

**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 201: Microeconomic Theory 1**  
**Course Outline – Fall Term 2011**

**Instructor:** Corey Van de Waal

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**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30pm – 2:00pm (Starts September 13<sup>th</sup> and ends December 6<sup>th</sup>).

Office hours for the Final Exam Period will be announced in November.

If these office hours are not convenient for you, I am also available by arranging a mutually convenient appointment.

**Economics Clinic:** Fall term hours and locations to be announced.

**Class Meets:** 2:30pm - 4:00pm Mondays and Wednesdays.

**Classroom:** PAS 2083

**TA Information:** To be announced.

**Academic Advising Hours:**

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00am – 11:00am & 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30am – 12:00pm

**Brief Summary:**

This course comprises the theoretical essentials of microeconomics and will serve as a prerequisite for virtually every economics course that you will endeavor to take in the future. The course will cover the theory of consumer choice, the economics of production, and will consider different market structures varying from perfectly competitive to monopoly markets. Students will also be introduced to the basics of Game Theory and Information Economics. There is a voluminous amount of material to cover in this course. We will attempt to get as far through the topic list as our limited time will allow.

**Prerequisite:** ECON 101.

**EVALUATION:** Two (2) in-class midterm examinations, two (2) assignments, and a final examination in December.

**MIDTERMS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND FINAL EXAMINATION**

Assignment #1 (5%) will be posted by September 19<sup>th</sup> and is due October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Assignment #2 (5%) will be posted by October 17<sup>th</sup> and is due November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Assignments are to be submitted by 4pm on the due date in the appropriate ECON 301 drop box located across from HH210. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 25% per day.

The dates of the in-class midterm exams are:

**Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**&**  
**Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The midterms will be written in the class period on the dates specified above and the best result will be worth **25%** of your final grade with the second best result being worth **15%** of your final grade.

Each of the two assignments is worth 5% for a total assignment weighting of **10%**.

The final exam, which will be scheduled by the registrar during the examination period in April, will constitute **50%** of your final grade and will be comprehensive (i.e. cover all course material from beginning to end).

This grading scheme will be implemented for all students in the course (with the exception of verified illnesses).

#### **COURSE NOTES:**

I have prepared a set of course notes that are available on UW ACE. These notes will serve as your “textbook”.

#### **TEXTBOOK:**

There is no required text for this course. Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the course notes and presented as lecture content (which are strong complements, not substitutes...see Policy on Class Attendance).

#### **TOPICS COVERED:**

- Consumer Theory: Lectures #1 to #8
- Producer Theory: Lectures #9 to #13
- Market Structures: Lectures #14 to #18
- Game Theory and Information Economics: Time permitting at the end of course.

**Policy on Missed Tests:** No make-up tests will be provided. Students who do not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero on any missed test and their final grade will be computed in accordance with the formula specified above. For students who miss one of the midterms (or both) and have a relevant medical certificate the weight of the missed test will be transferred to the final exam.

**Policy on remarking of Tests:** If you feel that your test (or assignment) was not marked properly, you must advise the instructor within 5 business days of the date on which the test (or assignment) is handed back to the class. Any student that submits a test (or assignment) for remarking should understand that the entire test (or assignment) will be remarked and that their grade may improve, remain unchanged or perhaps even decrease as a result of the remarking process.

**Policy on Class Attendance:** Class attendance is an integral part of your educational experience. While attendance is not a graded component of this course, it is an important factor in ensuring your complete understanding of the material presented. You are responsible for all material presented in the scheduled lecture periods whether you choose to attend lectures or not.

To protect course integrity, as well as to provide appropriate guidance to students, all course outlines in the Faculty of Arts must incorporate the following note on avoidance of academic offenses (motion passed at Arts Faculty Council, 1999 April 13; slight modifications made at Senate UG Council, 2004; **statement revised** in light of changes to policies 70, 71 and new policy 72 passed by Senate UG Council May 2008):

**Academic Integrity:** in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

*“How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors” - <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>*

**Note for students with disabilities:** *The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.*