

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University
ECON 2300 3.00 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (Sec P) [Winter 2022]
Course Outline

1.1 Course Webpage

eclass.yorku.ca (available by the first day of class).

1.2 Prerequisite / Co-requisite

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00, AP/ECON 1010 3.00, and AP/ECON 1530 3.00, or equivalents.

Prerequisite or corequisite: AP/ECON 1540 3.00. PRIOR TO FALL 2014: Course credit exclusion: GL/ECON 3230 6.00.

1.3 Course Instructor/Contact

Instructor: Dr. Simin Seury, Department of Economics, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, CANADA. Phone: N/A. Email: seury@yorku.ca

Office Hours: Mon 17:00 – 18:00 & Other days by appointment (Scheduler & link to be posted on eclass)

TA's Email and Hours: TBA (I will update this as soon as Department provides a TA)

1.4 Lecture/Course Components

The delivery of this course depends on remote and online teaching and learning, using Learning Management System (LMS) of eclass (Moodle). There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus.

In-class exams are online and synchronous during originally scheduled class time: **Wed 11:30-14:30** (EST); you must be available online during the actual “class time” to attend these. All in-class synchronous exams would start at the beginning of scheduled class time (unless otherwise specified). Please make sure you are available during the entire scheduled class time, as we WILL NOT accommodate individual requests for alternative dates/times (NO EXCEPTIONS will be made).

Final Exam would be **online, synchronous,** and date/time of the Final Exam would be determined by the Registrar's Office **during the Winter 2022 exam period**. You must be available online to attend the final exam accordingly. Again, we WILL NOT accommodate individual requests for alternative dates/times (NO EXCEPTIONS will be made).

All online lectures will be recorded and will be available for at least 3 weeks, starting from the lecture date.

Time-zones: Times for all activities, e.g. lectures, quizzes, tests, due dates for applications, are according to **local Toronto time (EST)**. If you are in a different time zone, please make sure you know how Toronto time converts to where you are. Errors in calculations are not an acceptable reason to miss tests or deadlines.

1.5 Technology Requirements

Access to a laptop or desktop computer with camera, microphone, and a strong, stable internet connection is required to fully participate in this course. Phones and tablets WILL NOT WORK for the Quizzes, Midterms and final exam. To check if you have high speed Internet connection, you can run tests, such as [Speedtest](https://www.speedtest.net). It is your responsibility to ensure that you are preventing common mishaps (i.e., backup copies of your documents, use antivirus software, run scheduled updates, maintain access to 2FA, well ahead of an exam/test, etc.). Computer virus/malware, crashed drives, broken devices, lost or corrupt files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, and any other mishaps related to technology are not acceptable grounds for missing a test/exam/deadline. If required, you might need to appear online on webcam for academic integrity concerns. If you are not comfortable with these requirements, you may not wish to enroll in this section.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

For Technology requirements/FAQs for eclass: <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>

Students will be required to interact through (e.g., eclass (Moodle), Zoom, etc.). Please note:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. Only authenticated users would be allowed to join our Zoom meeting, which means **students will need to join the Zoom meeting(s) with their PPY (passport York) username and password.**
- Should there be any Zoom session with other students, if you have privacy concerns, you can provide your first name or a nickname, and you can keep your webcam and microphone off. Students do not have the permission to record any Zoom sessions (unless they obtain special permission from me).
- For one-to-one Zoom sessions, I need to see you during our interaction and, therefore, you need to activate your webcam and microphone.

2.1 Course Description

This course provides concepts regarding analysis of economic behaviour focusing on its decision-making units - households, firms, and industries. We would learn the ways in which choices made by the economic agents are converted into an orderly process. That is, how the agents make optimal decisions given the incentives and constraints of their economic environment. Topics include, but are not limited to, consumer decision-making, production and costs, competitive equilibrium, and the role of price in a market economy.

2.2 Course Text / Requirements:

Required Textbook: Varian, H. R. (2014). Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach (with Smartwork5). WW Norton & Company. ISBN 978-0-393-69135-1 (Norton page link: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/calcmmedia>). [Note: You can purchase access to **smartwork5** separately at York University Bookstore's site. The ISBN for the Smartwork5-only for the calculus version is: 978-0-393-69004-0. While you can use any edition for the main text (or a second-hand text), you must use this specific version of Smartwork5 to participate in the online tests.]

