evaluation**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Due Date / Time / Structure<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>
Midterm 1	Tuesday October 05, 2021, during class time; in class, in person, synchronous.
Midterm 2	Tuesday November 16, 2021, during class; in class, in person, synchronous.
Quizzes	Several quizzes throughout the semester; lowest quiz grade would be dropped.
Final Exam	TBA. According to the Fall Exam schedule. Syllabus: Cumulative (including everything covered throughout the semester); in person, synchronous.
Project	One project and presentation with specific deadlines (TBA).

Notes: (1) If there are any changes in any of these dates, students would be notified on or before 2<sup>nd</sup> week.

(2) Final exam and Midterms are in-person (subject to change only due to health policies announced by York University related to Covid-19).

**Grades would be calculated according to the following default scheme:** Highest Midterm 30% + lowest Midterm 20% + Final Exam (35%) + Quizzes (10%) + Project (5%).

**Midterm Tests** will be synchronous, in-person, held in class on the date mentioned above. There would be several problem-solving questions (no Multiple-Choice Questions); you would need to answer all. Further details would be provided in the course page before each exam.

**The Final exam** will be synchronous, in-person, held according to the Fall 2021 exam schedule (TBA); the syllabus would be **cumulative** (including all the materials discussed in this course). There would be several problem-solving questions (no Multiple-Choice Questions); you would need to answer all. **The Fall Exam Period runs from Dec 9 to Dec 23, 2021** (inclusive). It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you are available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period for the term corresponding to your course. No alternative date for the final exam will be offered.

More information about tests and exams would be provided in our course website before each exam. Your instructor reserves the right to re-write an exam. Exam questions would be similar to the end of the chapter questions from the textbook, and contents/problems discussed in our class. As such, no further sample questions would be provided.

**Quizzes** would be asynchronous, using eclass quiz assessment, consisting of short problem solving / numeric / graphing questions. In general, there would be 10 to 15 questions, which would appear sequentially (you cannot go back to the previous question) during a time span of 30 minutes. Each quiz would be available for at least 24 hours, during which you have one attempt to attend it. Once you start a quiz, you must finish it within 30 minutes. Further instructions/details would be posted in eclass.

**Project** (based on a topic relating to our course materials) and presentation would be scheduled during the last few classes. Further details would be posted in the course page.

### **3.3 Missed exams/Tests and Other details**

**No** permission is ever given to a student to write a test or exam in advance of its scheduled date.

**No** permission is ever given to a student to rewrite a test or exam to improve their grade.

**There is no make-up for any quizzes.** Since quizzes are available at least for 24 hours asynchronously, it is in your best interest to attend the quizzes early enough (which means, do not wait till the last minute before the deadline). The marks from the lowest quiz will be dropped by default.

**Students missing only one midterm** may have the permission to shift the weight of one missed midterm if (a) they were sick at the time of the test, and (b) *they did not attempt the original midterm*, and (c) they notified the instructor by email (seury@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of the missed test. If all these conditions are satisfied, the student might have permission to write a longer final exam and have the alternate scheme: *Midterm 25% + Final Exam (60%) + Quizzes (10%) + Project (5%)*. There is no option to write make-up of more than one missed exam. If a student misses both midterms, even if they obtain permission to shift some weight to the final exam by writing a longer final exam, they will receive 0 (zero) out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> missed midterm (0 out of 25%) and will have their grade according to the remaining components of the alternate scheme: *Final Exam (60%) + Quizzes (10%) + Project (5%)*.

If a student misses both midterms and fails to obtain permission to shift some weight to the final exam by writing a longer final exam, they will receive 0 (zero) for both missed midterm (0 out of 50%), and will have their grade according to the default scheme: *Final Exam (35%) + Quizzes (10%) + Project (5%)*.

**Students missing the final exam** and requesting deferred exams would need to notify the instructor by email (seury@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of this missed final exam and comply with the Department of Economics policy on deferred exams before a deferred exam will be granted. Deferred Standing Mach forms (managed by the Department) need to be completed and submitted online. A link (and more details) will be provided closer to the final exam date. Students who do not submit the Deferred Standing Mach form within 7 days of the missed exam, will receive a zero for their final exam score. The Deferred Final Exam structure may change according to the University's policy. There would be *only one* deferred exam date; the date of the deferred final exam is at the discretion of the course director.

### **3.3 Technology Requirements**

This course is scheduled to have in-person lectures and exams, subject to change only due to health policies announced by York University related to Covid-19. Nonetheless, eclass Learning Management System (LMS) would be used for several activities. As such, access to a laptop or desktop computer with camera, microphone, and a strong, stable internet connection is required to fully participate in this course. To check if you have high speed Internet connection, you can run tests, such as [Speedtest](#). You are responsible for maintaining regular backup copies of your files, using antivirus software, and scheduling enough time when completing an online task to allow for delays due to technical difficulties. Computer virus/malware, crashed drives, broken printers/devices, lost/corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, lost Wi-Fi connections, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for missing a test/exam/deadline. Students might need to appear online (with their audio and video) for purposes relating to grading or academic integrity concerns, and there may be live online office hours and/or other online interaction sessions. If you are not comfortable with these requirements, you may not wish to enrol in this section of this course.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

For Technology requirements/FAQs for Moodle: <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>

- Should there be any Zoom session with other students, if you have privacy concerns, you can provide your first name or a nickname, and you can keep your webcam and microphone off. Students do not have the permission to record any Zoom sessions (unless they obtain special permission from me).
- For one-to-one Zoom sessions, I need to see you during our interaction and, therefore, you need to activate your webcam and microphone.

