

INTERMEDIATE ECONOMICS II
ECONOMICS EC2261B -001 AND -002
Department of Economics
Western University

January 2019

General Information:

Instructor: Peter Streufert
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E-mail: pstreuf@uwo.ca
Office hours: WF 12:00-1:00
Classroom meeting time(s) & location:
Section 001: MWF 2:30-3:30 UCC 41
Section 002: MWF 10:30-11:30 UCC 41
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or 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 prerequisite for this course is **Economics 2260** (together with the mathematics prerequisites for that course). The anti-requisite for this course is Economics 2151.

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 studies the advantages and disadvantages of the different institutions which allocate resources. First, we will discuss various social criteria for judging the outcomes produced by such institutions. Second, we will study perfectly competitive markets and compare their outcomes to the social criteria. Third, we will study situations in which such markets cannot operate because of market power or externalities. Finally, we will study situations in which such markets cannot operate because of asymmetric information.

Course Learning Outcomes:

As a result of taking this course, the students will [a] understand the basic microeconomic concepts and tools that are required for more advanced specialized economics courses, and [b] be able to apply these concepts and tools to analyze real-life economic situations. More specifically, students will learn and be able to explain Pareto efficiency, social welfare, competitive equilibrium, market power, collusion, price discrimination, externalities, Nash equilibrium, dominant-strategy equilibrium, public goods, and asymmetric information. Further, students will be able to perform qualitative predictions of how market outcomes depend on market power, externalities, and asymmetric information, and to identify circumstances in which government interventions or alternative allocation mechanisms would improve social welfare.

Textbook(s):

The required textbook is Varian (2014) *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus*, Norton. The accompanying workbook is recommended but not required. That workbook is Bergstrom and Varian (2014) *Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics (ninth edition)*, Norton.

Grading:

There will be in-class midterms on January 25, February 13, and March 15. Each midterm will determine one sixth of the course mark, and the final will determine the remaining half.

Tentative Outline:

1. Welfare (chapters 34, 14, 15). Preference aggregation, Condorcet paradox, Arrow's impossibility theorem, Pareto efficiency, social welfare, Rawlsian justice, utilitarianism, quasi-linear preferences.
2. Market Equilibrium (chapters 16, 32, 33). Review of supply and demand, partial equilibrium, comparative-statics policy analysis, general equilibrium.
3. Market Power and Externalities (chapters 25-30, 35). Monopoly, monopsony, oligopoly, collusion, price discrimination, externalities, game theory, Nash equilibrium.
4. Asymmetric Information (chapters 18, 37, 38). Mechanism design, auctions, dominant-strategy equilibrium, public goods with incomplete information, VCG mechanisms, adverse selection, moral hazard.

Important Notes:

1. Cameras, phones, and the internet are prohibited during lectures.
2. There are no make-up examinations for the midterm examinations. If a student must miss a midterm examination for a legitimate reason (see note #3 below), the missed midterm's weight will be shifted to the final examination.
3. In all but highly unusual situations, the reason for missing a midterm examination must be reported and verified by the instructor *before* the examination begins. Failure to follow this procedure will probably result in a zero for the midterm examination.
4. Prior travel arrangements do not provide grounds for make-up final examinations. So it is risky to make travel arrangements before the registrar announces the final-examination schedule.
5. A make-up final examination may have any format.

Department Policies for 2018-2019

Remember that 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 and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations” 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 a notation on an official academic transcript, 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).

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 in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to 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
Please note the relevant deadlines.

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 with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A checklist is provided at: http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals.

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 second term half course:

Tuesday January 15, 2019

Deadline to drop a second term half course:

Thursday March 7, 2019

9. 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.

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

*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.*

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having their value reweighted on a retroactive basis, 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, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

Students who seek a makeup exam must also provide supporting medical or other relevant documentation that their absence from a scheduled test or exam is beyond their control. Documentation should be submitted to the Academic Counselling Office of the student's *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the scheduled test)**. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. If the documentation submitted is not acceptable, students will receive a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, 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. The off-campus medical certificate form must also be used and can be found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For religious or compassionate circumstances, students should ask their Academic Counsellor what documentation to provide. If documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple-color form for final exams). Once students have this form, they must contact their instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved by their Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that students will be allowed to write the makeup test/exam.

For final examinations, students need to seek permission from their *home* Faculty Counsellor, Instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in a grade of zero. Students must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the Instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay. If approved, makeup examinations will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

The Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html. "Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the Western Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If the instructor deems a student's class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.