

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS I  
ECONOMICS EC2260A-001  
Department of Economics  
Western University

**September 2023**

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**Office hours:** *Office hours will be held online Monday 330pm using Zoom  
<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/92234202772>.*

- *Students can drop into the Zoom session and will be put in a waiting room until space is available.*

**Delivery mode:** *In-person (online asynchronous with at least one week of anticipation).*  
**Meeting time(s):** *M 1:30-2:30, W 1:30-3:30*  
**Classroom:** *UCC-56*  
**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/Antirequisite Note:**

The prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B; and 0.5 from Mathematics 1225A/B, Mathematics 1230A/B, Calculus 1000A/B, and 0.5 from Mathematics 1229A/B, Mathematics 1600A/B, Calculus 1301A/B, or Calculus 1501A/B.**

The antirequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 2150A/B.**

*(The prerequisites and antirequisites 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 Description:**

Theories of consumer and firm behavior and equilibrium in competitive markets.

### **Course Objectives:**

Economics is a science on relations among individuals such as trades, contracts, conflicts, households, markets, networks, and societies. The fundamental building block of the analysis and design of such relations is the mathematical method for an individual to make decisions. To introduce such decision-theoretic method in the simplest possible setting, we start by assuming that the counterpart of the individual is not a strategic player trying to game him but rather a dummy such as a purely competitive market, which the individual does not need to haggle with. Given this assumption of pure competition, learning the basic decision-theoretic techniques is what we will do throughout this course, the gateway to more serious trainings in economics.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Formal techniques of decisions for individuals (e.g., consumers, producers) in competitive markets
2. Basic skills in solving constrained optimization problems
3. Introduction to the formal, abstract reasoning in economics

**Textbook(s) and Course Materials:** [No textbook, see readings below/on the course website.](#)

### **Tentative Calendar:**

Week 1 Preference and utility  
Week 2 Consumer's decision  
Week 3-4 Lagrange method  
Week 5 Review and Midterm Exam 1  
Week 6 Revealed preference  
Week 7 Firm's supply  
Week 8 Deployment of inputs  
Week 9 Review and Midterm Exam 2  
Week 10 Nash equilibrium and Imperfect Competition  
Week 11 Bounded Rationality  
Week 12 Review

**Communication:** *(If you like, include instructions on course-related communication, some possible examples listed below; otherwise delete)*

- All course materials will be posted on the course OWL site. *Students should check the*

*course OWL site every 24-48 hours*

- *Students should use the OWL “messages” tool to email the instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s)*
- *This course will use OWL forum for discussions*
- *The discussion forums will be monitored weekly by instructors or teaching assistants*
- Email: Important announcements will be posted on OWL, which should also email you the announcements immediately after the posting.
- Please put *Econ 2260* in the Subject when you send the professor or the TAs an email about the course.

## **Technical Requirements**

- *Laptop or computer*
- *Stable internet connection*
- *Microphone*
- *Webcam*
- *Optional: Get Access to Wolfram Mathematica either online or desktop through Western (you do not need to pay but get the access from Western).*

For technical support, see the OWL help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

## **Assessments and Grading:**

Grade = 60% Final grade + 40% Midterm grade if Final grade is above Midterm grade  
Grade = 40% Final grade + 60% Midterm grade if Final grade is not above Midterm grade  
Midterm grade = 75% max{midterm 1 grade, midterm 2 grade} + 25% min{midterm 1 grade, midterm 2 grade}

## **Midterm and Final Exams:**

- Midterm Exam 1 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 11, 1030am ET - 330pm ET.
- Midterm Exam 2 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 15, 1030am ET - 330pm ET.
- Final Exam will be scheduled by the registrar.
- Each of the three exams is meant for the duration of 2 hours. However, according to the Universal Instructional Design (UID), I shall provide 5 hours, 1030am ET - 330pm ET, to all students to complete the 2-hour exam. According to the university policy based on the UID, this 5-hour duration for the 2-hour exam is sufficient to accommodate students with disabilities. Please do NOT request any other accommodation for disabilities.
- The set of questions in each exam will be posted at the OWL site at the starting time of the exam (1030am ET). You will submit your answers to the OWL site. The submission deadline is the end time of the exam (330pm ET).
- During exams students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor. Exams with similar content will be penalized by dividing the grade of the question with the same content into the number of students sharing the same content. The instructor and TAs will decide if the content is similar enough to be deemed the same.
- Each exam is open-book and open-note, with calculators allowed.

- There is no make-up exam for the midterm exams. If a student due to a legitimate reason cannot take a midterm and if the reason has been reported and verified before the midterm, then the student's final exam grade is counted as his/her grade for that midterm. Missing a midterm without a pre-approval from the professor results in a zero grade.
- Marked midterm exam will be returned electronically through OWL.

### **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.
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL (*if applicable; otherwise delete this bullet point*)
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments (*if applicable; otherwise delete this bullet point*)
- Some sessions may be recorded by the instructor. Recorded sessions will remain within the course site or be unlisted if streamed.

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

Students in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

- Read the lecture notes critically, word by word. Be sure to understand every definition, every equation, and every deduction. When in doubt, ask the TAs and, if still in doubt, the professor. Sometimes it might be just a typo in the lecture note: since I update the lecture notes often, typos occur as well; and they help to slow down your reading (the right way to read math).
- Do every exercise at the end of each chapter of the lecture note (unless I tell you to skip in an announcement). Check your result with the solutions posted on the OWL site. Ask the TAs and then the instructor if you need help.
- Exams are based on the materials in the lecture notes, the exercises, and material related to the lecture notes and exercises that the instructor believes it is close enough to the lecture notes.
- The lecture notes are updated frequently. The latest version of each chapter is posted on the OWL site, indicated by the date in the "Last update" header of the chapter. Be sure to refresh your web browser (or clean its cache) for it to show the updated version.
- Follow suggested timelines posted on OWL site, under the sub-module "Professor's Daily Log" of the module "Course Materials."
- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet on a weekly basis for study and peer support.

**Please Note**  
**Department & University Policies for Fall 2023**

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 OR DROP a first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 15, 2023**
- Deadline to WITHDRAW from a first term full or half course: **Mon, Nov 13, 2023**

### **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**

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.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. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca). **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**
- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

- **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.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation\\_rtw/appeals.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html)
- **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.

