

AP/ECON 2350 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II
Section O
Winter 2025
Department of Economics
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
York University

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 2300 3.00 or equivalent. Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

Course Instructor

Name: Matias Cortes
Office: 1088 Vari Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am
Email: gmccortes@yorku.ca

Lecture Time and Location

Thursdays 11:30am-2:30pm
DB 0014

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) Time and Location

See eClass

Expanded Course Description

ECON 2350 is a continuation of ECON 2300. The course applies the analytical tools from ECON 2300 to analyze resource allocation in imperfectly competitive markets and factor pricing in alternative market structures. The course also introduces students to concepts and applications of game theory, and considers basic concepts of general equilibrium and externalities.

At the end of the course, students will:

- understand the structure and underlying assumptions of the standard models used in microeconomic analysis and how the models' predictions change when the standard assumptions are relaxed;
- understand the basic tools of game theory and how to apply these to various settings;
- be able to identify and solve constrained optimization problems;
- demonstrate facility with the calculus-based methods used to analyze microeconomic problems;
- be able to explain in non-technical terms the fundamental economic intuition associated with the standard models.

Course Text / Readings

Required: Hal R. Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus*, W.W. Norton & Company. Cost (eBook from YorkU Bookstore): \$121.45.

Optional: Theodore C. Bergstrom and Hal R. Varian, *Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics*, W.W. Norton & Company. Cost (physical book from YorkU Bookstore): \$75.50.

*Note: Older editions or second-hand copies of the textbooks are also acceptable. Purchasing access to the online Smartwork platform is **not** required for this course.*

Evaluation

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	45%

- The due dates for the **Assignments** will be announced in class. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**
- The **Midterm** will be held during class time.
- The **Final Exam** will take place **during the official exam period (April 8-25)** and will include the material covered during the **entire course**.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#).

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for each assignment.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments submitted later than the due date will not be accepted. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Course Instructor, only when accompanied by supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter).

Missed Tests: There will be no make-ups for the Midterm Exam. If a student misses the Midterm, appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) must be provided **within 48 hours** of the scheduled Midterm date; otherwise the student will miss all of the Midterm marks. If the reason for missing the Midterm is deemed to be acceptable by the instructor, the weight from the Midterm will be transferred to the Final Exam, i.e. the Final will account for 80% of the student's final grade.

A deferral for the **Final Exam** will be granted only for medical reasons. In such cases, students should submit a deferred exam application through the following website:

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

The form must be completed **within 7 days of the date of the exam**. The date and time of the deferred exam will be set at a later date. Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Important Information for Students

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. To maintain a fair and honest learning environment, students in this course are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity in all of their academic activities. To better understand expectations, familiarize yourself with the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). To learn more about how to demonstrate academic integrity in your courses and to access related resources and support, visit the [Academic Integrity website](#).

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 provide weekly office help hours to meet with students, and you can also join our weekly **Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)**, or 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.

Course Add/Drop Deadlines

Information is available at <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/2024-2025/fall-winter>

Outline of Topics and Approximate Schedule
The following is a guide to the lecture schedule, time permitting.
Exact dates and coverage may vary.

Date	Topics	Key Reading
Jan 9	Imperfect Competition: Monopoly	Varian ch 25
Jan 16	Monopoly Behaviour	Varian ch 26
Jan 23	Imperfect Competition: Factor Markets	Varian ch 27
Jan 30	Oligopoly	Varian ch 28
Feb 6	Game Theory I	Varian ch 29, ch 30
Feb 13	Game Theory II	Varian ch 29, ch 30
Feb 20	Reading Week (<i>no lecture</i>)	
Feb 27	Midterm	
Mar 6	General Equilibrium: Exchange	Varian ch 32
Mar 13	General Equilibrium: Production	Varian ch 33
Mar 20	Externalities	Varian ch 35
Mar 27	Public Goods	Varian ch 36
Apr 3	Asymmetric Information	Varian ch 37