

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I
AP/ECON2300
C/Fall2023

Course Information

Course Instructor: Jun Zhao

E-mail: zhaoj11@yorku.ca

Office Hours & Location: T 10:30 am to 11:30 am in Vari Hall 1096, or by appointment

Course Time & Days: M 16:00 pm to 19:00 pm

Class Location: Vari Hall (VH), D

Course eClass Site: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=83101>

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region (LA&PS Land Acknowledgement).

Course Overview

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 exclusion: GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- critically examine issues related to functioning of markets;
- identify and describe current approaches to Microeconomic policy;
- apply theory to critically evaluate case studies.

Course Format and Organization

The course is taught in 12 three-hour sessions with two 10 to 15 minutes breaks. Each session will be a combination of traditional lectures, problem-solving, discussion of homework and assessments, and open question and answer time. The mix of these components is not fixed and will vary from week to week.

Using Zoom

Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the United States and Canada. Recordings done since May 1, 2022 are stored in Canada. For more information, please refer to the notes on [Zoom Privacy and Security](#) provided by Information Security at York.
- 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.

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](#)
- [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run. If you need technical assistance, please consult the [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#) web page. For more specific assistance, please write to askit@yorku.ca.

Course Communication Plan and Office Hours

Course announcements via eClass and emails are mainly used to communicate with you. Important announcements such as assignments posting and due dates and exam notifications will be posted via eClass or emails before classes.

You can communicate with your classmates through the discussion forum on eClass.

Office hours will be held in my office (Vari Hall 1096) every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. You are welcome to walk in with questions regarding course materials, assignments, and so on. If you cannot make it during the specified office hour, you can make appointment of extra office hours with me via emails. Please try your best to avoid lunch breaks and off-hours when arranging extra office hours.

Note: Assignments are due on Mondays, and office hours are on Tuesdays. It is perhaps a good idea to work on your assignments earlier.

Course Expectations

- Please arrive punctually as lectures begin on time and late arrivals disrupt others.
- No phones, allowed in class unless otherwise noticed (there is a break in each session during which phones can, of course, be used).
- Laptops or tablets can be used for taking lecture notes but for no other purposes.

Course Evaluation

You will be graded on a number of different activities.

| | Due Date | Weight % | Course Learning Outcome |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Assignment 1 | Sep. 18 | 2.22% | Math Review |
| Assignment 2 | Sep. 25 | 2.22% | Consumer Theory |
| Assignment 3 | Oct. 2 | 2.22% | Consumer Theory |
| Assignment 4 | Oct. 16 | 2.22% | Consumer Theory |
| Assignment 5 | Oct. 23 | 2.22% | Consumer Theory |
| Midterm | Oct. 30 | 30% | No makeup for missed midterm exam |
| Assignment 6 | Nov. 13 | 2.22% | Producer Theory |
| Assignment 7 | Nov. 20 | 2.22% | Producer Theory |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Assignment 8 | Nov. 27 | 2.22% | Producer Theory |
| Assignment 9 | Dec. 4 | 2.22% | Markets for Goods |
| Final | Dec. 7-20 | 40% | Scheduled by the registrar's office |
| Attendance and Participation | | 10% | |
| | | 100% | |

Assessment Descriptions

Weekly assignments count for 20% of the final grade. Assignments are graded out of 3 possible points. Assignments are graded on the basis of completeness.

Point scores: 0 = not handed in on time/no effort; 1 = handed in, but incomplete; 2 = handed in, complete.

Submitting Assignments

Assignments will be posted in eClass on Fridays, and are due next Friday (excluding Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Oct. 30, and Nov. 6, corresponding to the first class, the Reading week, the midterm day, and the lecture right after the midterm) in each one of the following submission ways: hard-copy submission during the class or digital submission to eClass.

Late Work Policy

Each assignment must be submitted by the beginning of the class hour on the due date. In general, late work will not be accepted. Students should and must contact the instructor with evidence if special circumstances prevent them from meeting a deadline.

Missed Tests and Exams

The midterm exam counts for 30% and the final exam counts for 40% if the recorded mark on the midterm exam is higher than the recorded mark on the final exam. Otherwise, the final exam counts for 70%. There will be no makeup for missed midterm exam. A pre-noticed missed midterm will automatically make the final exam worth 70%. *Important: any missed midterm exam must be communicated to the instructor no later than three days prior to the scheduled midterm date (Oct. 30) with valid reasons and strong evidence under special circumstances. Failure to do so will result in a non-recorded midterm grade, and a score of zero will be allocated that still counts for 30%.*

Class Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation is important and counts for 10%. You are expected to attend the classes and engage in class discussions. Students will form groups for discussion of in-class exercises, sometimes cold-calling is expected as a way to check attendance.

