

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY I  
ECONOMICS 2150A-001  
Department of Economics  
Western University

May 2021

**General Information:**

**Instructor:** *Meghdad Rahimian*  
**Office:** 4021B SSC  
**E-mail:** [mrahim4@uwo.ca](mailto:mrahim4@uwo.ca)  
**Delivery mode:** online asynchronous lectures  
**Office hours:** Mondays and Thursdays - 1:00-3:00 pm,

- Office hours will be held online using Zoom.
- Students should sign up for online appointments

**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:**

Please, make sure that you are correctly 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:**

**This course's prerequisites** are 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.

**The antirequisite** for this course is Economics 2260A/B.

Please, ensure that you have completed all course prerequisites and 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 aims 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 government interventions' impact in perfectly competitive markets on the output and pricing decisions and economic agents' welfare.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Solve utility maximization problems subject to 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:**

D. Besanko and R. Braeutigam, Microeconomics, 6th edition, John Wiley, and Sons Inc., 2020

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

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

### **Communication:**

- You should check the course OWL site every 24 hours for new materials.
- I will update you twice a week by sending announcements.
- I will monitor my email daily; you will receive a response in 24 hours.
- We will use the OWL forum for your questions and discussions.
- We will monitor the forum daily and answer the questions.

### **Course Schedule (Tentative):**

- The course contains six weeks, from May 3 to June 11.
- Practice week is on week 6 (June 7 to June 12)
- We will cover ten chapters (chapters 1 to 10) of the textbook in this course.
- We will cover two chapters per week, except for the practice week.
- I will upload notes and problem set with answers for each chapter.
- I will upload practice quizzes, graded, and feedback automatically by OWL every two weeks, a couple of days before exams.

<b>Week / Date</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Week 1 – May 3 to May 8	Textbook, Recordings	Ch 1 and 2
Week 2 – May 10 to May 15	Textbook, Recordings, Practice Quiz 1	Ch 3 and 4
May 16	Midterm 1	
Week 3 – May 17 to May 22	Textbook, Recordings	Ch 5 and 6
Week 4 – May 24 to May 29	Textbook, Recordings, Practice Quiz 2	Ch 7 and 8
May 30	Midterm 2	
Week 5 – May 31 to June 5	Textbook, Recordings	Ch 9 and 10
Week 6 – June 7 to June 12	Practice Quiz 3	Practice week
June 13	Final Exam	

### **Assessments and Grading:**

We will have two midterm exams and a final for this course.

Exam	Opening time	Closing time	Coverage	Weight
Mid 1	16 May 7:00 pm	16 May 9:00 pm	Ch. 1-4	25%
Mid 2	30 May 7:00 pm	30 May 9:00 pm	Ch. 5-8	25%
Final	13 June 5:00 pm	13 June 9:00 pm	All	50%

The availability period for each midterm exam is 2 hours, but the exam duration is 1 hour. When you open the exam session, you will get 1 hour or 9:00 pm to complete the exam, whichever is earlier. The duration of the final exam is 2 hours.

### **Policy Regarding Missed Exams**

- Students who miss any assessment must follow Western University's procedures to approve their absence to receive accommodation.
- If you miss a midterm exam due to a valid reason approved by your academic counselor or SRA, the missed exam's weight will be allocated to the final exam.
- Students who have an approved absence from the final exam will write a makeup exam that differs in format from the original final exam (it will not be a multiple-choice question exam).

### **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 the instructor's written consent.

- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without the 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.
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments.

### **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 to help you stay on track.
- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet every week 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.

### **Please Note**

#### **Department & University Policies for Summer 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:**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Deadline to Add a Course</b>
Distance Studies	Friday May 7, 2021
Intersession	Tuesday May 11, 2021
Summer Evening (first term)	Friday May 7, 2021
Summer Evening (second term)	Friday June 28, 2021

<b>Session</b>	<b>Deadline to Drop a Course</b>
Distance Studies	Monday June 7, 2021
Intersession	Monday May 31, 2021
Summer Evening (first term)	Monday May 31, 2021
Summer Evening (second term)	Monday July 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 one opportunity during the summer term 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 once during the summer term

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.