

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY I  
EC2150A-001/003  
Department of Economics  
Western University

September 2021

**General Information:**

**Instructor:** Irene Trela  
**Office:** 4081 SSC  
**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext.85054  
**E-mail:** [itrela@uwo.ca](mailto:itrela@uwo.ca)  
**Office hours:** M 10:30-12:30

- in person (simply drop by my office during scheduled office hours)
- online using zoom (you are required to email me to book an appointment during scheduled office hours)

**Classroom meeting  
time(s) & location:**

Section 001: T 12:30-2:30 SEB 1200; TH 12:30-1:30 SEB 1200  
Section 003: M 2:30-3:30 SH 3345; W 1:30-3:30 SH 3345

**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:**

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B; and one of MCV4U, Mathematics 0110A/B, Calculus 1000A/B, Calculus 1500A/B, Mathematics 1225A/B, or Mathematics 1230A/B.** The antirequisite for this course is **Economics 2260A/B.**

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:**

This course will acquaint students with the behaviour of consumers and producers and their interaction in society. You will be introduced to key microeconomic tools and shown how they work and why they are important. Intuitive explanations complemented with graphs and numerical and real-life examples will be used to teach the key concepts, helping to illuminate the power and versatility of the microeconomic way of thinking. For exams, students will be required to know not only the theory but also how to apply the theory to solve analytical problems.

## **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to explain the concept of scarcity and how it influences the choices of what, how and for whom goods and services are provided.

Students will be able to apply the principles of constrained optimization to model consumer choice of consumption goods subject to a budget constraint and producer choice of inputs subject to a technological constraint.

Students will be able to identify the conditions that characterize a perfectly competitive market and explain the concepts of equilibrium and comparative statics analysis.

Students will be able to analyze the effects of government actions on individual and social welfare.

## **Textbook:**

David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam, *Microeconomics*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, John Wiley and Sons Inc., 2020.

Below is the link to the paperback and e-book versions of the textbook that students can purchase through the Book Store:

Section 001 [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/ECO2150A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/ECO2150A)

Section 003 [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=003\\_UW/ECO2150A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=003_UW/ECO2150A)

## **Technical Requirements:**

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

This equipment is needed for the following purposes: (1) to access the resources and announcements on OWL, (2) to participate in virtual office hours using Zoom, (3) to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances. One such circumstance is that, if due to Covid 19 there is another lockdown and classes return to virtual, students may be required write exams on OWL and scan or take pictures of handwritten answers and either send these images to the instructor via email or upload them onto OWL.

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (call in for assistance at 519 661-3800 or create a Service Desk ticket at <https://jira.uwo.ca/servicedesk/>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL.

### **Assessments:**

Midterm #1	worth 31%	Tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 15, 7-9pm
Midterm #2	worth 31%	Tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 12, 7-9pm
Final	worth 38%	To be announced by the Registrar

The midterms and final exams will each be 2 hours in length and in mixed format.

**Note: Use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, etc) and dictionaries are not allowed during exams; electronic devices caught in a student's possession or on will be taken as an attempt to cheat. Students are also banned from wearing or having on their desk any kind of wristwatch/timepiece during exams (time will be displayed on either a wall clock, board or projector). During exams students may use only a non-programmable/non-graphing calculator (but lids/covers must be removed).**

### **Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:**

Students **must** follow Western University's procedures for approval of their absence from any exam in order to receive an accommodation. Please see the **Please Note Department Policies for 2021-2022** section of this syllabus for details on these procedures.

Students who miss an exam (and approved through academic counselling) **will be required to write a makeup exam**. Students must notify me no later than 24 hours after the end of the excused period to arrange the writing of their makeup. Makeups will be in similar format as the regular scheduled exam.

### **Course Website:**

<http://owl.uwo.ca> : this site gives you access to lecture notes for theory (including questions in your lecture notes that will help guide you in working your assigned homework questions), assigned homework questions from the textbook for numerical practice, applications for real-life examples, and review questions to further help you prepare for exams. Answers to homework and review questions are posted on the site. The applications for real-life examples will be taken up in class, so if you miss class on the day an application is taken up, it will be

your responsibility to obtain notes from a fellow student. Announcements regarding midterm and final exams, class cancellations, and other important announcements will also be posted on the site.

**NOTE: The lecture notes posted on the course website are supplementary material and should not be regarded as a substitute for lectures. There will be a significant amount of additional material covered in class that is NOT in the posted lecture notes. Students are reminded that class material (including posted lecture notes, additional material covered in class that is not in the posted lecture notes, and application topics), homework questions and review questions will ALL be subject to examination.**

### **Course Outline:**

Introduction to Microeconomics	Chs. 1, 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• constrained optimization</li><li>• equilibrium analysis</li><li>• comparative statics</li></ul>	
Consumer Theory	Chs. 3 - 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• preferences</li><li>• utility</li><li>• choice</li><li>• demand</li></ul>	
Production and Cost Theory	Chs. 6 - 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• production functions</li><li>• cost minimization</li><li>• cost curves</li></ul>	
Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch. 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• profit maximization</li><li>• supply</li><li>• market equilibrium</li></ul>	
Comparative Statics and Welfare Analysis	Ch. 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• economic efficiency</li><li>• government intervention</li><li>• deadweight loss</li></ul>	

### **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 of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

**Please Note**  
**Department & University Policies for Fall 2021**

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

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/administration.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf).
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents 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 other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20)).

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.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
6. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14). **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: [https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_counselling/responsibilities\\_policies.html#appeals](https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals). 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 proceed to submit an appeal to [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca). Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

7. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
8. Note the following **add and drop deadlines**:

Deadline to add a first term half course:

**Thursday September 16, 2021**

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

**Friday November 12, 2021**

### **Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

### **Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation**

- The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having\\_problems/index.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html).
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), 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](#).
- **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. Self-Reported Absences cannot be used once a student has proceeded to start to write a test or exam.
- **Self-Reported Absences:** Students will have two opportunities during the fall and winter terms to receive academic consideration if they self-report a missed assessment using the online self-reported absence portal, provided the following conditions are met: the assessment is missed due to an absence of 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 otherwise 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., final exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if the student has opened or started the test or exam
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the fall/winter terms

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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.

- **Documentation for Accommodation:** 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.**
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)
- **Student Medical Certificate (SMC):** This form is available here: [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.

**Statement on Remote Proctoring:** While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unity may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.