If you miss 3 or more classes during the term without valid excuses sent to the instructor *at least one day earlier*, you will have -2 points from your final grade.

Grading

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University Academic Calendar.

| GRADE | GRADE POINT | PERCENT RANGE | DESCRIPTION |
|-------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| A+ | 9 | 90-100 | Exceptional |
| A | 8 | 80-89 | Excellent |
| B+ | 7 | 75-79 | Very Good |
| B | 6 | 70-74 | Good |
| C+ | 5 | 65-69 | Competent |
| C | 4 | 60-64 | Fairly Competent |
| D+ | 3 | 55-59 | Passing |
| D | 2 | 50-54 | Marginally Passing |
| E | 1 | (marginally below 50%) | Marginally Failing |
| F | 0 | (below 50%) | Failing |

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>.

Assignments will receive either 2 (*indicating you have finished all questions and submit the assignment on time*), 1 (*indicating you submit the assignment but don't finish all questions*), or 0 (*indicating you do not turn in the assignment*). Exams will receive the number grade.

Course Schedule: Weekly Readings and Activities

Required Course Materials

Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach, 9th Edition, by Hal R. Varian. Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014.

Although the latest edition is listed, any recent edition may be used. The textbook is available through the *Day1Digital* program that is lower-cost, and any student who wants to can opt in. There is more information https://www.bookstore.yorku.ca/site_Day1Digital.asp?.

Optional Materials

We will make use of eClass (more information <https://www.yorku.ca/eclass>) to post lecture notes and other supplemental materials. The lecture notes will be posted before classes so that students will focus on digesting rather than copying the slides.

Course Schedule

The course would cover the following topics from the textbook from respective chapters including appendix (as time permits). Materials might vary to adjust for specific needs.

| Week/Module Dates | Readings and Activities | Assessment Due Dates | Module/Unit Learning Outcomes |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Week 1 Sep. 11 | Introduction, Math review, Chap 2 Budget Constraint | See Course Evaluation | Consumer Theory |
| Week 2 Sep. 18 | Chap 2 Budget Constraint, Chap 3 Preferences | | Consumer Theory |
| Week 3 Sep. 25 | Chap 3 Preferences, Chap 4 Utilities | | Consumer Theory |
| Week 4 Oct. 2 | Chap 4 Utilities, Chap 5 Choice | | Consumer Theory |
| Week 5 Oct. 9 | Reading Week | | No Class |
| Week 6 Oct. 16 | Chap 5 Choice, Chap 6 Demand | | Consumer Theory |

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|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Week 7 Oct. 23 | Chap 8 Slutsky Equation, Chap 14 Consumer's Surplus Review Session | | Consumer Theory |
| Week 8 Oct. 30 | Midterm | | Review handout will be distributed before the Midterm |
| Week 9 Nov. 6 | Chap 19 Technology, Chap 20 Profit Maximization | | Producer Theory |
| Week 10 Nov. 13 | Chap 20 Profit Maximization, Chap 21 Cost Minimization | | Producer Theory |
| Week 11 Nov. 20 | Chap 22 Cost Curves, Chap 23 Firm Supply | | Producer Theory |
| Week 12 Nov. 27 | Chap 15 Market Demand Chap 24 Industry Supply | | Markets for Goods |
| Week 13 Dec. 4 | Chap 16 Equilibrium, Review Session | | Markets for Goods. Review handout will be distributed before the Final |

Course Policies

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

[Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)

[Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Please also review the following course policies:

Academic Integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic honesty 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 honesty 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](#).

Specifically, colluding with students who took the course before or who is taking this course is against the Academic Honesty policy.

Accessibility

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to achieve excellence, the University recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to perform at their best. The University encourages students with disabilities to register with [Student Accessibility Services](#) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors through their Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

Please let your instructor know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course. Sufficient notice is needed so that reasonable steps for accommodation can be discussed. Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making reasonable and appropriate [accommodations to adherents for observances of special significance](#). Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a [Religious Accommodation for Examination Form](#) at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student](#)

[Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Conduct in the Learning Environment

York University is committed to fostering teaching and learning environments that are free of disruptive and/or harassing behaviour, are physically safe, and conducive to effective teaching and learning. Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy, civility, and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Individuals who fail to adhere to such standards and who violate University or public law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

For more information, see the policies on [Disruptive and/or Harassing Behaviour in Academic Situations](#), the [Student Conduct and Responsibilities](#), and the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#).

Netiquette for eClass and Online Learning

Students and instructors have a joint responsibility to create and maintain a welcoming and inclusive learning environment. All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Please review and familiarize yourself with behaviours that support “netiquette” in virtual classrooms by consulting the [Guide to Netiquette](#) and [Student Guide to eLearning](#).

