

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 201-001
Microeconomic Theory for Business and Policy
Winter 2017
MWF 11:30-12:20, RCH 110

Instructor and T.A. Information

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T.A.	TBA
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Course Description

This course introduces the microeconomic approach to consumption, production and markets. While the material mainly presents fundamental theoretical topics in Intermediate Microeconomics, an effort is made to build intuition and develop problem-solving techniques with the aid of examples and problem sets.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

The principal aims of this course is to rigorously introduce the main methods of microeconomic analysis at an intermediary level, and to equip students with the tools required to apply these methods themselves. This is achieved by emphasizing intuition and by using logical reasoning, simple algebra and graphs and without the use of more advanced mathematics such as calculus. The course builds a theoretical apparatus and applies it to

Required Text

- Hal Varian, "Intermediate Microeconomics," 9th edition, 2014, W.W. Norton.

Note: Older editions of the text are acceptable.

The bookstore should hold enough copies of this title. Alternatively, the text is widely available from online retailers. At least one reference copy (older) will also be placed on reserve in the library.

A valuable recommended supplement is: "Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics" by Bergstrom and Varian. Almost free with new textbooks. Older versions are ok. One reference copy will be placed on reserve in the library.

Other FREE supplementary texts:

- The Core Team – [“The Economy”](#)
- Preston McAfee – [“Introduction to Economic Analysis”](#)
- Yoram Bauman – [“Quantum Microeconomics”](#) (check also [“Cartoon Introduction to Economics”](#))
Note: this title is not free)

Course Requirements and Assessment

Information on course requirements and assessments.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Problem set 1	tba	5%
Problem set 2	tba	5%
Problem set 3	tba	5%
Problem set 4	tba	5%
Midterm Exam 1	<i>February 2 - tentative</i>	20%
Midterm Exam 2	<i>March 9 - tentative</i>	20%
Final Exam	Scheduled by Registrar’s Office	40%
Total		100%

Important Notes on exams:

1. Exams cover all lecture material, indicated textbook chapters and problems and additional reading.
2. There are no make-up tests. If you miss a midterm exam and present appropriate documentation, the weight will be shifted to the final.
3. 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.

Course Outline

Students are required to read the textbook chapters and additional readings for every section. Please note that this list is tentative. Updates are probable and will be announced in class and posted on UW-Learn.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Date	Introduction + The Market, the Budget	Varian ch. 1,2 + others tba on UW Learn
2	Date	Preferences, Utility, Choice	Varian ch. 3,4,5 + others tba on UW Learn
3	Date	Demand: Consumer and Market, Surplus	Varian ch. 6,14,15 + others tba on UW Learn
4	Date	Equilibrium, Exchange, Information Technology	Varian ch. 16,32, 36 + others tba on UW Learn

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
5	Date	Technology, Profit Maximization, Cost Minimization, Cost Curves	Varian ch. 19,20, 21, 22 + others tba on UW Learn
6	Date	Supply: Firm and Industry	Varian ch. 23,24 + others tba on UW Learn
7	Date	Imperfect Competition: Monopoly and Monopoly Behaviour, Oligopoly	Varian ch. 25,26, 28 + others tba on UW Learn
8	Date	Public Policy: Externalities and Public Goods	Varian ch. 35 + others tba on UW Learn
9	Date	Public Policy: Public Goods	Varian ch. 37 + others tba on UW Learn
10	Date	Public Policy: Inequality	tba on UW Learn
11	Date	Game Theory, Applications, Asymmetric Information	Varian ch. 29, 30, 38 + others tba on UW Learn
12	Date	Behavioural Economics	Varian ch. 31 + others tba on UW Learn

Late Work

Late submissions will not be accepted without a documented reason.

Electronic Device Policy

Laptop computers should only be used to take notes on the margins of slides or other class-related activities. While the course material is interesting, it was not designed to compete with social media.

Attendance Policy

While attendance is not enforced, students are expected to attend each class having read the assigned readings and ready to contribute to the discussion.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

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. 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 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70), Section 4 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). 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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 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.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655

[MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services

Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

[Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454

Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880

[Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247

[OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources ([PDF](#))

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory ([PDF](#)).