

University of Waterloo

Department of Economics
Microeconomic Theory
Economics 401
Course Outline – Winter 2011
Classroom AL-124
Times: 1:00-2:20 TTh

Instructor: John Burbidge
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Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment
Note: There will be no class on Tuesday March 15th.

Assessment: There will be two term tests and a final exam. The term tests will be held on Thursday January 27th and Thursday March 3rd. Both tests will take place in the class period and in the room classes are held. The subjects covered by each test and its format will be specified in class prior to each test.

The grade for the course weights each test 25% and the final 50%. There will be no make-up tests. If a student misses a test, the weight on the test is transferred to the final exam. The final grade for the course is the maximum of the formula grade and the grade on the final exam.

Textbooks: The primary text for this course is A. Mas-Collel, M.D. Whinston and J.R. Green, 1995, *Microeconomic Theory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press). The motivation for much of the material we shall be covering is contained in A. Deaton and J. Muellbauer, 1980, *Economics and Consumer Behavior* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). Also, please see Angus Deaton's web site (<http://www.princeton.edu/~deaton/>).

Topics and readings:

1. Consumer behaviour: MWG, chs. 1, 2, 3
2. Aggregation: MWG, ch. 4
3. Firm behaviour: MWG, ch. 5
4. Uncertainty: MWG, ch. 6

Note on avoidance of academic offences:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (page 1:10). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Also, “Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, (p. 1:10).”

“How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors - Go to <http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>.

“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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.