

**York University**  
**Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Fall 2021**

**AP/ECON2300 3.0F – Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I**

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<b>Email address:</b>	upetroni@yorku.ca
<b>Virtual office hours:</b>	Monday 1:30pm to 2:30pm on Zoom.
<b>Scheduled class meeting time:</b>	Monday 11:30am-2:30pm
<b>Course website:</b>	<a href="https://eclass.yorku.ca/">https://eclass.yorku.ca/</a>

**Class time and location**

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. The entire course, including the submission of assignments, participation/discussion, and test-taking, will take place on the course's e-Class page.

**Technical requirements for taking the course**

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., e-Class, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review this syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or in part), and how office hours and presentations will be conducted.

Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Please review the technology requirements and FAQs for e-Class.

Students will need a stable internet connection to access lecture materials, lecture videos, assignments and practice problems, and exams online on the course's e-Class page. All course materials will be posted there on a weekly basis. Virtual office hours will be held online using Zoom.

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

- Student Guide to e-Class
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [Computing for Students Website](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

## **Virtual Office Hours**

I will hold virtual office hours on Zoom every **Monday from 1:30pm to 2:30pm** (during the last hour of our regularly scheduled weekly meeting time). This meeting will be setup as a recurring Zoom meeting every week on our course's e-Class page. **Please email me each week in advance of the office hours meeting (by 1:00pm on Monday) if you would like to attend office hours that week.** Doing so will inform me that you would like to attend office hours that week.

## **Course Description**

This course studies how individuals, households, and firms make decisions given the incentives and constraints of their economic environment. Topics include consumer decision-making, production and costs, competitive equilibrium, and the role of prices in a market economy.

*Prerequisites:* AP/ECON 1000 3.00, AP/ECON 1010 3.00, and AP/ECON 1530 3.00, or equivalents.

*Prerequisites/Co-requisites:* AP/ECON 1540 3.00.

*Course credit exclusions:* GL/ECON 3230 6.00. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusions: AK/AS/ECON 2300 3.00, GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

## **Course Organization**

This course will proceed on a **weekly** basis. We will (usually) cover new topics each week. (A tentative list of topics to be covered appears below.) Each week, I will post all relevant material for the week on the course's e-Class page by **Monday at 11:30am** (the start of regularly scheduled meeting time). I will also use e-Class announcements to regularly communicate with the class and provide updates when needed. Please make sure your email address on e-Class is up to date.

Posted materials each week will usually consist of (i) my lecture slides in PDF format; (ii) lecture videos, in which I discuss the slides; (iii) a short quiz to reinforce the material; (iv) a PDF document with longer practice problems; and (v) a PDF document of solutions to some of the longer practice problems from the prior week.

Here is a recommended outline for how you should proceed through the course each week:

### *1. Lecture Slides and Videos*

Review the lecture notes and the corresponding videos. You should start here, as this is where I will introduce and discuss the new material for each week.

**Suggestion:** In each week, all course materials for that week will be made available to students to review at their own pace. That is, there are **no** required live/synchronous weekly meetings. However, it is often easier to keep up with course material if you do it at the same time each week. To help with that, I **recommend** (but do not require) that you use our scheduled meeting time as follows:

- **Between 11:30am and 1:30pm each Monday:** Review the lecture notes and watch the associated videos.

- **Between 1:30pm and 2:30pm each Monday:** I will hold virtual office hours on Zoom. If you have any questions about the material you just reviewed (or any other material), send me an email confirming that you will attend office hours and we can discuss it there.

## 2. Quizzes

After you have read the lecture slides and watched the lecture videos, complete the quiz for that week's materials. These quizzes will not be very difficult; they are designed to make sure you're following along with the course and to reinforce basic core ideas from the lecture materials.

Each quiz is **due in one week**—that is, the **following Monday at 11:29am** (yes, you read that correctly: 11:29am). You will take the quizzes and submit your answers directly on e-Class. Quizzes are graded for participation marks (see Course Breakdown below).

## 3. Practice Problem Sets

The practice problem sets are not graded and are not be submitted. It is, however, highly encouraged that you complete them. Students should attempt the practice problems after they have read the lecture slides, watched the lecture videos, and taken the quiz for the week.

While you are free to work at your own pace on these problem sets, I highly encourage you to complete each week's problem set in one week's time—that is, before the following Monday at 11:30am, at which point I will post select solutions. Attempting problems without first seeing the solutions is a great way to learn material.

**Important note:** the material in this course builds on itself very naturally and cumulatively, so it is important that you keep up and learn new ideas at a consistent pace.

## Course readings

Each week, the lectures, quizzes, and practice problem sets will be based on chapters from the textbook, “Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus.” It is available at the bookstore (as an **e-book**, so you can access it online), along with a companion “Workouts” book that offers extra practice questions. Here is more detailed information for each:

### Required Text:

Hal R. Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2014.

