

ECON3200 Industrial Organization

Section A

Fall 2026

Main Information

Instructor: Andrey Stoyanov

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Classes: Wednesday 19:00-21:00; Location: VH-1152A

Office hours: Thursdays, 15:00-16:00; VH1084

Email policy: Emails are intended solely for short, clarifying questions that can be answered in 1-2 lines. I will not respond to inquiries concerning course materials via email. Such questions should be addressed during office hours.

Objectives

The objective of this course is to study the effects of various market structures on economic performance and conduct of modern business enterprise. In this course we apply economic theory to analyze factors that determine industry structure, and strategies that companies might use to acquire and use market power in different market situations. Specific topics covered in this course include pricing and product differentiation strategies, strategic interactions among competing firms, advertising, vertical integration and the role of government competition policy.

The course has two parts. The first part develops the principal models of market structure and firm behaviour. The second part is based on student presentations, assigned readings, questions and class discussions that apply industrial organization concepts to contemporary industries, business strategies and policy issues.

Course site

All class materials will be posted on eClass:

<https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/my/>

Prerequisites

AP/ECON 1000 3.0 or equivalent

I expect that you will be able to perform basic calculus, including simple partial derivatives.

Textbook and lecture notes

The primary course materials are the lecture slides, assigned readings and practice problems posted on eClass. Carlton and Perloff, *Modern Industrial Organization*, 4th edition, is a recommended reference for the traditional theory covered in the course.

The first part of the course will draw primarily on Chapters 1-12 of the textbook.

Although the lectures will generally follow the textbook, they will depart frequently. The additional material will be included in slides. Students should give priority to the lecture slides.

Supplementary readings will be posted on eClass. They will provide real-world applications, evidence and interpretations of the models and debates examined in class. Readings for each presentation class will normally be posted at least one week in advance.

Evaluation

Midterm test	45%
Class presentation and discussion	22%
Class attendance	8%
Final exam	25%

The course grade will be based on the midterm test (45%), the class presentation and discussion (22%), class attendance with short post-presentation responses (8%) and the final exam (25%).

Students may receive up to five additional percentage points for constructive participation in the discussions following group presentations. The bonus is discretionary and will reflect the quality, relevance and consistency of contributions rather than the number of times a student speaks. Attendance alone does not qualify for the bonus.

Practice quizzes and problems

Each week, until the presentation classes begin, I will post practice problems with solutions covering the relevant material, together with an online practice quiz on eClass. Both practice problems and quizzes will not be graded. Although you will see your quiz score among your grades, these are only for your reference and they will not be used in your final course grade calculations.

Midterm test

The midterm test will be held on the following date:

- October 28 (Wednesday) at 7:00pm during regular class time.

Absence from the midterm test

Students who cannot attend the midterm test at the stipulated date and time must inform me before the test and provide appropriate documentation. Students whose absence is approved will write an 80-minute makeup midterm after completing the scheduled 90-minute final exam period.

Presentation and discussion assignment

The second part of the course will be organized around ten group presentations. Groups will normally contain three to four students, depending on final enrolment. Two groups will present in each of five classes. Each presentation should be approximately 20-25 minutes and will be followed by questions and discussion.

Groups and topic selection

I will post 15-20 industrial organization topics from which groups may choose. Students will be asked to indicate several topic preferences. Groups will otherwise be formed randomly, although mutual requests from students who wish to work together will be accommodated where possible. Each group will be assigned a unique topic.

Presentation expectations

A presentation must analyze its topic using the concepts and methods of industrial organization. It should identify the relevant market, firms, strategic choices, sources of market power, effects on consumers and competition, and any relevant policy questions. Detailed instructions and the grading rubric will be posted on eClass.

All group members are responsible for the entire presentation and must understand the full topic, not only the section they deliver. I may direct questions to any member of the group. Grades will not be identical group grades: the assessment includes both a shared group component and individual components based on each student's presentation performance, command of the complete topic and answers during the question period.