2.3. Tentative Topics

The course would cover the following chapters from the textbook (as time permits):

1. Consumer Theory

- Budget Constraint: Chapter 2
- Preferences: Chapter 3
- Utility: Chapter 4
- Choice: Chapter 5
- Demand: Chapter 6
- Slutsky Equation: Chapter 8
- Consumer's Surplus: Chapter 14

2. Producer Theory

- Technology: Chapter 19
- Profit Maximization: Chapter 20
- Cost Minimization: Chapter 21
- Cost Curves: Chapter 22
- Firm Supply: Chapter 23

3. Markets for Goods

- Market Demand: Chapter 15
- Industry Supply: Chapter 24
- Equilibrium: Chapter 16

A **Tentative (Weekly) Schedule** is posted in the course page with more details. Your instructor reserves the right to make small changes to the coverage as the course develops.

3.1 Tests and Evaluation

Components	Due Date / Time / Structure⁽¹⁾	Weight
Midterm	Date: February 16, 2022. Online during class time; synchronous. Syllabus: Chs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.	30%
Quizzes	Several online quizzes throughout the semester in SMARTWORK5; lowest quiz grade would be dropped. Coverage for each quiz will be provided in the Tentative Schedule.	15%
Final Exam	Date: TBA (According to the Final Exam schedule provided by the Registrar's Office). Online, synchronous. Syllabus: Cumulative (including everything covered throughout the semester).	45%
Project	One project and presentation. Due on April 04, 2022, 17:00 (EST)	10%

Notes: (1) If there are any changes in any of these dates, students would be notified on or before 2nd week.

All exams (Midterm Test and Final Exam) are online and synchronous (which means, all student enrolled in the course will participate at the same time).

Midterm Test will be online, synchronous, held during class time on the date mentioned above (starting at the beginning of our regular class time, unless otherwise specified). There will be several problem-solving questions involving smartwork and text questions; you need to answer all. Questions will appear sequentially for limited duration (you cannot go back to the previous part/question). For each question, in addition to completing any answers online, you need to solve problems on paper and upload pictures of those answers.

The Final exam will be online, synchronous, held according to the Winter exam schedule (TBA); the syllabus would be **cumulative** (including all the materials discussed in this course). There will be several problem-solving questions; you need to answer all. Questions will appear sequentially for limited duration (you cannot go back to the previous part/question). For each question, in addition to completing any answers online, you need to solve problems on paper and upload pictures of those answers. **The Winter Exam Period runs from April 12-29** (inclusive). It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you are available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period for the term corresponding to your course. No alternative date for the final exam will be offered.

Quizzes would be online in SMARTWORK5 with specific due dates, consisting of multiple-choice/ short answer / graphing / numeric questions. No rough work is required for the quizzes (you do not need to upload pictures of handwritten answers for any question). Coverage and other details for each quiz will be provided in the Tentative Schedule (at least two weeks before the respective quiz date). Questions will appear sequentially (you cannot go back to the previous question) during a limited time span (usually 30 minutes). Each quiz would be available for 12 hours, during which you have one attempt to attend it. Once you start a quiz, you must finish it within the specified time. Further instructions/details would be posted in eclass.

The Project is your work based on a topic relating to our course materials. The essay part (6%) would be submitted to Turnitin, and the presentation (4%) would be uploaded in eclass. Submission of both is required to have any grade from the project. Further details would be posted in the course page.

Exam questions would be similar to the end of the chapter questions from the textbook, smartwork questions, and contents/problems discussed in our class. As such, no further sample questions would be provided. Exam questions would have tight timing for each question, so that the timing is just enough to write the answer when a student knows the answer (the way they would need to know in a closed-book setting), and not enough time to look-up. As such, it is best to treat all exams and tests in this class as closed book exams. Exam questions will appear **sequentially** which means that you must complete the questions in order; you will not be permitted to go back, even if you left a question blank. Your instructor reserves the right to re-write an exam. For Midterms and Final Exam, if the appropriate sheets of your handwritten answers (clearly images

containing your answers, full name, student ID and signature) are not submitted through eclass in due time, you will receive a grade of 0 on that assessment.

3.2 Missed exams/Tests and Other details

No permission is ever given to a student to write a test or exam in advance of its scheduled date.

No permission is ever given to a student to rewrite a test or exam to improve their grade.

There is no make-up for any quizzes or the project. Since quizzes are available for 12 hours asynchronously, it is in your best interest to attend the quizzes early enough (which means, do not wait till the last minute before the deadline). The marks from the lowest quiz will be dropped by default. You have several months to work on your project, and as such no make-up (or option to shift the weight) would be available for the project.

