

Huron University College
Department of Business and Economics
Economics 3381B– Advanced Microeconomics I
Winter 2020
Classroom: W103
Time: Mondays 12:30-2:30
Wednesdays 1:30-2:30

Instructor: Dr. Mahdiyeh Entezarkheir

Office: v122

E-Mail: prof.mahdiyeh@gmail.com

Phone: 519-438-7224 ext217

Instructor's Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 Wednesdays

If this is not conducive to your schedule, please feel free to email me so that we can set up an appointment.

Course Webpage:

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Please check announcements of the course in the above address regularly.

Course Description & Objectives

The objective of this course is familiarizing students with theories of expected utility and uncertainty, game theory, oligopoly behavior and industrial organization. I will cover these theories as much as time allows me.

- ***Important Reminder***

Econ 3381B, as it is obvious from its title, is an **advanced theory course**. Therefore, please do not expect from this course to provide a large list of applications and examples of these theories to the real world. The time is limited, and there is a large amount of material to cover. You need to learn economic theories in Econ 3381B and use them later in your Econ field courses. However, I will attempt my best to include real world applications of these theories in the lectures as much as time permits.

Course Method

We begin the term with some review on the required parts of Intermediate Microeconomics I and II, which are needed for this course. We proceed with theories of expected utility and uncertainty, and topics in market structures.

This course engages students in understanding new topics in microeconomics by requiring individual or groups of students to present chapters of Freakonomics. This assignment of the course further helps students to strengthen their presentation skills.

Prerequisites

Economics 2261A/B

Students are responsible for checking that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless, they have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from Dean to enroll in it, they may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from their record. This decision may not be appealed. They will receive no adjustment to their fees in the event that they are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Completion

Students will be assessed based on the following activities:

- Midterm [**Feb 24**, during class]: 35%
- Group or individual presentation: 20%
- Short exams after presentation: 10%
- Final examination: 35%

Midterm (35%)

- Subject coverage for midterm exam will be specified in class.
- All the material covered during lectures, including what is on slides and board as well as what is explained by the instructor in words, will be questioned in your exam.
- Midterm exams are during class time.
- The format of the exam will be explained in the class.
- Any complaint on the midterm mark should be done within 15 days from the day that midterm marks are announced. No complaint on the midterm mark will be considered after this date or after final exam. Any student that submits a test for remarking should understand that their grade may improve, remain unchanged or perhaps even decrease as a result of the remarking process.
- **No make-up tests will be provided, if a student is absent.** For Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds please refer to the appendix that follows this outline. In case a proper documentation is not provided in a timely manner, the student receives no grade on the test and his/her final grade will be computed in accordance with the specified assessment above. In this case only mark A will be considered. If a proper documentation is provided, the grade of the missed test will be prorated to the final exam of the course.

Group Presentation with Power Points (20%=10% presentation+ 5% PowerPoint Slides+5% exam)

- Presentations may or may not be group work (It depends on the number of students)
- In case of group presentations
 - Number of students in each group will be decided in class.
 - I will group students in alphabetical orders, and I will announce groups on Owl. I will assign a presentation date and chapter of Freakonomics to each group in the order of groups.
 - If a student would like to change his or her group and join another group, that student needs to get into a mutual agreement with a student in the other group. Then, both students should email me about their group change. Instructor will not do the negotiations.

- Any group change must be done by January 24 by 12:00 pm. Changes after this time are not allowed.

-The length of the presentation is 15 minutes.

-In the case of group works, participation of all the members of the presenting group is mandatory. This means on the presentation day of a group, all group members must be present and all of them must present something out of the presentation.

-There should not be a group member that does not present anything or is absent. If a group member is absent or does not present anything, all group members will lose mark.

-Please be informed that this is a teamwork, and each member is responsible not only about their own part from the assignments, but also about other teammates. It means each member must make sure that other members did their assignment. Instructor will evaluate the group based on the performance of all group members.

-The evaluation for the presentation (the 10% of the mark) will be according to the following points

- Should have enough practice of presentation prior to the presentation date
- Should finish on time (within 15 minutes). If a group exceeds the 15 minutes time limit, instructor will stop them, and the group will lose mark.
- Should have eye contact during presentation with class
- Should not read directly from notes
- Should give a quick summary of the previous chapter (no more than 3 to 4 minutes)
- Should know all the terms used in the presentation
- Should be able to engage the audience (for example by asking questions and attracting their attention)

-Each group or student must prepare Power Point slides for the presentation (the 5% of the mark).

-To get a good mark, slides need to be nicely presented, and they have to explain the main point. Therefore, you are not supposed to include every single word of the chapter you are presenting in your slides.

-Each group or student needs to design a one short essay question test for their presentation (the 5% of the mark). They have to bring a print out of their exam for all the class, and have a test for 10 minutes after presentation. They have to mark the test and enter the marks to the class list excel file (provided by the instructor) within a week from their presentation and send it to the instructor. The quality of the question will be considered in this evaluation.

-A guideline on how presentation will be marked by the instructor is posted on Owl.

Short exams after presentation (10%)

-Non-presenting students will participate in a 10-minute test conducted by each presenting group.

