

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 201: Microeconomic Theory for Business and Policy (Section 003)
Fall 2016
Class Time: Tue. & Thur. 08:30 am - 09:50 am
Classroom: AL 211

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Predrag Rajsic

Office: HH 162

Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 30174 (please do not leave voice mails)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm or by appointment

Email: prajsic@uwaterloo.ca

T.A. Information: TBA.

Notes on office hours or contacting instructor

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

If a student is not able to meet during office hours, I am open to arranging a mutually convenient appointment via email.

When sending email to your instructor, always use your University of Waterloo email account. "ECON 201" must appear in the subject line and the message must include your full name and student ID number.

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

Where to find this course outline:

This course outline is available at two locations for the duration of the term:

- Department of Economics website <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/courses-and-outlines/courses-and-outlines>
- LEARN web site (requires UW user id and password) <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

Course Description

This course covers the conceptual groundwork in microeconomic theory typically used for analyzing choices of people within the market process. The course will serve as a prerequisite for virtually every economics course that you will endeavor to take in the future. We will begin by examining the microeconomic theory of people's consumption decisions. Next, we turn to analyzing producers' decisions using the model of the firm. We then combine the two basic microeconomic building blocks—consumer choice and producer choice—to see how consumers and producers interact within the market. There are many different kinds of markets, but we will focus on four main types: competitive markets, monopoly, oligopoly, and monopolistic competition.

Prerequisite: ECON 101.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the general theoretical approach adopted in microeconomics;
- Reason about economic questions in a systematic, theoretically grounded way;
- Use graphical, algebraic and verbal means to express and communicate economic ideas and concepts.

Textbook

- Microeconomics, 7th edition. Jeffrey M. Perloff, University of California-Berkeley
Older editions are acceptable, but it is the students' responsibility to cover any differences in the content.
Copies of the 7th and 6th edition are on reserve at the Dana Porter Library.

Notes from the BookStore

- The UW BookStore has the following editions of the same textbook package (buy only one):
 - Option 1: Microeconomics, 7th edition (Hardcover) Plus MyEconLab with Pearson eText - Access Card Package. ISBN-13: 9780133577860 (\$199.00)
 - Option 2: Microeconomics, 7th edition, Student Value Edition Plus MyEconLab with Pearson eText -- Access Card Package. ISBN-13: 9780133577853 (\$123.60)

Readings Available on LEARN

- LEARN web site <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>
- Announcements, lecture slides, midterm solutions
- Econ 201 – Math Review—this document covers mathematical concepts that students should be familiar with for the course.
- Online Review Quizzes (see below under *Review Quizzes*)

The LEARN site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. Always be prepared!

Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the textbook and the presented lecture content (which are strong complements, not substitutes...see Policy on Class Attendance).

Course Requirements and Assessment

The midterms will be written in the class period on the dates specified below and the best result will be worth 25% of your final grade with the second best result being worth 20% of your final grade.

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

There will be a bonus grade up to 2% for participation.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Weekly Review Quizzes	TBA	5%
Midterm #1	October 6 (in-class)	20% or 25%
Midterm #2	November 10 (in-class)	20% or 25%
Final Examination	Exam Period (scheduled by Registrar's Office)	50%
Bonus for participation ¹		2%
Total		100%

Review Quizzes

- The purpose of the review quizzes is to help students identify and understand key concepts covered in the lectures and in the textbook.
- The format of the quizzes will mainly be multiple-choice questions, but there may also be some true-false questions, or short answer questions.
- The quizzes will be done online through the LEARN system.
- There will be a limited, but a reasonably long, time window set up in LEARN during which each quiz will be available for completion. There are three attempts for each quiz available and the best attempt counts.
- Quizzes that are not submitted on time will automatically receive a grade of zero.

Participation

Participation is recommended and it will be rewarded through bonus marks up to the total of two percentage points (2%) that will be added to the students' final grade. Participation will be monitored through the online tool Top Hat. The primary purpose of this tool in this class is to enhance the feedback mechanism between students and the instructor so that we can identify areas that may require special focus. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. Your participation grade will **not** depend on the correctness of your answers to the in-class questions.

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if you don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/887767>

Note: our Course Join Code is **887767**

¹ If a student's Total grade, including participation, is more than 100%, the participation grade is applied up to the value that produces the Total grade of 100%. Otherwise, the full participation grade is applied.

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Midterms and the Final Exam

- The format for both midterms and the final exam will be a mix of multiple-choice questions and written problems.
- The midterm test will be written during the class time.
- The final exam period for the Fall Term 2016 is December 8 – 22 inclusive. Students are expected to be available during this time. Travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. <http://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations/examination-regulations-and-related-matters>
- The exact date and time for the final exam for this class will be determined by the Registrar's Office. The exam schedule is posted online, will be announced in class, and posted on LEARN.
- Only the Registrar's Office can issue final grades.

