

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I

AP/ECON 2300 3.00 SECTION C
FALL 2026

Course Information

Course Instructor:

Prof. Berta Esteve-Volart

Office: VH 1066

E-mail: bertaev@gmail.com

Office Hours: T 3:30-4:30pm or by
appointment

Course Time & Days: T 11:30am-
2:20pm

Class Location: SCS 104

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 2300 3.00 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/Corequisite: 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.

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, by consumers and producers. 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:

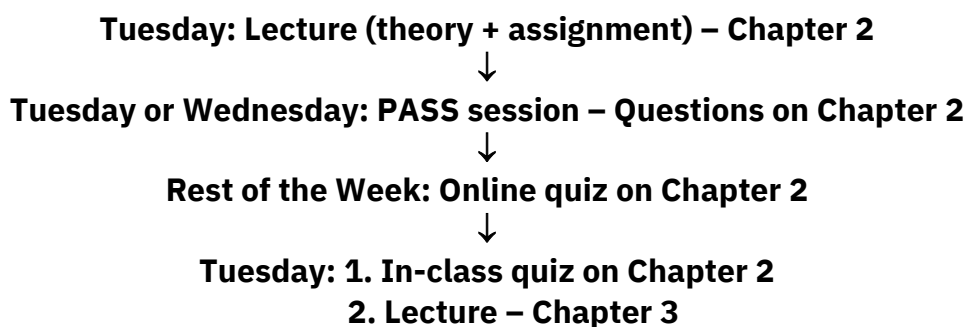
- Understand trade-offs using simple models
- Understand and solve constrained optimization problems
- Analyze decision problems with equations and graphs
- Understand the intuition behind the theoretical outcomes analyzed

Course Organization

Students are strongly encouraged to take notes in class with **pen and paper**.

The organization of the course is as follows. During our lecture time, we will cover approximately one topic or chapter from the textbook every week (including a few sample questions as an assignment). The PASS session will be either on Tuesday after class or on Wednesday (TBC), and it will cover questions related to that topic, **including from past exams**. During the rest of the week, students will be required to complete an online, hour-long quiz with questions on the same topic. You will have unlimited attempts to complete the online quiz; therefore, you should take online quizzes as your opportunity to practice questions every week to stay on track. During the following class, a 15-minute test will assess you on that topic.

For example, for our first topic, The Budget Constraint (Chapter 2):



If you come to class, go to PASS, put in the work with the quizzes (online and in-class) and stay on top of the material, you will do well in this course.

Course Materials

Students are required to complete online Smartwork quizzes every week. **Students can either complete their online quizzes by purchasing the textbook or eBook for this course, OR by purchasing access to Smartwork quizzes.** I follow the textbook closely in this course. I will also upload slides for each topic.

Course Learning Materials	Cost	Availability
Hal R. Varian and Marc J. Melitz, <i>Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach</i> , 2 nd edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2024 [includes access to Smartwork quizzes]	Print: \$204.96 eBook: \$126	via link on eClass
Access to Smartwork quizzes	\$73.35	via link on eClass

List of Topics

1. Consumer Theory
 - a. Budget Constraint: Chapter 2
 - b. Preferences: Chapter 3
 - c. Utility: Chapter 4
 - d. Choice: Chapter 5
 - e. Demand: Chapter 6
 - f. Slutsky Equation: Chapter 8
 - g. Consumer's Surplus: Chapter 14
2. Producer Theory
 - a. Technology: Chapter 19
 - b. Profit Maximization: Chapter 20
 - c. Cost Minimization: Chapter 21
 - d. Cost Curves: Chapter 22
 - e. Firm Supply: Chapter 23
3. Markets for Goods
 - a. Market Demand: Chapter 15
 - b. Equilibrium: Chapter 16
 - c. Industry Supply: Chapter 24

Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) and SNACK

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 (online and in-class), and ultimately the midterm and the final exam. You will also practice questions from past exams.

PASS Leader: Eduardo Saitovitch (E-mail: edsaitov@my.yorku.ca)

Date and time: TBA

Location: TBA

Students may also receive assistance from **SNACK** (the Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele) in FC 034.

Course Evaluations

Course Evaluation Chart

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %
Online Smartbook quizzes	Weekly	10%
In-class quizzes	Weekly	10%
Midterm	October 27	30%
Final Exam	December TBA	50%
Class participation	Throughout the course	Bonus
Total		100% + Bonus

Assignments

At the end of each chapter, there will be a regular assignment with practical applications of the theory discussed in class. They are not to be submitted.

Online Smartwork quizzes

During the weekend, students will be required to complete an online, approximately one hour-long quiz with questions on the chapter of the week. You will have unlimited attempts to complete the online quiz; therefore, you should take online quizzes as your opportunity to practice questions every week to stay on track.

In-class quizzes

There will be approximately 10 weekly 15-minute in-class quizzes.

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.

Missed 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 automatically have an 80% 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/departement-policies/deferred-standing/>

Class participation

I will give bonus marks (up to 5 marks) at the end of the course to students who participate regularly in class.

Instructor Office Hours and Communication Guidelines

- Office Hours (see above for day and time) are hours during the week when I am guaranteed (barring emergencies) to be available in my office, to answer your questions, to provide you with advice about this class, as well as other matters related to your studies here at York University. You do not need an appointment to drop in during office hours. If my regular office hours do not work for you, please make an appointment with me via email. I am also

available for office hours over Zoom; please make an appointment via email. I will have additional office hours during reading week.

- Email: I try to respond to all emails within 48 hours. Please write down your full name in your emails.

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	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0-39	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. In the past, breaches of academic integrity, such as cheating in exams in my courses, have led to students being expelled or suspended 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)

Most students are probably acquainted to some degree with AI and may have used it to help them solve problems. **Students are advised not to use AI, or at least to use it only as a last resort to check their assignment results.** There are (at least) three good reasons for this. First, AI frequently makes mistakes and can give you wrong answers to questions you submit to it. Second, you will not have AI to assist you on your tests and final exams, so if you want to do well in this course, you should learn how to solve problems by yourself. Third, and most importantly, it is pedagogically unsound to use AI to solve problems. Part of the learning process involves working through problems, making mistakes and learning when you went wrong. A much better option is to go to PASS to develop learning strategies and also work with other students on your coursework.

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](#).