

Department of Economics
Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies
York University
Fall 2021

AP/ECON 2300 – Section E
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I

Last updated: September 27, 2021

Instructor	Sharif F. Khan
Lecture Hours	Tuesday 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Classroom	CB 121
Virtual Office Hours	Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 pm (via ZOOM)
Email (<i>use is restricted</i>)	khansf@yorku.ca <i>only for personal correspondence</i>
Course Webpage	https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/my/

ZOOM OFFICE HOURS

The course instructor will hold weekly virtual office hours via ZOOM. The students are expected to join the Zoom meetings at scheduled office hours by clicking on the Zoom meeting link posted under the “Live Virtual Office Hours via Zoom” tab in eClass. The students can ask any course related questions directly to the instructor during ZOOM office hours. You will NOT need meeting ID and password to join the ZOOM office hours. You will NOT need meeting ID and password if you join the ZOOM office hours via eClass.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING THE COURSE

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, MyLab, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director / TA, as well as with one another. Please review the 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.

Technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle can be found here - <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>

In addition to stable, higher-speed Internet connection, these students will need a computer/laptop with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

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

[Student Guide to eClass](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

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

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run.

COURSE WEBPAGE

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

All of the required assessments of this course, including the submission of quizzes, active learning activities (ALA), and test-taking (both midterm and final), will take place on the eClass course website. The course outline, important course announcements, lecture slides and other course related materials will be posted there.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

PREREQUISITE or COREQUISITE:

AP/ECON 1540 3.00.

PRIOR TO FALL 2014: COURSE CREDIT EXCLUSIONS:

GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Hal R. Varian, Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach, Media Update, First Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-393-69135-1. [V]

TEXTBOOK WEBSITE

<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393689983/>

EVALUATION

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| 1. Best Five out of Six Active Learning Activities (ALA) | 10% |
| 2. Midterm
<i>The in-person midterm will be held in CLH M on October 26 during the regular lecture hours.</i> | 30% |
| 3. Final Exam
<i>The in-person final exam will be held on during the final exam period.
Note that the final exam will cover all course materials.</i> | 60% |

Special Rule for Transferring the Weight of the Midterm to the Final Examination:

Please note that if a student gets a higher mark in the final exam than the midterm exam, the instructor will automatically transfer the weight of the midterm to the final exam. To get the benefit of transferring the weight of midterm of the final exam, a student **MUST** write the midterm exam and get a reasonable mark. If a student does not write the midterm exam without any valid excuse or just shows in the midterm exam and answers none of the questions completely, he or she will **NOT** be eligible for this special grading rule.

POLICIES RELATED TO MISSING MIDTERM

- If a student misses the midterm examination due to an acceptable medical reason, technical difficulties during the exam, or for some unavoidable circumstances, the weight of his or her term test will be added to the final exam. **There will be no make-up midterm examination.**
- If you fail to write the midterm examination on the scheduled date, you must contact me during my virtual office hours or virtual lecture hours to explain why you have missed the midterm exam and provide the supporting documents **no later than 2 weeks after the missed midterm**. Please note that the instructor will **NOT** accept a photocopy or scanned copy of your supporting documents by e-mail. You should submit the supporting documents in eClass. You will be given instructions on how to submit these documents in eClass.

- If a student fails to write the midterm exam without any valid reason, he or she will get zero in the midterm exam and the weight of the missed midterm exam will NOT be transferred to the final exam.

DEFERRED FINAL EXAM POLICY

Students must fill out the Deferred Standing Agreement form available at <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/index1.htm> and submit it along with all **original** supporting documentation to the Department of Economics by e-mail **within 10 business days of the original exam date**. **Please note the contact e-mail address for this particular purpose will be informed to the class later**. Submitting the form does NOT guarantee permission to write the deferred exam. Only submissions that meet all requirements will be granted permission. If you are granted deferred standing, you will receive an e-mail from Economics Department with specific exam information. Students whose submissions are not granted will receive a zero for their final exam score.

Deferred Standing for the final exam will be considered only under the following circumstances:

1. **MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** Exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by a York Attending Physicians Statement filled out completely by a medical doctor or licensed psychologist/counselor, dated within **48 hours of the final exam date**. The statement must include:
 - Full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
 - The nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered)
 - 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.

The physician's office may be contacted to verify that the statement was actually completed by the physician.

2. **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 travel are not valid excuses for missing an exam.

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

The students are expected to attend and actively participate in all live virtual lectures via Zoom. They should ask questions to the instructor, answer the Poll questions, and actively participate in the assigned Breakout Room activities such as brainstorming, buzz groups/discussion groups, problem-solving, and policy debates during live ZOOM lectures.

ACTIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES (ALA) via eClass

A set of problem solving and short answer questions, which will be referred to as ALA, will be posted in eClass as active learning activities (ALA) in this course. The students are expected to work on the problem sets and submit the completed works as a single PDF file in eClass by the due dates. There will be **6 active learning activities (ALA)** in this course. Each ALA is worth **2 marks**. If a student completes the works of an ALA and submit it in eClass by the due date, he or she will get 2 marks. On the other hand, if a student does not submit an ALA, he or she will get zero. The instructor will only count the marks of the **best 5 ALAs out of 6 ALAs**. **Please note that an ALA will be graded solely based on the completeness of the answers, not based on the correctness of the answers.**

SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES (ALA)

ALA	Tentative Syllabus	Posting Dates	Due Dates
ALA 1	Chapter 2, 3	Oct. 1	Oct. 8
ALA 2	Chapter 4	Oct. 8	Oct. 15
ALA 3	Chapter 5, 6	Oct. 15	Oct. 22
ALA 4	Chapter 8, 14	Nov. 5	Nov. 12
ALA 5	Chapter 19, 20, 21	Nov. 19	Nov. 26
ALA 6	Chapter 22, 23, 15, 24	Dec. 3	Dec. 8

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. 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, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

TURNITIN

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will be normally required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course Moodle) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

READINGS/LECTURE PLAN

(Reference codes refer to the textbook mentioned above)

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS/ COMMENTS
Sept. 14	Course Outline Budget Constraint	V: Ch. 2
Sept. 21	Budget Constraint and Preferences	V: Ch. 2 & 3
Sept. 28	Preferences and Utility	V: Ch. 3 & 4
Oct. 5	Choice and Demand	V: Ch. 5 & 6
Oct. 12	Reading Week	No Lectures.
Oct. 19	Slutsky Equation and Consumer's Surplus	V: Ch. 8 & 14
Oct. 26	Tentative Midterm Exam Materials: Ch 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.	Midterm Exam will be held in class during regular lecture hours
Nov. 2	Technology	V: Ch 19
Nov. 9	Profit Maximization	V: Ch 20
Nov. 16	Cost Minimization and Cost Curves	V: Ch 21 & 22
Nov. 23	Firm Supply	V: Ch. 23
Nov. 30	Market Demand and Industry Supply	V: Ch. 15 & 24
Dec. 7	Equilibrium	V: Ch. 16

Note: Additional readings, if necessary, will be assigned during the term.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

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

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
Academic Honesty and Integrity: Conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, found on the York University Senate WEB page: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=94>
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68>
- Student Conduct Standards <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/standards.html>
- Religious Observance Accommodation <https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

Grading Scheme and Feedback (Senate)Policy:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=86>

Religious Observances Dates 2021-22:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/religious.htm>

Fall/Winter 2021-22 Important Dates:

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw21>

	Fall Term 2021
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 12
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 13 – Dec. 7

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation - http://registrar.yorku.ca/sites/registrar/files/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf
- Deferred Standing - http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf
- Attending Physician's Statement Form - <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>