Students missing midterm may have the permission to write a make-up if (a) they were sick at the time of the test, and (b) *they did not attempt the original midterm*, and (c) they notified the instructor by email (seury@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of the missed test. If all these conditions are satisfied, the student might have permission to write a make-up exam on the last class of this semester, and a longer final exam to have the alternate scheme: *Make-up Midterm 20% + Final Exam 55% + Quizzes (15%) + Project (10%)*. To discourage last minute cramming before the final, syllabus of the make-up midterm would include all chapters of topic 1, Consumer Theory. There are no other make-up exams (that is, there is no make-up of a make-up midterm). If a student misses make-up midterm, even if they obtain permission to shift some weight to the final exam by writing a longer final exam, they will receive 0 (zero) out of the missed make-up midterm (0 out of 20%) and will have their grade according to the remaining components of the alternate scheme: *Final Exam (55%) + Quizzes (15%) + Project (10%)*.

Students missing the final exam and requesting deferred exams would need to notify the instructor by email (seury@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of this missed final exam and comply with the Department of Economics policy on deferred exams before a deferred exam will be granted. Deferred Standing Mach forms (managed by the Department) need to be completed and submitted online. Students who do not submit the Deferred Standing Mach form within 7 days of the missed exam, will receive a zero for their final exam score. The Deferred Final Exam structure may change according to the University's policy. There would be *only one* deferred exam date; the date of the deferred final exam is at the discretion of the course director. A link specific to the W22 Deferred Final Exam Applications will be provided by the department here, closer to the final exam date: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/department-policies/deferred-standing/>.

3.3 Grading and Re-evaluation Policy

To achieve a grade, you must earn it. Unless I made any error regarding the scores, marks cannot be upgraded. The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (see <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/hist/academic-resources/academic-advising/grading-system> for more details). Final course grades given by the instructor will use the standard York grading scale and may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. Should there be any request for re-grading, your Instructor/Grader reserves the right to re-grade the entire content of the exam (as such, any problem/mistake in your answer that was overlooked during the first evaluation, might get noticed during the re-evaluation). So, your marks may be increased/decreased/unchanged after the re-evaluation.

4.1 Emails and Communication: Etiquette/Netiquette

Eclass (Moodle) announcements, folders, assessments, and forums would be used extensively for communication. In course webpage, under Forums, you would find a forum, titled "Forum - Chapter (chapter number goes here)". If you have a question related to that specific chapter, post it in the specified forum. If

you can, try to answer another student's questions, which would be a great learning experience even if the answers are not totally correct. It is also a good way for students to engage in a meaningful discussion and learn from each other. I would also monitor your response in the forum and include my comments, if needed, usually once a day, during weekdays. **It is expected that you would check and read all available information before asking a question, and you would follow netiquette.** Forums would be hidden during Midterms/Final Exam days. You must follow all eclass announcement on a regular basis.

Emails are meant to be restricted solely **for administrative concerns**, which cannot be solved otherwise. Accordingly, *I am not going to respond to content questions* (issues that are already explained in course outline/ schedule/ announcements etc.). *We have hundreds of students each semester; even if only a small percent of the students is sending emails, it results in a lot of emails.*

If, however, you have a question that is not explained in the contents and/or you cannot post it in the forums, follow the standard formal/official etiquette if you need to email me. Here is a guideline about *how to write an email*, with only three easy steps:

[1]: Address your professor. (*Tips: You can start your email with "Hi/Hello Professor". That way, you do not need to write my name each time. Not addressing anything, or just writing "Hi" or "Hey" cannot be a formal way to write an email. If you do that, you would self-identify yourself as a person who did not read this outline.*)

[2]: State your administrative concern clearly, in a nice and precise manner. (*Tips: Make sure your "Caps Lock" key is not stuck.*)

[3]: Sign off (best/ regards etc.) with **your full name** (no nicknames please), **full ID, course number, and section 2300-P**. (We teach hundreds of students, several courses, often at multiple universities. So, please be precise about your details).

I will not be able to respond to your emails (or forum posts) outside business hours or during weekends/ holidays. During weekdays, I will check forum at least once a day and would strive to respond to your emails in no later than two business days (which means I would try my best to respond to your emails much earlier than that). As such, allow minimum processing time after sending an email.

Netiquette is a set of rules or standards for creating a positive learning space online that should be followed in your online communication (emails/forums) with all participants. See information from York University (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>) and others: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/guides/about-netiquette>, and <https://www.memphis.edu/fcbe/students/netiquette.php>.