Policy for students who are absent from presentations and tests after presentations of another group

-If a member of the presenting group or an individual student is absent on the day that his or her group is presenting, the student will lose the whole mark, unless proper documentation is provided in a timely manner.

-If a proper documentation is provided by the absent student, considering that these course assignments were assigned long time ago, instructor will ask from group members whether the

absent member made his or her contribution to the assignment under question. If the absent member did not participate in the assignment, despite the presence of proper documentation, that student will receive mark of zero on the assignment.

-If a non-presenting student is absent from a test after presentation, the student will lose that mark, unless proper documentation is provided in a timely manner.

-For the proper documentation concept, please refer to Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds in the following.

-If a proper documentation is provided, the grade of the missed test after presentation for non-presenting students will be prorated to other tests after presentations. The grade of the missed presentation will be prorated to the final exam.

Policy on shirking students

-In case of group work, if a student in a group does not participate, it is the duty of the rest of the group to inform the instructor. How?

- A student who feels a groupmate is shirking should send an email to that student, **cc me** (prof.mahdiyeh@gmail.com) in that email, and explain the problem to that student **at least a week** before the due date of the assignment.
- I will also contact that student, and if I am convinced that the suggested student is indeed shirking, I will give that student zero on that assignment.
- I do not accept any complaint from groupmates after the assignment is submitted.

Final exam (35%)

-To be scheduled by the registrar

- Will cover all course material for the term.

-The Registrar's Office will send a final grade to each student.

Policy on Missed Classes

If you miss a class, you will need to use a tutor.

Textbook

(Optional: Main text) Advanced Microeconomic Theory, Jeffrey Jehle and Philip Reny, Prentice Hall, ISBN: 9780273731917.

- Students have to read the chapters of the textbook before attending each lecture.
- The textbook is available from the Bookstore at Western.
- Only the parts that are covered in lectures are considered for exams.

(Required) Freakonomics: A rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, Harper Perennial.

- Non-presenting students should read each chapter before the presentation date, as there is an essay type test after each presentation.
- It is available in the Bookstore at Western.

The most Important Source for Practice Questions

- Examples solved during lectures: I will solve many practice questions during lectures as much as time permits. You need to solve them at home again to learn the material.

Tentative Course Schedule***

Consumer theory and expected utility (Chs. 1 and 2)
Theory of the firm (Ch.3)
Partial equilibrium (Ch.4)
General equilibrium (Ch.5)
Game theory (Ch.7)
Oligopoly behavior
Market structure and market power (IO)
Mergers (IO)
Entry and exit (IO)
Entry (blockaded entry or barriers to entry, entry deterrence, and accommodated entry),
Predation
Market size and entry (IO)
Boundaries of the firm: horizontal size and vertical integration (IO)
Vertical restraints (IO)

***** This course schedule is tentative. Some of the materials in this schedule might need more or less emphasis. To accommodate that need, this schedule might be updated as we continue through the term.**

Lecture Notes:

- I will post lecture slides (if any) before class on **the course webpage for your convenience.**
- **These are the lecture notes that I base my lectures on, but of course I elaborate on them in the class. These notes are useful for review, but they are not meant to take the place of lectures. Students who rely on notes only, they traditionally do not do well on their exams in my courses.**
- Additionally, I solve practice questions during lectures. To get solutions, students need to be present in the lectures. I do not provide answer key to those questions separately. Answers will be written by the instructor on the board only.
- **Students who are present during lectures and get the written answer on the board for practice questions are more than welcome to ask questions during office hours with regards to those solutions. However, if a student was absent, I do not solve the question for the absent student separately during office hours. Thus, absent students should not expect such a service from the instructor.**
- All the materials covered in lectures either on the posted slides or not are in exams.

Communication with the Instructor:

- Please only e-mail the instructor for administrative purposes and please only email to this address:
[**prof.mahdiyeh@gmail.com**](mailto:prof.mahdiyeh@gmail.com)
- When emailing the instructor, the **subject of the e-mail must contain Econ 3381.** Otherwise, the email will not be considered as I do not know exactly who the sender is.

- I will respond to emails within two business days.
- I answer your course related questions in person during class or office hours to help you understand better and avoid any miscommunications that may happen via email or phone.

Note on Recording Lectures, Taking Pictures, and Using Cell phones:

- Please respect class and your friends and turn off your cell phone during lectures.
- Instructor prohibits recording her lectures and taking pictures from the board or class.

Conduct of Students in Lectures and Office Hours:

The registration at Huron University College implies that registered students have accepted the principals of respect, dignity, and well-being of others. Thus, students are expected to follow a proper behaviour. For more information about rules and regulations of Code of Student Conducts, you may consult with *Code of Student Conduct Policy* available at <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

Moreover, students should behave in a professional manner that supports the learning environment of others during lectures or office hours. Laptops should be used for classroom purposes only so as not to disrupt the people sitting around. Students should arrive in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class and remain silent while the professor or another student is speaking. If a student is going to be late, or know that will have to leave class early, he or she should be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Writing a Reference Letter:

- If you need a reference letter, I will need at least a two-week notice.