

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY I  
ECONOMICS EC2150A-003  
Department of Economics  
Western University

September 2020

**General Information:**

Instructor: Mohammad Iftekher Hossain  
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Office hours: **Thursday** 10:00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. (ET)  
I will arrange office hours using **Zoom**. Meeting IDs and passwords for the Zoom sessions will be available at the "Announcement" section of OWL beginning of every week. **Only authenticated users (UWO accounts) will be able to join the Zoom sessions.**  
Delivery mode: Online asynchronous (**Textbook, Chapter Notes, Prerecorded video lessons**)  
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>  
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca)

**Registration:**

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

**Prerequisite Note:**

**Antirequisite(s):** Economics 2260A/B.

**Prerequisite(s):** Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B, and one of MCV4U, Mathematics 0110A/B, Calculus 1000A/B, Calculus 1500A/B, Mathematics 1225A/B.

Prerequisite(s) for your course can be found in the Western Calendar at:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ECONOMIC&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

## Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to provide undergraduate students necessary knowledge about microeconomic theories related to the behavior of consumers, producers, and competitive markets. We will discuss the consumer and producer theories and application, and the long-run and short-run equilibrium in competitive markets using three microeconomic tools: constrained optimization, equilibrium analysis, and comparative statics. We will also analyze the impact of government interventions in the perfectly competitive markets on the output and pricing decisions and the welfare of economic agents.

## Course Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Solve utility maximization problems subject to the constraints.
- Decompose the price effect in the market into substitution and income effects.
- Explain the theories of demand, applying the techniques of constrained optimization and comparative static analysis.
- Describe a firm's cost-minimization problems in the long-run and the short-run.
- Derive the long-run and short-run cost curves.
- Obtain the short-run and long-run equilibrium of perfectly competitive firms.
- Analyze the consequences of government interventions in perfectly competitive markets.

## Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam, Microeconomics, 6th edition, Wiley., 2020

Below is the link for the ebook version that the students can purchase through the BookStores website:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebcodeid31212>

I strongly recommend purchasing the ebook, as it contains several interactive practice quizzes, learning-by-doing exercises, and audio-enabled sections.

## Essential Resources and Instructions:

**Textbook:** strongly recommended to buy the Textbook; this is the most important resource in this course.

**PPTs:** All PPTs will be available through OWL before the commencement of the semester.

**Chapter Notes** (a synopsis of the chapter): Chapter notes will be available through OWL with the progression of the course. **They do not contain all of the material that you need to know! You must read the Textbook.**

**VoiceThreads (VTs):** It is a tool available at OWL. I will upload prerecorded videos at VTs explaining the key concepts in every chapter with the progression of the course.

**Practice Test:** Before every test, I will arrange a practice test. Practice Tests will offer you opportunities to do practice, and it will also make you familiar with the question patterns in the upcoming tests. **Your performance in the practice test will not be graded.**

**Online resources:** Some of the following online resources you may find helpful. Please follow the instructions available in chapter notes.

[https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate\\_resources/math\\_resources\\_for\\_ec\\_2100\\_required\\_courses.html](https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_resources/math_resources_for_ec_2100_required_courses.html)

All parts of these online resources are not required for this course. Chapter notes include recommendations about which part of the online resources will be helpful.

**Review Sessions:** I will arrange some Zoom review sessions before every test/exam. Instructions about how to join the review sessions will be announced in due time. **Only participants using UWO credentials will be given access to the review sessions. This is for security of online interactions.**

**Attending the review sessions is optional, and no attendance will be recorded.** After the review sessions, I will email the questions discussed and detailed answers to all of you.

### Technical Requirements

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone and Webcam
- Scanner/ Smartphone

### Important Tools at OWL

**Resources:** This tool contains all chapter notes, sample questions, and other related materials.

**Tests & Quizzes:** I will use this tool to administer all tests and quizzes.

**VoiceThread (VT):** I will upload prerecorded videos at VoiceThread with the progression of the course. Please note that, when you attempt to download a VT, it may take long (20-30 minutes) to be ready for you to view. But, once you download one VT, next time, just by clicking it, you will be able to see it. VTs are important to follow as the VTs and Chapter note together replace the live sessions in this course.

**Forum:** Please use the Forum to discuss course-related content. I regularly follow the Forum. I will be happy to contribute to the Forum regularly if you participate and discuss related concepts.

### Instructions:

- You should check the course website (OWL) every 24-48 hours
- I will provide a weekly update about readings, VoiceThreads, office hours, exams at the beginning of every week.
- Please use the OWL "messages" tool to email me and teaching assistant(s)
- I monitor the emails daily; you will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the **OWL forum** for discussions. Please use the OWL forum to discuss course-related content.

### Assessments and Grading:

Your grade point is your total points (out of 100) that you will earn in this course when the semester ends. Three Online Tests and one Final Exam will contribute 100% of the total points (Please see the weights below).