This grading policy will be implemented strictly for all students in the course (with the exception of verified illnesses – see below).

Missing a Midterm Due to Illness During the Term

- Missing a midterm will automatically result in a grade of zero for that midterm. If the illness can be documented with a UW Verification of Illness Form (the only acceptable document), with approval you may transfer the weight of the missed midterm to the final exam. This remedy is a privilege and not a right.
- The midterm exam schedule has been set and will not be changed for whatever reason (no make-up midterm exams will be offered).

Missing the Final Exam Due to Illness

- Missing the final exam is a very serious matter which automatically results in a grade of zero for the final exam and possibly a failing grade for the course. Please carefully read the Economics Department policy on deferred final exams for instructions.
- No deferred final exam will be provided for students who missed all the exams (including the final exam) in this course

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

- Deferred Final Exam Policy found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

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

Course Outline

This class schedule is ambitious. Modifications and/or eliminations of certain content might be required given our limited time together. Any necessary modifications or eliminations to the course content will be communicated to you in the regular class period.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	September 8	Introduction to Course & Economic Modeling	Ch. 1 Introduction Ch. 2 Supply and Demand
2	September 13 and 15	Economic Modeling Consumer Theory	Ch. 3 Applying Supply and Demand Ch. 4 Consumer Choice
3	September 20 and 22	Consumer Theory	Ch. 4 Consumer Choice
4	September 27 and 29	Consumer Theory	Ch. 5 Applying Consumer Theory
5	October 4 and 6	Consumer Theory Midterm #1 (October 6)	Ch. 5 Applying Consumer Theory
6	October 13 ²	Producer theory	Ch. 6 Firms and Production
7	October 18 and 20	Producer theory	Ch. 6 Firms and Production Ch. 7 Costs of Production
8	October 25 and 27	Producer Theory Market Structures	Ch. 8 Competitive Firms and Markets
9	November 1 and 3	Market Structures	Ch. 9 Applying the Competitive Model Ch. 11 Monopoly
10	November 8 and 10	Market Structures Midterm #2 (November 10)	Ch. 12 Price Discrimination
11	November 15 and 17	Market Structures	Ch. 12 Price Discrimination Ch. 13 Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition
12	November 27 and 24	Market Structures	Ch. 13 Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition
13	November 29 and December 1	Game Theory Review and Reflections on the Learning Experience	Ch. 14 Introduction to Game Theory

² October 11 is a study day—no class scheduled.

Tentative Schedule of Review Quizzes

- Quiz 1: Released September 13, due September 20. Coverage: Ch 1, Ch 2
- Quiz 2: Released September 20, due September 27. Coverage Ch 3, Ch 4
- Quiz 3: Released October 13, due October 25. Coverage Ch 5, Ch 6
- Quiz 4: Released October 25, due November 8. Coverage: Ch 7, Ch 8, Ch 9
- Quiz 5: Released November 15, due November 27. Coverage: Ch 11, Ch12
- Quiz 6: Released November 27, due December 1. Coverage: Ch 13, Ch 14
- Any changes to this schedule and any other relevant information will be announced in class and posted in the LEARN News section.

Late Work

Late submission of exam papers is not accepted and missed submissions will receive a zero mark for whatever reason.

- Exam papers must be submitted in whole and on time in the exam room. Exam papers
 - a) not submitted on time
 - b) submitted with missing pages,
 - c) submitted elsewhere, with the exception of students with permission to write in the AS Office
 - d) not received at all

will receive a grade of zero for whatever reason.

- It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they write exams in the location, date, and time assigned to their section. Students writing exams in the wrong section will be assessed a 20% penalty on the final exam grade. There will be no accommodation for possible differences in exam material or content.

Electronic Device Policy

- Laptop computers or other electronic devices (i.e., Apple or Android smartphones and tablets) may only be used to view lecture material or to access the Top Hat page for this course.
- Photographic devices are not permitted in class due to copyright and privacy issues.
- Audio or video recording devices are not permitted in class due to copyright and privacy issues.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an integral part of your educational experience. 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.

Classroom Protocols

- I do NOT lend my lecture notes to students for any reason.
- In order to maintain a productive learning environment in the classroom, we all need to show the highest level of courtesy and professional behaviour. In particular, please be punctual and turn off all audible ringers on all devices during class.

- As a courtesy to the custodial staff, if you have coffee, water, etc., please dispose of your garbage when you leave the classroom.
- Please leave your private conversations for after the class.

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Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (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](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

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. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.