

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

II

ECON 2350N
WINTER 2025

Course Information

Course Instructor:

Prof. Berta Esteve-Volart

Office: VH 1066

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Office Hours: T 12:00-1:00pm or by
appointment

Course Time & Days: TR 2:30-4:00pm

Class Location: SLH A

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

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.

Pre-Requisites: AP/ECON 2300 3.0 or equivalent; AP/ECON 1530 3.0; AP/ECON 1540 3.0.

Course Credit Exclusions (CCE): GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

Course Learning 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 Organization

Imperfect Competition

Game Theory

General Equilibrium

Uncertainty and Asymmetric Information

Market Imperfections

Tentative list of chapters (Varian & Melitz textbook): 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 12, 32, 35, 38, 37

The course is organized as follows:

- 1) During our lectures, first we will cover the theory in a given chapter, and then we will go through the assignment for that chapter, containing example question/s
- 2) The PASS session for that week will then cover more example questions for that chapter
- 3) The weekly quiz will cover questions for that chapter. If you come to class, go to PASS, put in the work with the quizzes and stay on top of the material, you will do well in this course.

Instructor Office Hours and Communication Guidelines

TBA

Required Course Materials

There will be weekly quizzes in this course using the Norton online platform (Smartwork). To be able to do the weekly Smartwork quizzes, you have to either buy the textbook (listed below), OR buy access to the Smartwork quizzes only. Both options are available via eClass. Second-hand copies or prior editions of the textbook (FYI, formerly there was only one author, Varian) are useful to complement the quizzes, but WILL not allow you to write the quizzes on their own.

Course Learning Materials	Cost	Availability
Hal R. Varian and Marc J. Melitz, <i>Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach</i> , 2 nd edition, Norton, 2024 (eBook + Smartwork Quizzes)	\$97.06	via link on eClass
OR		
Only Smartwork Quizzes (Norton)	\$60.75	via link on eClass

Course Evaluations

Course Evaluation Chart

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %	Course Learning Outcome
Weekly Quizzes	About every week	15%	
Midterm	February 25th	35%	
Final Exam	April TBA	50%	
Class participation		Bonus marks	
Total		100%	

Assessment Descriptions

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.

Missed Tests and Exams

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 85% final exam.

Students missing the final exam will need to submit appropriate documentation 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. 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/>

Assignments

At the end of each chapter, there will be an assignment with example questions. 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 (but not only) during assignments.** I encourage you to ask questions, answer questions... Note: I will not provide written answers to assignments – please take notes during class when we solve them.

PASS (Peer-Assisted Study Sessions)

I strongly encourage you to attend PASS sessions – with the guidance of your skilled PASS leader, you will do example questions that will help you prepare for weekly quizzes, the midterm and the final exam.

PASS leader: Ethan Tucker (E-mail: tucker04@my.yorku.ca)

Date and time: Thursday 4:30-6:30pm

Location: Vanier College 113A (VC 113A)

Weekly Quizzes

Weekly Smartwork quizzes will be held on the Norton platform. To take the quizzes, you must either purchase the digital textbook or purchase access to the quizzes. Both possibilities are accessible through eClass.

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

Course Schedule

Important Dates

Explore the York University [Academic Calendar](#) to find a list of important dates, such as class start/end dates, drop deadlines, holidays and more.

Course Policies

Please review the course policies in this section. All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Academic Integrity

Maintaining academic honesty and integrity is important for students, instructors, and York as an institution; as such, we have a responsibility to uphold academic integrity. **Breaches of academic integrity such as cheating in exams in this course have led to students being expelled from the university.** Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by visiting York's [Academic Integrity](#) website and completing SPARK's [Academic Integrity module](#) at the beginning of the course. If you have any questions about the meaning or importance of academic integrity, please reach out to me and I will be happy to help.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created (in whole or part) through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). Using AI apps such as ChatGPT, GPT-3, DALL-E, translation software among others to complete academic work **without your instructor's knowledge or permission**, is considered to be a breach of academic honesty. For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

If you're not sure whether using an AI app for your academic work is acceptable, it is recommended that you:

- Carefully review the guidelines for your assessments
- Check for any messages from your instructor on eClass
- Ask your instructor or TA if they are permitting the use of these tools

Accessibility

York University is committed to creating a learning environment which provides equal opportunity to all members of its community. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please discuss your concerns with your instructor as early as possible. For students with disabilities, contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) to coordinate academic accommodations and services. Accommodations will be communicated to Course Directors through a Letter of Accommodation (LOA).

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, feed to AI machines 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 Conduct](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

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 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.

Student Support and Resources

York University offers a wide range of student supports resources and services, including everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance. 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.

- [Centre for Indigenous Student Services](#) offers a community space with academic, spiritual, cultural, and physical support, including writing and learning skills programs.
- [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.
- [Peer Mentorship](#) helps students transition through their first year by connecting them with upper-year students. The mentors can help find supports and resources. They also lead a community hub on campus.
- [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](#).