



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2008
Course:	Economics 357 [Intermediate Economic Theory – Microeconomics II]	Section:	02
Time:	TR 9:30-10:45	Place:	KNB 132
Instructor:	C. J. Bruce		
Office:	SS 414	Phone:	220-4093
Office hours:	TR 15:30-17:00	E-mail:	cjbruce@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

Eaton, B. Curtis, Diane Eaton and Douglas Allen, *Microeconomics: Theory with Applications*, Pearson/Prentice-Hall, sixth edition.

Optional:

Rose Anne Devlin and Nancy Gallini, *Problem Solving in Microeconomics: A Study Guide for Microeconomics: Theory with Applications*, Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2005.

Books on Reserve:

Dixit, Avinash, and Susan Skeath, *Games of Strategy*, Norton, 1999 or latest edition.

Nicholson, Walter, *Intermediate Microeconomics and its Application*, Thomson/Southwestern, latest edition.

Varian, Hal, *Intermediate Microeconomics*, Norton, seventh edition.

Varian, Hal, *Microeconomic Analysis*, Norton, 1992.

Course Description:

Microeconomics is the study of how societies allocate scarce resources among competing uses. In Economics 301, you were introduced to the basic building blocks of microeconomic theory: the theory of consumer behaviour, theories of cost-minimisation and profit-maximisation, and partial equilibrium models of perfect competition. In this course, we will build on these models in three ways: we will use the tools of Economics 301 to analyse markets for financial instruments; we will develop new tools to understand how perfectly competitive markets operate to encourage (Pareto) efficient allocations in general equilibrium; and we will analyse various

“imperfections” – such as monopoly, asymmetric information, and externalities - that might prevent markets from reaching Pareto efficient outcomes.

Course Outline (dates are approximate):

1. Intertemporal Decision-Making
 - Intertemporal choice/Capital values (Ch. 5): January 15 – 22
2. General Equilibrium
 - Competitive general equilibrium (Ch. 13): January 24 – February 5
3. Imperfect Competition
 - Monopoly (Ch. 10) February 7 - 16
 - Monopoly behaviour (Ch. 14) February 26 – March 4
 - Introduction to Game Theory (Ch 15) March 11 - 18
 - Oligopoly (Ch. 16) March 20 – 27
4. Uncertainty and Asymmetric Information
 - Uncertainty (Ch. 17) April 1 - 3
 - Information and Externalities (Ch. 18) April 8 - 10
 - Asymmetric information (Ch. 20) April 15 17.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be one midterm examination worth 15% of the final grade; three take-home assignments, each worth 15% of the final grade; and a final exam worth 40%. Each assignment is due at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. No late assignments will be accepted. The assignments will be due on February 7, March 20, and April 3. The mid-term exam will be on March 6. The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar and it will last two hours.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	90 - 100	B	73.5 - 76.4	C-	60 - 63.4
A	83 – 89.9	B-	70 - 73.4	D+	56.5 - 59.9
A-	80 - 82.9	C+	66.5 - 69.9	D	50 - 56.4
B+	76.5 - 79.9	C	63.5 - 66.4	F	0 - 49.9

If for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Non-programmable calculators will be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations. Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Students should be aware of the importance of appropriate sequencing of their courses to meet all the graduation requirements, especially in the Honours program. Honours students should complete Math 249 or 251, and Math 211 no later than the second year. This is very important because these courses are prerequisites for Economics 387/389, which in turn are prerequisites for Economics 557/559. Also, Statistics 213 should be completed no later than the third year because it is a prerequisite for Economics 395, which in turn is a prerequisite for Economics 495. We suggest that you consult the Calendar, and the brochure “Undergraduate Programs in Economics.” If you still need help you should speak with a Student Adviser in the Economics Department.
- Concerning the Instructor: You are asked to observe and respect my office hours. If you wish to meet me outside of these times, please make an appointment with me beforehand. You are welcome to write me via e-mail to ask questions about the course materials. I will respond as soon as I can.
- There will be no make-up or deferred examinations or assignments. Students may not write examinations early. If a student has legitimate reasons for missing an exam or assignment (e.g., documented illness, family emergency or religious observance), then the weight of the missed task is shifted to the final exam; otherwise a grade of zero is assigned.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course

Students' Union Vice-President Academic

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Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

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CJB:pd

2007/12/13

