

# Department of Economics Faculty of Arts

## Economics 357 (L01) Intermediate Economic Theory - Microeconomics II

Instructor: L. Yuan Lecture Location: Zoom Delivery
Phone: 403 -220-5863 Lecture Days/Time: MWF 10:00 - 10:50

Email: <u>yuan@ucalgary.ca</u>

Office: Zoom Delivery: https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/8926394342

Office Hours: MW 14:00 – 14:50 or by appointment

Fall 2020

#### **Course Description:**

This course is the second in a pair of courses designed to acquaint students with microeconomic theory. Microeconomics is concerned with a systematic understanding of the choices of individuals, firms, and organizations. It seeks to address the social consequences of the behaviour of economic agents. This course will extend and build on the theory of the consumer, the theory of the firm, and the theory of perfect competition introduced in Economics 301. The theory of general competitive equilibrium will be studied intensively. Particular attention will be devoted to its efficiency and welfare properties. Thereafter, instances of market failure will be addressed: those covered will be imperfect competition, externalities, public goods, and informational asymmetries.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will further develop their mastery and understanding of the methodology of microeconomic theory by applying it to the following topics.

- Extensions to Consumer Theory: Intertemporal Choice, Asset Markets, Uncertainty, Risky Assets, Insurance
- 2. Market Power: Monopoly, Price Discrimination
- 3. Imperfect Competition and Game Theory: Prisoner's Dilemma and Nash equilibrium; Cournot, Bertrand, and Collusion
- 4. General Equilibrium and the Fundamental Theorems of Welfare Economics: Exchange Economy; Production and General Equilibrium (2x2x2 and Robinson Crusoe)
- 5. Social Welfare and Economic Equity: Bergson Social Welfare Functions; Arrow's Impossibility Theorem
- Market Failure I, Externalities: Tragedy of the Commons, Pigouvian Taxes and Subsidies, Property Rights, The Coase Theorem
- 7. Market Failure II, Public Goods: Optimality Condition; Private Financing and the Free Rider Problem
- 8. Market Failure III, Asymmetric Information: Adverse Selection, Moral Hazard, Principles and Agents
- 9. Public Choice: Government Failure

#### **Course Outline:**

I Introduction		Chapter
	Objective and Overview	
	A Methodology	
	Pareto Optimality and Gains from Trade	16
II Topics in the Theory of Consu	ımer	
	Review the Theory of Demand	
	Intertemporal Choice	10
	Asset Markets	11
	Uncertainty	12
	Risky Assets	13
III General Equilibrium and the	Fundamental Theorems of Welfare Economics	
	Exchange Economy	32
	Production and General Equilibrium	33
	Social Welfare and Economic Equity	34
IV Market Failure I: Market Pov	ver	
	Monopoly and Monopoly Behaviour	25-26
	Imperfect Competition and Game Theory	28-30
Market Failure II: Externality		
	Pigouvian taxes and Subsidies	35
	Property Rights, The Coase Theorem	
Market Failure III: Public Goods	<b>S</b>	
	Optimality Condition	37
	Private Financing and Free Rider Problem	
Market Failure IV: Asymmetric	Information	
	Adverse Selection, Moral Hazard	38
Public Choice: Government Fail	ure	

## Prerequisites/corequisites:

Economics 301 and one of Mathematics 249, 251, 265 or 281.

## Required Textbook(s):

Required

Hal Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Norton, 2014.

## **Recommended Textbook(s):**

Roberts, R. 2001. *The Invisible Heart*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Spufford, F. 2010. *Red Plenty*. London Faber and Faber.

#### **Online Delivery:**

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have: computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

#### Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <a href="http://d2l.ucalgary.ca">http://d2l.ucalgary.ca</a> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class email list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

#### Lectures:

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

#### **Tutorials:**

Students are expected to attend "virtually" the tutorial sections to which they have been assigned. Tutorials will be offered online, typically using ZOOM, but can involve moderated discussion boards and curated delivery of alternative online resources. During the tutorials, the TA will discuss pre-assigned questions and additional material relevant to the course that is not covered in lectures.

#### **Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

2 Midterm Examinations	15% each	30%	October 16 and November 16, 2020,
3 Assignments	10% each	30%	
Final Examination		40%	<u>_</u>
		100%	

The official grading system will be used. See http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

If a student's letter grade on the final exam exceeds their midterm(s) letter grade, the weight of the midterm(s) may be transferred to the final exam at the discretion of the instructor. The student must have written the midterm(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s) such as a medical note or statutory declaration.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work. See https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e- 2.html.

Course material dealing with a particular assignment will typically be covered in class at least 7 days before the assignment is due; thus, assignments can be completed at any time up to and including the due date. Given these factors, only situations where someone can document illness or domestic affliction for an extended period (i.e., the entire 7 days prior to the due date) would possibly warrant shifting the

assignment weight to the final exam. Furthermore, technical problems can be expected to occur with computer systems (and internet availability) so it may be a good idea to not wait until the last minute to submit your assignment.

The midterm exam(s) is take-home exam(s) designed and intended to be completed in 50 minutes. The exam(s) will be OPEN book. The exam(s) will be available on D2L. Student will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. Student will have 50% time extension to complete the exam, at a time of your choosing, within a 24-hour period determined by the instructor.

The final examination will be take-home, comprehensive, and scheduled by the Registrar. Students will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. Student will have 50% more time to complete the exam, at a time of their choosing, within the 24-hour period that begins 24 hours before the end date of the Registrar's scheduled final exam for this course. The exam is designed and intended to be completed in two hours. The exam will be OPEN book.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

All other course components will also be accessed, submitted, and returned through D2L.

If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html</a>. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

#### Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2 <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html">http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html</a>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3 http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html

#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade on the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf

https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity</a>.

#### **Academic Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-policy.pdf">http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-policy.pdf</a>.

### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf">http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf</a> and <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty\_0.pdf">http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty\_0.pdf</a>.

## **Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf">www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf</a>. Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

#### **Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html">https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html</a>.

#### **Important Dates:**

Please check: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html.

## **Student Organizations:**

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

**Economics Department Representative** 

E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics: <a href="https://www.ucalgarysue.com/">https://www.ucalgarysue.com/</a>.

#### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource
for everything in Arts! Call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>. You can
also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <a href="http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate">http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate</a>, which has detailed

- information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625].

#### **Student Support and Resources:**

- See <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines">https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</a> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <a href="https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support">https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support</a>.

#### Notes:

- 1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.
- 2. Assignments

Answers to assignments will be either discussed in class shortly after each assignment falls due or posted on the D2L. For this reason, late assignments will be given a score of zero, although you may still wish to have the work corrected and returned without a score being recorded. Only the DropBox submissions will be marked.

Students are encouraged to discuss the assignments with their classmates, but each must write up their own answers. Copying or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own is a serious offence, which will not be tolerated. Your attention is directed to the "Statement of Intellectual Honesty" in the 2020-2021 Calendar. Taking credit for someone else's work is something for which I show zero tolerance

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