

Intermediate Microeconomics 1



Course Outline: What you need to know to succeed

Time and Location Lecture: Mo 16:00-19:00 VH D Office hours: Thu 13:30-14:30 Zoom and by appointment	Instructor Karen Bernhardt-Walther bkaren@yorku.ca
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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. Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

Prerequisite: AP/ECON 1000 3.00, AP/ECON 1010 3.00, AP/ECON 1530 3.00, or equivalents.
Co-requisites: AP/ECON 1540 3.00.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, successful students will

- Understand and analyze trade-offs using simple models of standard microeconomic models in consumer and producer theory.
- Understand, set up, and solve constrained optimization problems.
- Analyze decision problems with equations and graphs. Solve numeric, graphical, and formal microeconomic problems.
- Use a variety of problem-solving strategies when approaching unfamiliar problems.

Course materials: For this course you require

Textbook: Hal R. Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach* Media Update, W.W. Norton & Company, 2019.

Platform: Norton Smartwork. Smartwork quizzes constitute 20% of your course grade.

I strongly recommend purchasing the “Media Update” version. It includes access to the Smartwork quizzes (20% of the course grade). Alternatively, you can purchase access to the Smartwork platform separately (click on the “Smartwork quizzes” link on eClass.)

Course website: eClass

Course format: In-person lectures take place on campus. Asynchronous practice activities and quizzes take place on eClass and the SmartWorks platform.

Course Structure: This course consists of three parts. Each part covers several topics, each of which corresponds to a separate chapter in our textbook.

Part 1: *Consumer Theory* (week 1-6)

Budget Constraint (2) • Preferences (3) • Utility (4) • Choice (5) • Demand (6) • Slutsky Equation (8) • Consumer's Surplus (14)

Part 2: *Producer Theory* (week 6-9)

Technology (19) • Profit Maximization (20) • Cost Minimization (21) • Cost Curves (22) • Firm Supply (23)

Part 3: *Market for Goods* (week 10-12)

Market Demand (15) • Industry Supply (24) • Equilibrium (16)

Grading: You can earn 100 points or marks in this course. The number of marks for each activity also reflects the weight (percentage) that this activity carries. You can earn up to 6 bonus marks for completing optional activities (on eClass) by their respective deadlines.

Activity	Where	When	Marks	% of final Grade
Weekly conversations	eClass	weekly (10 x)	10x2	20 %
Weekly practice	in class, Smartwors	weekly	--	--
Weekly quizzes	SmartWorks	weekly (10 x)	10x2	20 %
Midterm	in class	31. October	25	25 %
Final exam	on Campus	Final's period	35	35 %
Bonus	eClass	See eClass	3x2	---
Total				100

Weekly conversations (20): Earn marks by contributing to a weekly group discussion forum; answer topic-specific questions and respond to your peers' contributions to the forum. Grading is based on completion and effort.

Weekly quizzes (20): Earn marks by completing weekly quizzes on SmartWorks. Grading is based on correctly answered questions.

Midterm (25): The midterm will be written in the first half of the class on October 31st (week 7). The midterm will consist of short and long questions from part 1 of the course.

Final (35): The final will be written during the University's final exam period in December. It will consist of short and long questions. The final exam will cover the entire course, with more emphasis on the material covered after the midterm.

Course Policies

Missed Weekly Conversations or Quizzes: No make-up credit or alternative assignments are available for missing a weekly quiz or a weekly conversation.

Missed Midterm: If you miss the midterm, you must submit the writing assignment to earn a grade. The writing assignment will be posted a week before the midterm and is due a week after the midterm.

Missed Final: if you miss the final, you must submit appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor's note) and write the make-up final during the reading week in February.

Email Policy and Etiquette: Email is not an effective way to discuss economics or mathematics. Instead, attend digital office hours or post on the "Questions? Answers!" section in our eClass site. I am checking questions posted in the "Questions? Answers!" section frequently and typically answer questions posted there before responding to emails.

I strive to reply to e-mail within 48 hours, except on weekends. Please reserve email communication for brief personal questions and concerns. When you email, include 2300 in the subject line, be as specific as possible, and do not send attachments unless requested. Emails between instructors and students constitute professional communication; please treat them as such.

Rounding Policy: To arrive at your final mark, I will round your final score to the nearest integer, e.g., an overall score of 69.4 is a final mark of 69. No exceptions.

Appealing a Grade: Students can appeal test grades and grades for the midterm by submitting an electronically fillable Test Remark Request form available through the eClass website. Please note that following an appeal, your test score can increase, decrease, or stay constant.

Health Policy. COVID-19 continues to spread in our community. The University encourages community members to wear a mask in indoor spaces, especially where physical distancing is not possible. This includes lectures and in-person quizzes and exams.

If you are not feeling well, show symptoms, or test positive, please stay home. Instructions (lectures) may switch to online (Zoom) lectures on short notice should the instructor fall ill or test positive.

Important Dates

09/12:	First class	11/11:	Last day to drop course
09/20:	Last day to add course	12/07:	Last day to withdraw
10/31:	Midterm	12/08-23	Final Exam Period

Academic Integrity.

Why Upholding high standards of Academic Integrity is essential for successful academic discourse, and to the pursuit of learning and scholarship. Respecting and enforcing these standards ensures that the degree you earn from York University is a strong signal your learning and academic achievement.

How You uphold high standards of Academic Integrity by:

- doing and submitting only your own work
- not permitting others to use your answers
- giving credit to others for their ideas and works
- quoting your sources, correctly paraphrasing and summarizing

If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour, please consult with me, or seek additional resources.

Enforcement York University takes its responsibility to uphold high academic standards very seriously. The Senate Policy outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Sanctions in cases of cheating can include temporary and permanent records on your transcript, suspension from the course, up to suspension from the University.

Not up the instructor If I observe behaviour that might involve academic dishonesty, I am required to report it. It is not up to me to judge whether the behavior was unintended, a minor infraction, a first-time infraction, etc.

Turn-it-in Students who opt into the writing assignment are required to submit their assignments to Turnitin (via eClass) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students 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.