### **3.4 Grading and Re-evaluation Policy**

To achieve a grade, you must earn it. Unless I made a record-keeping error regarding the scores you have earned, I will not be able to adjust your grade. The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (see <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/hist/academic-resources/academic-advising/grading-system> for more details). Final course grades given by the instructor will use the standard York grading scale and may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. Should there be any request for re-grading, your Instructor/Grader reserves the right to re-grade the entire content of the exam (for example, maybe a problem/mistake in your answer was overlooked during the first evaluation, which might get noticed during the re-evaluation). As such, your marks may increase, may decrease, or may remain the same after re-evaluation.

### **4.1 Emails and Communication: Etiquette/Netiquette**

**Eclass (Moodle announcements, folders, assessments, and forums)** would be used extensively for communication. In our course page, under Forums, you would find a discussion forum for each topic. If you have a question related to that specific topics/chapters, post it in the specified forum. If you can, try to answer another student's questions, which would be a great learning experience even if the answers are not totally correct. It is also a good way for students to engage in a meaningful discussion and learn from each other. I would also monitor your response in the forum and include my comments, if needed, usually once a day, during weekdays. *It is expected that you would check and read all available information before asking a question, and you would follow netiquette.* Forums would be hidden during Midterms/Final Exam days. You must follow all eclass announcement on a regular basis.

**Emails** are meant to be restricted solely **for administrative concerns**, which cannot be solved otherwise. Accordingly, *I am not going to respond to any content questions* (issues that are already explained in course outline/ schedule/ announcements etc.). *We have hundreds of students each semester; even if only a small percent of the students is sending emails, it results in a lot of emails.*

If, however, you have a question that is not explained in the contents and/or you cannot post it in the forums, follow the standard formal/official etiquette if you need to email me. Here is a guideline about *how to write an email*, with only three easy steps:

[1]: Address your professor. (*Tips: You can start your email with "Hi/Hello Professor". That way, you do not need to write my name each time. Also, just "Hi" or "Hey" cannot be a formal way to address anyone. If you do that, you would self-identify yourself as a person who did not read this outline.*)

[2]: State your administrative concern clearly, in a nice and precise manner. (*Tips: Make sure your "Caps Lock" key is not stuck.*)

[3]: Sign off (best/ regards etc.) with **your full name** (no nicknames please), **full ID, course number, and section 3200B**. (We teach hundreds of students, several courses, often at multiple universities. So, please be precise about your details).

*I will not be able to respond to your emails (or forum posts) outside business hours/during weekends/ during holidays.* During weekdays, I will check forum at least once a day and would strive to respond to your emails in no later than two business days (which means I would try my best to respond to your emails much earlier than that). As such, allow minimum processing time after sending an email.

## **4.2 Letters of Accommodation**

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns about the course or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>) at the beginning of the semester as soon as possible. **Please note: Students no longer submit Letters of Accommodation to their instructor.** Rather, students request their Letter of Accommodation through a companion Student Portal available through Student Accessibility Services. Instructors will then access the Letters of Accommodation directly via a Faculty Portal. Accommodated Exam Centres will be opened to accommodate students for in-person exams.

## **4.3 Important Dates and ADD/Drop Deadlines for Fall 2021**

	Fall 2021
Fall 2021 Semester Start date <i>[Note: our class starts on Tuesday, September 14, 2021]</i>	Wednesday, Sep 08
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Tuesday, Sep 21
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Tuesday, Oct 05
Fall 2021 reading week	Oct 09 – Oct 15
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Friday, Nov 12
Last Day of Classes – Fall 2021 Term	Tuesday, Dec 07
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)**	Nov 13 – Dec 07
Fall 2021 Final Exam period (our exam date, TBA by registrar’s office)	Dec 09 – 23

**\*\*Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course:**

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>

## **4.4 Other Important course information for students**

*Course materials and Copyright:* 1) Course materials should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to record, duplicate, copy and/or distribute the materials (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also FIPPA); and 3) if there are any recordings, those are to be destroyed after the end of classes.

### *Important Academic Forms*

- Religious Accommodation - <https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf>
- Deferred Standing – link to online mach form will be available closer to the final exam date.
- Attending Physician’s Statement Form - <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization, which is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences (in the context of all graded components in this course, including the term paper), as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module: (<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity>). Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, which may result in severe punishment, as per Senate Policies.

You need to agree to follow an “**ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT/AGREEMENT**” for all graded components, a sample of which is provided here:

- You will complete all your graded components (assignments/tests/exams/quizzes/projects) solely by yourself unless explicitly directed by me as your instructor to do it differently. No other person will assist or complete these graded components for you; impersonation, and receiving or giving any form of assistance, paid or not, from or to another person is cheating and breaches academic honesty principle, and will be subject to academic penalty. More specifically:
- You will complete the graded components without any testing aids that are not approved by me as your instructor. Accordingly, you are NOT ALLOWED to use your notes, the textbook, or any other paper or digital resources (including online or in-person consultation with others) during tests/exams/quizzes, unless explicitly allowed to do so by me as your instructor.
- You will not discuss the graded assignment/test/exam/quiz questions or potential answers with anyone, including other students both in this course and elsewhere. This includes future online and in-person communication.
- Copying other people's words in your answers is not allowed and will be considered as plagiarism/cheating. This means that you must put answers/descriptions in your own words if you are using sources you have not written, such as the reference papers, course slides or other study notes.
- All test/exam materials are the property of the Department of Economics, York University, and unauthorized dissemination or recording of the tests/exams (including, but not limited to, unauthorized posting/emailing of any part of the tests/exams) is prohibited. You will not replicate, copy, print, take picture or record any lecture and/or questions on the graded assignments/quizzes/exam/test to share with others.
- It is your responsibility as a student to conduct your academic work, including your exams, in the manner that adheres to the university's standards of academic integrity, as outlined in: “<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>”.

Let us have a respectful and enjoyable journey together!