4.2 Letters of Accommodation

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns about the course or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>) at the beginning of the semester as soon as possible. **Please note: Students no longer submit Letters of Accommodation to their instructor.** Rather, students request their Letter of Accommodation through a companion Student Portal available through Student Accessibility Services. Instructors will then access the Letters of Accommodation directly via a Faculty Portal. Accommodated Exam Centres will be opened to accommodate students for in-person exams.

4.3 Other Important course information for students

Course materials and Copyright: 1) Course materials should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to record, duplicate, copy and/or distribute the materials (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also FIPPA); and 3) if there are any recordings, those are to be destroyed after the end of classes.

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation – <https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf>
- Attending Physician's Statement Form – <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

As per Senate Policy, **academic honesty and integrity** is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization, which is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences (in the context of all graded components in this course, including the term paper), as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module: (<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity>). Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, which may result in severe punishment, as per Senate Policies.

You need to agree to follow an “**ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT/AGREEMENT**” for all graded components, a sample of which is provided here:

- You will complete all your graded components (assignments/tests/exams/quizzes/projects) solely by yourself unless explicitly directed by me as your instructor to do it differently. No other person will assist or complete these graded components for you; impersonation, and receiving or giving any form of assistance, paid or not, from or to another person is cheating and breaches academic honesty principle, and will be subject to academic penalty. More specifically:
- You will complete the graded components without any testing aids that are not approved by me as your instructor. Accordingly, you are NOT ALLOWED to use any notes/paper or digital resources (including online or in-person consultation with others) during tests/exams/quizzes, unless explicitly allowed to do so by me as your instructor.
- You will not discuss the graded assignment/test/exam/quiz questions or potential answers with anyone, including other students both in this course and elsewhere. This includes future online and in-person communication.
- Copying other people's words in your answers is not allowed and will be considered as plagiarism/cheating. This means that you must put answers/descriptions in your own words if you are using sources you have not written, such as the reference papers, course slides or other study notes.
- All test/exam materials are the property of the Department of Economics, York University, and unauthorized dissemination or recording of the tests/exams (including, but not limited to, unauthorized posting/emailing of any part of the tests/exams) is prohibited. You will not replicate, copy, print, take picture or record any lecture and/or questions on the graded assignments/quizzes/exam/test to share with others.

- It is your responsibility as a student to conduct your academic work, including your exams, in the manner that adheres to the university's standards of academic integrity, as outlined in: "<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>".

4.4 Important Dates and ADD/Drop Deadlines

	Winter 2022
Winter 2022 Semester Start date for the University	Jan 10
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan 23
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Feb 07
Reading week	Feb 19-25
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Mar 18
Last Day of Classes for the university during this term	Apr 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)**	Mar 19 - Apr 10
Final Exam period for the university (our exam date, TBA by registrar's office)	Apr 12-29

****Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course:**

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>

Please note the following instructions from the Department of Economics: Private Third-Party Tutoring Companies, Academic Honesty and Support Resources

Many private, third-party tutoring companies advertise their services to YorkU students. One way you can help eliminate these advertisements is by changing your eClass profile settings to private (see instructions below). Some of these private companies claim to be affiliated with, or recognized and supported by, York University. Some also claim to help you by providing you with quiz and test answers, suggesting that this practice is safe and permitted by York. These claims are not true. York University has not officially recognized or endorsed any third-party tutoring service. When you are provided with quiz, test and exam answers, you run the risk of violating the [university's academic honesty policy](#). Students have been caught using these services to cheat and gain unfair advantage over honest students. The cheating students and "tutors" have received academic dishonesty punishments ranging from failing courses, to being expelled, to losing their YorkU degrees. Officially supported resources to help students learn course material will be provided by YorkU officials, such as your professors and your department. These services are offered at no cost to you as a student. Your professor will provide weekly office help hours to meet with students and if you are a first- or second-year student and would like help with course material, make sure you join one of our weekly [Peer Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#). If you require help with any of your numeracy-related courses that involve math, statistics or Excel, drop in online to meet with one of our peer tutors at the [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#). If you are ever unsure of whether a resource is allowable or endorsed by YorkU, please feel free to email the Department of Economics at lapsecon@yorku.ca and they would be happy let you know.

To hide your email address in eClass: *Step 1:* Click your name on the top-right of the eClass website, then click "Profile" on the drop-down menu; *Step 2:* Under "User details" click "Edit profile"; *Step 3:* From the "Email display" drop-down menu choose "Hide my email address from non-privileged users"; *Step 4:* Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Update profile" button.

Let us have a respectful and enjoyable journey together!