

York University

Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

**Department of Economics
Winter 2024**

Course # and Title: Econ 2350N – Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II

Course Webpage: (can be found on eClass)

Course Instructor/Contact:

Name: Prof. Berta Esteve-Volart
Office: 1066 Vari Hall
Office Hours: Office hours will be over Zoom – Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment
Email: bertaev@gmail.com

Lecture Time and Location:

Lecture: T 2:30-4:00pm (CLH E), R 2:30-4:00pm (CLH H)

Health and Safety:

The instructor will be wearing a mask during lectures, and encourages all students to wear a mask, too.

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: AP/ECON 2300 3.0 or equivalent.

Expanded Course Description:

Economics 2350 3.0 is a continuation of Econ 2300 3.0. Applies the analytical tools from AP/ECON 2300 3.00 to analyze resource allocation in imperfectly competitive markets and factor pricing in alternative market structures. Considers basic concepts of general equilibrium and welfare economics. The lectures will cover approximately the second part of the textbook. Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

Course Objectives:

(1) Brief statement of the purpose:

The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing the tools to analyze optimal choice in the use of limited resources. Theoretical analyses of the concepts will be followed by more specific examples in assignments.

(2) Brief list of specific learning outcomes of the course:

The specific outcomes of the course are that students will be able to:

- Understand trade offs using simple models
- Understand and solve constrained optimization problems
- Analyze decision problems with equations and graphs
- Understand the intuition behind the theoretical outcomes analyzed

Course Text / Readings:

Required:

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

Evaluation:

| Assessment | Due date | Value (% of final grade) |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly quizzes | About every week | 20 |
| Midterm | February 27 | 35 |
| Final exam | April TBA | 45 |

Assignments:

There will be regular assignments with practical applications of the theory. The assignments are not to be submitted, and will be solved in class. I will give bonus marks at the end of the course for regular participation in class, particularly during assignments. Note: I will not provide written answers to assignments – please take notes during class when we solve them

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be run using Smartwork5 (Norton). You will need to gain access to quizzes by either purchasing the textbook (Media Update version) OR purchasing access to the quizzes. Please see eClass for more details.

Midterm and Final Exam:

The midterm will cover approximately the first half of the course material. The final exam will cover the entire course, with more emphasis on the second half of the course: about one third of the final exam will be based on the midterm material, and about two thirds of the final exam will be based on the course material we cover after the midterm.

Midterm: **February 27**, during class time

Final exam: TBA, determined by the University

Missed exams/Tests:

There will be **no make up exams for the midterm**. For students missing the midterm, the weight of the midterm will be carried to their final exam; therefore, they will have an 80% final exam.

Students missing the final exam will need to submit appropriate documentation in order to be considered for a deferred exam. The date of the deferred exam is at the discretion of the instructor and might be months after the regular final exam. In order to be considered for a deferred final exam, please fill out the following Mach form:

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/department-policies/deferred-standing/>

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.)

Organization of the Course (Topics):

Imperfect Competition
Game Theory
General Equilibrium
Uncertainty and Asymmetric Information
Market Imperfections

Tentative list of chapters: 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 12, 32, 35, 38, 37

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://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/>

- 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

Course ADD/Drop Deadlines:

| | Fall Term 2023 (F) | Winter Term 2024(W) |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Sept. 20 | Jan. 22 |
| Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Sept. 28 | Jan. 31 |
| Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines) | Nov. 8 | March 11 |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript) | Nov. 9 - Dec. 5 | March 12 - Apr. 8 |

<https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/2023-2024/fall-winter>

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.

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: Step 1: 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.