### Optional Text:

Hal R. Varian, *Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.

## Course Breakdown

The final course grade will consist of weekly quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam, according to the following breakdown:

Evaluation	Due Date	Weight of Final Grade
Weekly Quizzes	Weekly: Due every Monday at 11:29am	10%

Midterm Exam	<b>Monday, October 25, 2021. 11:30am to 1:00pm</b>	35%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the University	55%

### Quizzes

The quiz for each week should be taken after students have read the lecture slides and watched the lecture videos. Each quiz is **due in one week**—that is, the **following Monday at 11:29am**. You will take the quizzes and submit your answers directly on e-Class.

Throughout the course, there will be as many quizzes as there are topics that we cover—that is, one quiz per topic. A tentative list of topics appears below, but because the number of topics in this list is subject to change, so is the total number of quizzes. Regardless of the eventual total number of quizzes, I will **count only your best eight (8) quizzes toward your final course grade**. Because 10 percent of the course grade is allocated to quizzes, each quiz will be worth 1.25 percent (10 percent / 8 quizzes).

### Midterm and Final Exam

A few important points about the midterm and final exam:

- Please **note the date and time of the midterm exam**: The midterm exam will be held online (and accessed through the course's e-Class page) on **Monday, October 25, 2021, from 11:30am to 1:00pm EST**.
- The final exam will also be held online during the university's official exam period. It will be scheduled by the university.
- The midterm exam will cover approximately the first half of the course and the final exam will cover the entire course, although with more emphasis on the second half of the course.

Exams must be taken by all students at the scheduled time. **There is NO make-up exam for a missed midterm exam**. If a student misses the midterm exam, the weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to final exam only if the student missed the midterm for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness or injury, death in the family) and can provide detailed documentation of this reason as required by the economics department. If a student misses the midterm and fails to meet these requirements, they will receive a grade of zero on the midterm. **When the midterm exam is missed with a valid reason and the associated documentation is provided, the weight of the final exam will be 90%**. There will be no deferred standing agreements. This means that students missing the final exam will have to petition following the corresponding administrative procedures as established by the faculty.

### Regrade Policy

For the midterm exam, students who wish to request a regrade must do so within one week from the day the midterm grades are returned to the class, regardless of when the student receives his or her midterm. If a student finds a problem with the grading of the midterm exam, she/he should inform the course instructor in writing 24 hours **after** the midterm has been returned to the class (the "cool off" period). When requesting a regrade, the student should submit a clear, concise note, explaining which question she/he would like regraded and why, making clear reference to how her/his answer compares to the

correct solution. If the midterm is submitted for a regrade, the entire midterm will be regraded, not just the question(s) that is (are) of interest. This means the overall grade can go up, down, or stay the same.

### Practice Questions

I will assign practice problem set questions with practical applications of the theory discussed in class. These are not assigned for grades and are not to be submitted, but it is always a good idea to understand exactly why the answer is what it is, so please make sure you understand the logic behind all the solutions.

### Grading

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

### Topics and Readings:

The following is a preliminary list of topics and planned schedule for coverage. Please note that this is subject to change.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic(s) to be Covered</b>
Week 1: Starting on Monday September 13, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget Constraint: Chapter 2</li> <li>Preferences: Chapter 3</li> </ul>
Week 2: Starting on Monday September 20, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utility: Chapter 4</li> </ul>
Week 3: Starting on Monday September 27, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choice: Chapter 5</li> </ul>
Week 4: Starting on Monday October 4, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand: Chapter 6</li> </ul>
Week 5: Starting on Monday October 11, 2020	<b>Reading Week</b>
Week 6: Starting on Monday October 18, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slutsky Equation: Chapter 8</li> <li>Consumer's Surplus: Chapter 14</li> </ul>
Week 7: Starting on Monday October 25, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Midterm: Monday October 25 from 11:30am to 1:00pm.</b></li> </ul>
Week 8: Starting on Monday November 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technology: Chapter 19</li> </ul>
Week 9: Starting on Monday November 8, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Profit Maximization: Chapter 20</li> </ul>
Week 10: Starting on Monday November 15, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost Minimization: Chapter 21</li> </ul>
Week 11: Starting on Monday November 22, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost Curves: Chapter 22</li> </ul>
Week 12: Starting on Monday November 29, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Firm Supply: Chapter 23</li> </ul>

Week 13: Starting on Monday December 6, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market Demand: Chapter 15</li> </ul>
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### **Important Course Information for Students**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents): <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/index-policies.html/>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- 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
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Please also take note of the following important dates:

<b>Course ADD/Drop Deadlines</b>	<b>Fall Term 2021 (F)</b>	<b>Winter Term 2022(W)</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 22	Jan. 23
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Feb. 7
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 12	March 18
<b>Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)</b>	<b>Nov. 13 - Dec. 7</b>	<b>March 19 - Apr. 10</b>

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

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