

Economics 357(L01) Intermediate Economic Theory – Microeconomics

II

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Lecture Location: SA 106
Lecture Days/Time: TR 1100-1215

Office: SS450
Office Hours: TR 1230-1330 (may be via Zoom)

Fall 2021

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. Social choice theory (what should be the allocation of resources) and public choice theory (how government policy is determined). Market failures from 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.

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

Course Outline and Schedule (the dates are approximate and subject to change):

I	Review of Demand Theory September 7-8	
II	Topics in Consumer Theory September 14-30	
	Intertemporal Choice	Ch 10
	Asset Markets	Ch 11
	Uncertainty	Ch 12
	Risk Assets	Ch 13
III	General Equilibrium and the Fundamental Theorems of Welfare Economics October 5-14	
	Exchange Economy	Ch 32
	Production and General Equilibrium	Ch 33
	Social Welfare and Economic Equity	Ch 34
IV	Market Failure I: Market Power October 19-28	
	Monopoly and Monopoly Behaviour	Ch 25, 26
	Imperfect Competition and Game Theory	Ch 28-30
V	Market Failure II: Externalities November 2,4,9	
	Pigouvian Taxes and Subsidies, Property Rights, and the Coase Theorem	Ch 35
	Fall break November 8-12	
	Mid-term Exam November 18 (tentative)	
VI	Market Failure III: Public Goods November 23, 25	
	Optimality, private financing and the Free Rider Problem	Ch 37
V	Market Failure IV: Asymmetric Information November 30-December 7	
	Adverse Selection, Moral Hazard	Ch 38
VI	Public Choice, Government Failure Time permitting.	

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Econ 301 and one of Math 249, 251, 265, 281

Required Textbook(s):

Hal Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, 9th ed., Norton 2014.

Desire2Learn:

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

Tutorials:

Students are expected to attend the weekly tutorial section to which they have been assigned. 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:

Midterm Exam	30%	November 18 (tentative)
3 Assignments	30%	Due dates: TBA
Final Exam	40%	Date set by Registrar

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 letter grade, some of the weight from the midterm exam may be transferred to the final exam at the discretion of the instructor. The student must have written the midterm or provided supporting documentation for the absence 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>.

Only in situations where the student can document an illness or domestic affliction for an extended period of time will consideration be given to shifting an assignment weight to the final exam, at the discretion of the instructor. If an assignment is submitted online, since technical problems can be expected to occur with computer systems (and internet availability) it is a good idea to not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment.

The final examination will be comprehensive, scheduled by the Registrar, held in a classroom, and last 2 hours. If a student cannot write the final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department or the Professor.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Programmable calculators, cellphones, textbooks, course notes, and other electronic devices will not be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations. Note that simply being able to access a cellphone during an exam is academic misconduct.

The exact date for the in-class midterm will be announced at least one week in advance.

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

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

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 for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> 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 strictly 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

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
Website: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics: <https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

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! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, 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] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> 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 <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

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.