<i>Exam</i>	<i>Available at *</i>	<i>Closes at*</i>	<i>Covers</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Online Test 1	<b>(Tentative)</b> Week 4	<b>(Tentative)</b> Week 4	<b>(Tentative)</b> Ch. 1, 2, 3	15%
Online Test 2	Oct 21, 10:00 am	Oct 21, 12:00 pm	Ch. 3, 4, 5	20%
Online Test 3	Nov 18, 10:00 am	Nov 18, 12:00 pm	Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8	25%

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Available at</b>	<b>Closes at</b>	<b>Covers</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Final Exam	TBA	TBA	Ch. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	40%

\* All dates and times are strictly based on the Time zone in London, ON. When the Registrar's office confirms the date and time for the tests/ exams, we will notify you as the earliest. The availability period for each online test is 2 hours, and the duration of each test is 60 minutes. All tests will be administered using the "OWL Tests & Quizzes" tool available on the course website.

### **Exam Duration:**

#### **Online Tests:**

While attempting an Online Test, once you click "Begin Assessment," you will have 60 minutes or until the exam closes, whichever is shorter. I will arrange online tests using the OWL Tests & Quizzes/ Assignment Tools.

#### **Final Exam:**

The duration of the final exam is 2 hours. I will arrange the Final Exam using the OWL Tests & Quizzes/ Assignment Tools. In due time, you will receive announcements/ emails/ notification about the date and time when the final exam begins and closes.

### **Essential information about the tests/ exams**

Tests/ exams are open-book tests/ exams. Tests will be a mixed format. Although the tests/ exams are open-book, to do well, students should prepare for the tests/ exams as they do for the closed-book tests/ exams.

Students should keep this schedule and workload in mind, given their other courses and commitments. Students should plan to ensure that they can complete the tests on these dates. Students should notify the instructor of conflicts with any of these test dates no later than September 23.

### **Policy Regarding Missed Exams:**

Students with approved absence from an online test during the term will have the weight of the missed online test reallocated to the final exam. Please remember that the final exam covers more chapters, and, therefore, the difficulty level in the final exam is much higher than the online tests.

Students who miss more than two online tests during the term will not be permitted to reweight them to the final exam.

Students who have an approved absence from the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam that may differ in format from the original final exam and will be proctored using Zoom. The exam format in the make up exam will also be different from the regular exam, and will, therefore, be much harder.

Students who miss any assessment (Tests and the Final Exam) must follow Western University's procedures for approval of their absence to receive accommodation. Please see pp. 7-9 of this syllabus for details on these procedures. If Western University announces any procedures for the approval of absences during Fall 2020 that supplement or supplant the information provided on this syllabus, please follow those procedures.

## Course Schedule (Tentative):

Please see the course schedule below. If there is any change in this schedule and coverage, students will be notified through the "Announcement" tool available at OWL.

Week/ Date**	Task	Chapters (Tentative)**
September 09 – September 11	See the course outline, buy the Textbook, explore the course website, see the resources	
September 14 – September 18	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	1, 2
September 21 – September 25	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	2, 3
September 24	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m, Review Session 1***	
September 28 – September 29	OWL Practice Test 1 (optional, will not be graded)	1, 2, 3
September 30	Online Test 1	1, 2, 3
October 05 – October 09	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	4
October 13 – October 16	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	5
October 15	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m, Review Session 2***	
October 19 – October 20	OWL Practice Test 2 (will not be graded)	3, 4, 5
October 21	Online Test 2	3, 4, 5
October 26 – October 30	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	6, 7
November 02 – November 08	Reading week	
November 09 – November 13	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	8
November 12	6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m, Review Session 3***	
November 16 – November 17	OWL Practice Test 3 (will not be graded)	5, 6, 7, 8
November 18	Online Test 3	5, 6, 7, 8
November 23 – November 27	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	9
November 30 – November 04	Chapter Notes, Textbook Chapters, VTs	10
December 07 – December 09	OWL Practice Quiz/ Test 4 (will not be graded)	8, 9, 10
TBA	Final Exam	2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10

\*\* If there is any change in the tentative schedules/ coverage, students will be notified using the "Announcement" tool available at OWL.

\*\*\* Review sessions will be arranged using Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID and password will be provided through the announcement section at least one day before each session. Attending the review sessions is optional, and no attendance will be recorded.

### Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

- Students in this course should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.
- Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
- Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
- Treat this course as you would a face-to-face class. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or notes in a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching.

- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet weekly for study and peer support.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you have questions or are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact me and or teaching assistant(s).

### **Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright:**

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

**Please Note**  
**Department & University Policies for 2020-2021**

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

**Academic Rights and Responsibilities:** Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

**Guidelines and Policies for Students** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

**Rules of Conduct for Examinations:** Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

**Cheating and Academic Offences:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

**Academic Appeals:** Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

**Department Appeals Procedures:** The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

**Systematic Adjustments:** Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

**Add/drop deadlines:**

Deadline to add a first term half course:  
Deadline to drop a first term half course:

**Thursday September 17, 2020**  
**Thursday November 12, 2020**

**Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule:** Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

**End of Term Travel:** Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

**Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

**Accommodation Policies:** Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

**Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**



For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:  
[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

**Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement:** If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

**Statement on Mental Health and Support Services:** Students under emotional/mental distress should visit [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.