Presentation assessment

Group analysis, evidence, organization and presentation materials	6%
Individual presentation performance and command of the complete topic	7%
Individual answers during the question period	7%
Performance as the designated discussion group	2%

Designated discussion group

For each presentation, another group will be designated in advance to open the discussion. Its members must complete the assigned reading, follow the presentation carefully, and prepare one or two substantive questions or comments. The designated group should identify issues that require clarification, connect the presentation to course concepts or the assigned reading, or raise a relevant alternative interpretation. Each group will serve as the designated discussion group for one presentation.

Absence from a group presentation

Because every member is responsible for the entire topic, the remaining group members must be prepared to deliver the complete presentation if a member is absent. When an absence is sudden and approved, the additional difficulty faced by the students who present as scheduled will be taken into account in their assessment, and they will not be penalized for the absence of another member.

A student with an approved absence from the scheduled presentation must present the entire topic individually and answer questions on a separate date determined by the instructor. Only an approved absence qualifies for this individual makeup arrangement. An unapproved absence may result in a grade penalty, including a grade of zero for the missed individual components.

Short post-presentation responses and Class attendance

At the end of each presentation class, students who are not presenting that day will write a short response of approximately one or two paragraphs. A straightforward question related to one of the day's presentations will be provided, and students will answer it on paper during class. Grading will focus on whether the response demonstrates an understanding of the presentation, rather than on writing style or polish. Students are not required to complete a response on their own presentation day. Each student will therefore have four opportunities to complete a response, and the best three responses will count. This allows students to miss one presentation class or one response without penalty.

Final exam

The final exam will be held during the formal examination period and will be worth 25% of the final course grade. All students will have 90 minutes to complete the final exam. It will consist of four essay-style questions covering only the material studied after the midterm test, including the presentation topics, assigned readings, and class discussions. Students will choose and answer two of the four questions. Students may not answer a question based on their own group's presentation topic.

Students who missed the midterm test and were approved to write a makeup test will remain for an additional 80 minutes after completing the final exam. During this additional time, they will write the makeup midterm test. This will be the only

opportunity to complete the makeup midterm test; no additional makeup date will be provided.

Important Dates

Classes start / end	Sep.9 – Dec.8
Examination Period	Dec. 10-23
Reading week	Oct. 10-16
Last date to add a course	Sep.22
Last date to drop course without receiving a grade	Nov.10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a 'W' on the transcript)	Nov.11 – Dec.8

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

The Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards (CCAS) provides a [Student Information Sheet](#) that includes:

- [York's Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Access/Disability](#)
- [Religious Observance Accommodation](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Additional information:

- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling](#)
- [Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy](#)
The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for 'full year' courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.
- **"20% Rule"**
No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.
- Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Guidelines for Deferred Standing
(Final exam and term work extensions)

A Deferred Standing (extension) is a process by which students who are either unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or submit term work before the Faculty deadline to submit final grades reach an agreement with the course director for an extension to the deadline. The course director may grant deferred standing in the course. In doing so, a date is set for writing the exam or submitting the outstanding work. In order to qualify for Deferred Standing, a student must complete the standard Deferred Standing Agreement form. This form is available at the Office of the Registrar and the Economics Undergraduate Office (1144 Vari Hall).

Deadline:

Senate Policy states, “Normally requests for deferred standing must be communicated within one week following a missed examination or the last day to submit course work” (the period during which the University is officially closed for December holidays and statutory holidays is not counted in the determination of deadline days).

It is the responsibility of students to make arrangements with the course director to complete the course and file the Deferred Standing Agreement form with the appropriate departmental/unit office by the deadline specified on the form. Appropriate Documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed final examination must be provided at the time of requesting the Deferred Standing from the Course Director.

WHAT IS APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION?

MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an **Attending Physician’s Statement** downloadable from the York University’s registrar site (see the attached copy). The physician’s statement must include the following information:

- i) Full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
- ii) State the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered).
- iii) An indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student’s ability to study and perform over the period in question.

NOTE: the physician’s office may be contacted to verify that the statement was actually completed by the physician.

NON-MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e. death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket receipt for **emergency travel** (with the date of booking on the ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Having to work at the time of the exam or non-emergency travels **are not** considered valid excuses for missing the exam.

If the course director does not agree to consider requests for deferred standing students then may file a petition with the relevant Faculty-level committee for consideration within the established deadline.