York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Fall 2026

AP/ECON2300 3.0A – Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I

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Office hours:	By appointment
Class time and location:	Thursday 11:30am to 2:30pm; CFA 312
Course website:	https://eclass.yorku.ca/

Course Description

This course 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: AP/ECON 1000 3.00, AP/ECON 1010 3.00, and AP/ECON 1530 3.00, or equivalents. *Prerequisites/Co-requisites*: AP/ECON 1540 3.00.

Course Organization

This course proceeds on a **weekly** basis. We will (usually) cover new topics each week. (A tentative list of topics to be covered appears below.) Each week, I will post all relevant material for the week on the course's e-Class page by **Thursday at 11:30am** (the start of our lecture time). I will also use e-Class announcements to regularly communicate with the class and provide updates when needed. Please make sure your email address on e-Class is up to date.

Posted materials each week will usually consist of (i) my lecture slides in PDF format; (ii) a short quiz to reinforce the material; (iii) a PDF document with longer practice problems; and (iv) a PDF document of solutions to some of the longer practice problems from the prior week.

Here is an outline for how you should proceed through the course each week:

1. *Lectures*

We will meet for **in-person lectures** each week. Please attend lectures regularly, as this is where I will introduce and discuss new material for each week.

2. *Quizzes*

After the lecture, complete the quiz for that week's materials. These quizzes will not be very difficult; they are designed to make sure you're following along with the course and to reinforce core ideas from the lecture materials.

Each quiz will become available after the lecture and is **due in one week**—that is, the **following Thursday at 11:29am** (yes, you read that correctly: 11:29am). You will take the quizzes and submit your answers directly on e-Class. Quizzes are graded for participation marks (see Course Breakdown below).

3. *Practice Problem Sets*

The practice problem sets are not graded and are not to be submitted. It is, however, highly encouraged that you complete them. Students should attempt the practice problems after they have attended lecture, reviewed lecture material, and taken the quiz for the week.

While you are free to work at your own pace on these problem sets, I highly encourage you to complete each week's problem set in one week's time—that is, before the lecture the following week, at which point I will post solutions and discuss *select* solutions in class. Attempting problems without first seeing the solutions is a great way to learn material.

Important note: the material in this course builds on itself very naturally and cumulatively, so it is important that you keep up and learn new ideas at a consistent pace.

Course readings

Each week, the lectures, quizzes, and practice problem sets will be based on chapters from the textbook, "Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus." It is available at the bookstore (as an **e-book**, so you can access it online), along with a companion "Workouts" book that offers extra practice questions. Here is more detailed information for each:

Required Text**:**

Hal R. Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus*, 2nd Edition, with Smartwork5, W.W. Norton & Company.

- **Print:** \$204.95 + HST
- **Day1Digital Etext**: \$132.23 + HST

Optional Text:

Hal R. Varian, *Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics*, 9th Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.

- **Print:** \$80.50 + HST

Course Breakdown

The final course grade will consist of weekly quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam, according to the following breakdown:

Evaluation	**Due Date**	**Weight of Final Grade**
Weekly Quizzes	Weekly: Due every Thursday at 11:29am	10%
Midterm Exam	**Thursday October 22, 2026**	35%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the University	55%

Quizzes

Each quiz is **due in one week**—that is, the **following Thursday at 11:29am**. You will take the quizzes and submit your answers directly on e-Class.

Throughout the course, there will be as many quizzes as there are topics that we cover—that is, one quiz per topic. A tentative list of topics appears below, but because the number of topics in this list is subject to change, so is the total number of quizzes. Regardless of the eventual total number of quizzes, I will **count only your best eight (8) quizzes toward your final course grade**. Because 10 percent of the course grade is allocated to quizzes, each quiz will be worth 1.25 percent (10 percent / 8 quizzes).

Midterm and Final Exam

A few important points about the midterm and final exam:

- Please **note the date and time of the midterm exam**: The midterm exam will be held in-person during our **regular lecture time** on **Thursday October 22, 2026**

- The final exam will be held in-person during the university's official exam period. It will be scheduled by the university.

- The midterm exam will cover approximately the first half of the course and the final exam will cover the entire course, although with more emphasis on the second half of the course.

Exams must be taken by all students at the scheduled time. **There is NO make-up exam for a missed midterm exam**. If a student misses the midterm exam, the weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to final exam only if the student missed the midterm for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness or injury, death in the family) and can provide detailed documentation of this reason as required by the economics department. If a student misses the midterm and fails to meet these requirements, they will receive a grade of zero on the midterm. **When the midterm exam is missed with a valid reason and the associated documentation is provided, the weight of the final exam will be 90%**.

Students with a valid reason can make a request to defer the final exam using the form found at this link:

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

Regrade Policy

For the midterm exam, students who wish to request a regrade must do so within one week from the day the midterm grades are returned to the class, regardless of when the student receives his or her midterm. If a student finds a problem with the grading of the midterm exam, they should inform the course instructor in writing 24 hours **after** the midterm has been returned to the class (the "cool off" period). When requesting a regrade, the student should submit a clear, concise note, explaining which question they would like regraded and why, making clear reference to how their answer compares to the correct solution. If the midterm is submitted for a regrade, the entire midterm will be regraded, not just the question(s) that is (are) of interest. This means the overall grade can go up, down, or stay the same.

Practice Questions

I will assign practice problem set questions with practical applications of the theory discussed in class. These are not assigned for grades and are not to be submitted, but it is always a good idea to understand exactly why the answer is what it is, so please make sure you understand the logic behind all the solutions.

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.)

Topics and Readings:

The following is a preliminary list of topics and planned schedule for coverage. Please note that this is subject to change.

Week	Topic(s) to be Covered
Week 1: Thursday September 10, 2026	• Budget Constraint: Chapter 2 • Preferences: Chapter 3
Week 2: Thursday September 17, 2026	• Utility: Chapter 4
Week 3: Thursday September 24, 2026	• Choice: Chapter 5
Week 4: Thursday October 1, 2026	• Demand: Chapter 6
Week 5: Thursday October 8, 2026	• Slutsky Equation: Chapter 8 • Consumer's Surplus: Chapter 14
Week 6: Thursday October 15, 2026	**Reading Week**
Week 7: Thursday October 22, 2026	• **Midterm: Thursday October 12**
Week 8: Thursday October 29, 2026	• Technology: Chapter 19
Week 9: Thursday November 5, 2026	• Profit Maximization: Chapter 20
Week 10: Thursday November 12, 2026	• Cost Minimization: Chapter 21
Week 11: Thursday November 19, 2026	• Cost Curves: Chapter 22
Week 12: Thursday November 26, 2026	• Firm Supply: Chapter 23

Week 13: Thursday December 2, 2026	• Market Demand: Chapter 15

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://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/index-policies.html/

- 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