Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Course title: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I
Course code: AP/ECON 2300 3.0 D
Session/term: Fall 2021

Course instructor and teaching assistants:

Instructor: Bernard Lebrun blebrun@yorku.ca
Teaching assistant: To be determined.

Technical requirements for taking the course:

Moodle and Zoom will be the two main platforms through which students will interact with the course materials, the instructor and the teaching assistant. Please review this syllabus to determine how office hours and presentations will be conducted.

The course lectures will be pre-recorded and posted on the course Moodle site. Office hours will occur as Zoom meetings, also accessible through the course Moodle site.

Here are some useful links for 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.

Times and locations:

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.

Every week, all new lectures, exercises, and other relevant material will be posted on the Moodle site by 4:00 PM on Monday.

Virtual office hours with the instructor will take place through Zoom on Monday at the following times:

- From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm for an office hour open to all students. Students should email their questions at least 24 hours in advance.
- From 5:30 to 6:30 pm for individual appointments. Students should email their questions and book a time slot on the scheduler on the Moodle site at least 24

hours in advance.

Organization of the course:

The entire course, including test-taking, will take place on the course's Moodle site. Although the class is scheduled to meet on Monday from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, this course has no live virtual meetings outside of office hours. Like an online course, you can learn the course material at your own pace.

	Day	Time	
Lecture	Monday	4:00 – 7:00 pm	Pre-recorded lecture. Please access the lecture via the course Moodle site.
Office hour with instructor	Monday	4:00 – 5:00 pm	You can ask questions about the course material during this Zoom office hour, which is open to all students and accessible through the Moodle site. Please email your questions at least one day in advance.
Private appointments with instructor	Monday	5:30 – 6:30 pm	You can meet privately with the instructor during this Zoom office hour. Please email your questions at least one day in advance and book a time slot through the scheduler on the Moodle site.
Office hours with teaching assistant	To be determined	To be determined	You can ask any question on the course material during these office hours. The Zoom link is on the Moodle site.
Office hours with teaching assistant	To be determined	To be determined	You can ask any question on the course material during these office hours. The Zoom link is on the Moodle site.

Course webpage: The course has a Moodle site in eClass.

Virtual office hours:

- Office hour open to all students: Monday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Students should send their questions by email before 4:00 pm on Sunday.
- Individual appointments: Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Any student who wants

to make an appointment should, no later than 5:30 pm on Sunday, email their questions and book up a slot in the scheduler on the Moodle site.

Expanded course description:

This first part of a two-course study of microeconomic theory at the intermediate level develops and applies the theory of the consumer and the theory of the producer. It will also cover the competitive partial equilibrium model.

<u>Tentative list of topics</u>:

1. Consumer Theory
   - Budget Constraint: Chapter 2 (in the textbook by Varian, see “Course text” below)
   - Preferences: Chapter 3
   - Utility: Chapter 4
   - Choice: Chapter 5
   - Demand: Chapter 6
   - Slutsky Equation: Chapter 8
   - Consumer’s Surplus: Chapter 14

2. Producer Theory
   - Technology: Chapter 19
   - Profit Maximization: Chapter 20
   - Cost Minimization: Chapter 21
   - Cost Curves: Chapter 22
   - Firm Supply: Chapter 23

3. Markets for Goods
   - Market Demand: Chapter 15
   - Industry Supply: Chapter 24
   - Equilibrium: Chapter 16

Course text:

1. The course will follow closely the textbook *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus*, by Hal R. Varian, 1st Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2014. This same textbook is used by most instructors of ECON 2300 and ECON 2350. Being very similar, the textbook “*Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*” by the same author Hal R. Varian is a good substitute.

   The students do **NOT** need any additional book. For example, the ancillary book “Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics” by Varian is **NOT** required for this course.

2. Together with pre-recorded lectures, the list of relevant chapters, sections, and

exercises in the textbook will be posted on the course Moodle site.

3. Supplementary exercises along with their solutions will be available on the course site. Videos with step-by-step solutions to selected exercises will also be posted.

Evaluation:

Assessment	Date	Value (% of final grade)
Midterm examination	November 1, 2021	34% if mark is above mark on the final; 0% otherwise.
Final examination	During examination period from December 9 to December 23, 2021; precise date to be determined	66% if mark is below mark on midterm; 100% otherwise.

There will be two examinations: one midterm and one final. A student's mark on the final will also be the student's total mark for the course if it is higher than the mark on the midterm or if, for any reason, the student does not write the midterm. Otherwise, the mark on the midterm will count for 34% of the total mark and the mark on the final will count for 66% of the total mark.

The midterm will be held between 4:00 and 7:00 pm on Monday November 1. It will cover the material seen up to and including Monday October 25. The final will be held during the examination period from December 9 to December 23. The University will announce its precise date and time. It will cover all the material seen during the term.

Both examinations will be **open book** and will consist in multiple choice questions. No question will be purely theoretical. Rather, all questions will be exercises of application of the theory and will be very similar to the exercises that will be posted on line throughout the term. Solving such exercises may require some calculations involving elementary calculus (mostly differentiation of simple functions).

Course policies

There will be no make-up midterm examination. If, for any reason, a student does not write the midterm examination the student's mark on the final examination will count for 100% of the total mark for the course.

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.