



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		<b>Term:</b>	Winter 2012
<b>Course:</b>	Economics 357 [Microeconomics II]	<b>Section:</b>	02
<b>Time:</b>	TR 09:30 – 10:45	<b>Place:</b>	ST 132 (subject to change)
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Aidan Hollis		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 556	<b>Telephone:</b>	220-5861
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 12:30 – 1:30 and by appointment	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:ahollis@ucalgary.ca">ahollis@ucalgary.ca</a>

### Textbook(s):

*Intermediate Microeconomics* by H. Varian, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (text and workbook) [**Required**]

### Course Outline:

This course extends and builds upon the tools and concepts developed in Economics 301 to investigate topics such as the connections between markets (general equilibrium), the implications of market power and market failure and decision-making under uncertainty.

One goal of this course is to have you begin to think and work like an economist. Accordingly, you will be expected to use basic mathematics and graphical analysis, and the calculus developed in Mathematics 249 or 251, which is a prerequisite for this course. In particular, you will be expected to be familiar with the meaning of mathematical functions, understanding and using simple linear equations, solving two linear equations for two unknowns, and using basic techniques of univariate calculus. You may need to review this material.

### List of topics

Intertemporal choice and discounting;

Choice under uncertainty;

General Equilibrium;

Market power and game theory;

Externalities (Coase Theorem, Pigouvian Taxes) and public goods ;

Asymmetric Information (moral hazard and adverse selection; signaling and screening; principal agent theory);

*Social Choice*: Bergson Social Welfare Functions; Arrow's Impossibility Theorem.

**Tutorials:**

We will hold weekly multiple identical tutorials common to all sections of Econ357. Students are expected to attend one of the discussion sections each week. During the tutorials, the TA will discuss pre-assigned questions/material relevant to the course.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

The final grade will depend upon each student's performance on the assignments as well as term and final examinations. All examinations will be closed-book. Students will be allowed the use of a calculator during all examinations, subject to the following restrictions: acceptable calculators are those which are battery or solar-operated and hand-held, and which are capable of performing arithmetic operations on user-entered numerical data. Calculators which can pre-store data, formulas or text are not allowed and a student who violates this restriction is guilty of academic dishonesty. If in doubt, please check with the instructor first.

Collaboration on assignments is permitted, but each student must write and submit assignments independently.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Assignments (4)	30%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Examination	40%

Each assignment is due at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. No late assignments are permitted. The midterm exam will be held in the classroom during the regular lecture period. You are neither allowed to write midterms prior to the exam date nor allowed to have a make-up exam after the midterm. The weight of your assignments or midterm missed will be transferred to your final if you have valid reasons (medical primarily) for absence in the midterm or missing the due date of your assignments. The two hour final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar and held in the classroom.

A numerical grade will be determined for each item of work submitted and a final numerical grade will be determined using the weighting scheme provided. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	91 – 100	B+	77 – 79	C+	67 – 69	D+	56 – 59
A	85 – 90	B	73 – 76	C	63 – 66	D	50 – 55
A-	80 - 84	B-	70 - 72	C-	60 - 62	F	0 - 49

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

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Finally, special attention should be directed toward the sections concerning attendance, tape recording of lectures, and student misconduct on page 40-52 of the 2011/2012 Calendar.

**Notes:**

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 Econ. 387/389, which in turn are prerequisites for Econ. 557/559. Also, Stat. 213 should be completed no later than the third year because it is a prerequisite for Econ. 315, which in turn is a prerequisite for Econ. 419. 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 Advisor in the Economics Department.

Contacting the Instructor: If you are unable to meet me during the scheduled office hours, please email me to set an appointment with me at another time. You are welcome to write me via e-mail to ask questions about the course materials.

Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.

Make-up or deferred examinations *will not* be given. Any student who finds it necessary to miss an examination or assignment must notify the instructor in advance and produce a valid medical certificate or other required documentation in order to have the weighting transferred to another piece of work. Also, an examination will not be given *before* its scheduled date.

CAUTION: Lectures and readings from the text are complements, not substitutes, and students are responsible for material presented in both lectures and readings. Students are also responsible for dates for submitting assignments that are discussed in class. Regular class attendance is strongly advised.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Ola Mohajer

Phone: 220-3911

E-mail [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-mail [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. Join now by contacting [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca).

*Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources*

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Safewalk/Campus Security – 220-5333  
Emergency Assembly Location – ICT Food Court

\*\*\*\*\*

AH/mi  
2011-11-22