Student Notice of Recording for Online Teaching and Learning

Activities for this course involve recording, in partial fulfillment of the course learning outcomes. Images, audio, text/chat messaging that have been recorded may be used and/or made available by the University to students enrolled in the course and those supporting the course for the purpose of materials review, for assessment, etc. Recordings will be managed according to the University’s Common Record Schedule and will be securely destroyed when no longer needed by the University. Your personal information is protected in accordance with York University’s [Guidelines on Access of Information and Protection of Privacy](#) and the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#). Access to online materials, including recordings or live meetings, is subject to York University’s [Senate Policy on Computing and Information Technology Facilities](#).

The University will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of the recorded information, but cannot provide a guarantee of such due to factors beyond the University’s control, such as recordings being forwarded, copied, intercepted, circulated, disclosed, or stored without the University’s knowledge or permission, or the introduction of malware into computer system which could potentially damage or disrupt the computer, networks, and security settings. The University is not responsible for connectivity/technical difficulties or loss of data associated with your hardware, software, or Internet connection.

By engaging in course activities that involve recording, you are consenting to the use of your appearance, image, text/chat messaging, and voice and/or likeness in the manner and under the conditions specified herein. In the case of a live stream recording, if you choose not to have your image or audio recorded, you may disable the audio and video functionality. If you choose to participate using a pseudonym instead of your real name, you must disclose the pseudonym to your instructor in advance to facilitate class participation.

You are not permitted to disclose the link to/URL of an event or an event session recording or copies of recording to anyone, for any reason. Recordings are available only to authorized individuals who have been directly provided the above instructions/link for their use. Recordings for personal use, required to facilitate your learning and preparation of personal course/lecture notes, may not be shared with others without the permission of the instructor or event coordinator, and may not be published, posted, linked to, or otherwise made available online, including on social media feeds, even if those feeds are private.

Health and Safety

All York students and instructors share responsibility for the safety and well-being of the community while on York's campuses. Please continue to check [YUBetter Together](#) for the latest information on health and safety.

Student Support and Resources

To help you succeed academically, York University offers a wide range of resources and services. Everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance is available to fulfill our LA&PS students' needs. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- [Academic Advising](#) is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- [Student Accessibility Services](#) are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- [Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\) Program](#) provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.
- [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#) supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.
- [The Writing Centre](#) provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio, and an Accessibility Specialist.

- [ESL Open Learning Centre \(OLC\)](#) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- [Learning Skills Services](#) provides tips for time management, effective study and learning habits, keeping up with coursework, and other learning-related supports.
- [Learning Commons](#) provides links to supports for time management, writing, study skills, preparing for exams, and other learning-related resources.
- [Roadmap to Student Success](#) provides students with timely and targeted resources to help them achieve academic, personal, and professional success.
- [Office of Student Community Relations \(OSCR\)](#) is responsible for administering the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and provides critical incident support.
- [goSAFE](#) is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops, or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit [Student Support & Resources](#).

Private Third-Party Tutoring Companies, Academic Honesty and Support Resources

Many private, third-party tutoring companies advertise their services to YorkU students. One way you can help eliminate these advertisements is by changing your eClass profile settings to private (see instructions below). Some of these private companies claim to be affiliated with, or recognized and supported by, York University. Some also claim to help you by providing you with quiz and test answers, suggesting that this practice is safe and permitted by York. These claims are **not** true. York University has not officially recognized or endorsed any third-party tutoring service. When you are provided with quiz, test and exam answers, you run the risk of violating the [university's academic honesty policy](#). Students have been caught using these services to cheat and gain unfair advantage over honest students. The cheating students and “tutors” have received academic dishonesty punishments ranging from failing courses, to being expelled, to losing their YorkU degrees. Officially supported resources to help students learn course material will be provided by YorkU officials, such as your professors and your department. These services are offered at no cost to you as a student. Your professor will likely provide weekly office help hours to meet with students and if you are a first- or second-year student and would like help with course material, make sure you join one of our weekly [Peer Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#). If you require help with any of your numeracy-related courses that involve math, statistics or Excel, drop in online to meet with one of our peer tutors at the [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#). If you are ever unsure of whether a resource is allowable or endorsed by YorkU, please feel free to email the Department of Economics at lapsecon@yorku.ca and they would be happy let you know.

To hide your email address in eClass: Step1: Click your name on the top-right of the eClass website, then click “Profile” on the drop-down menu; Step 2: Under “User details” click “Edit profile”; Step 3: From the “Email display” drop-down menu choose “Hide my email address from non-privileged users”; Step 4: Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the “Update profile” button.