



General Course Information

Instructor: Asha Sadanand

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Office Location MacKinnon 717

Office Hours Thursday 1:30 – 2:20, Friday 10:40 – 11:30, 2:30 – 3:20 and by appointment

Department/School Economics and Finance

TAs Madeline Turland

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MCKN 721

Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm

Class Schedule: Mon, Wed, Fri 2:30 – 3:50pm, JTP 212

Labs: Wed 4:30 – 5:20

Fri 11:30 – 12:20

Please check webadvisor for latest room assignments.

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth mathematical treatment of consumer and producer theory, theory of the firm, game theory, general equilibrium and welfare economics. The course material offers a basic background in microeconomics that is extremely useful in 4th year economics courses. It also provides you with the ability to understand the issues involved in allocating resources in society, and allows you to appreciate the complexity of those issues. There will be an emphasis on analytical tools to complement the intuitive understanding of the subject.

Prerequisites

ECON*2310 and ECON*2770: These are important prerequisites, and the materials from these courses should be carefully reviewed. **There will be a test** at the start of the semester on some of the math skills required for this course.

Content

We will cover the following topics, among others:

1. Introduction and Review

Nicholson, Ch. 1, 2 – will not be covered in any depth, as it is part of the prerequisites. It is up to you to review this material carefully to ensure that you understand it. There **will be a test** on this material

at the beginning of the semester to allow you to know where you stand, and how much more review you need to do.

2. Consumer Behaviour and Demand Theory

Nicholson, Ch. 3, 4, 5, 6

3. Firm Behaviour and the Theory of Supply

Nicholson, Ch. 9, 10, 11

4. Market Equilibrium under Perfect Competition

Nicholson, Ch.12

5. General Equilibrium and Welfare Economics

Nicholson, Ch.13

6. Choice under Uncertainty, Game Theory and Information Economics

Nicholson, Ch. 7, 8

7. Market Imperfections

Nicholson, Ch 18, 19

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the covered topics and assignments throughout the course.

Course Assessment

			Dates and Times	
Math Test	4%		TBA	
Maple TA Assignments	4% each		opens Jan 29 noon Mar 6 noon	closes Feb 7 noon Mar 13 noon
Written Assignments	4% each	A subset of questions in each assignment will be marked.	Jan 25 – due Feb 1 Feb 29 – due Mar 7	
Midterms	20%	each	in class Feb 10, March 16	
Final Exam	40%		Saturday, April 16, 7:00 – 9:00, room TBA	

Important Information (Including Grading Policies)

General

1. Final exam: If your final exam grade is better than your term work, I will change the weighting to: Term work 30%, Final 70%. However, you should not become complacent about the course during the semester. Midterms and assignments cover far less material than the final; students generally do better in the term work than the final exam.

2. Mathematics Review: Although all the material from ECON*2770 is important for this course, the most relevant sections, and ones that I would highly recommend that you review, are discussed in Ch. 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of *Mathematics for Economics* by Hoy, Livernois, McKenna, Rees and Stengos (Addison--Wesley, 1996). The review questions are useful in testing yourself on this material. **TRY THE REVIEW QUESTIONS!** Review any material with which you are having difficulty.

3. Assignments: The assignments will be a mixture of online problems and regular problems to be turned in. Assignments will be made available one week prior to their due date. Problems to be turned in are to be submitted at the beginning of class. There will be a 10% penalty for problems submitted one day late. Problems submitted more than one day late will not be accepted. A randomly selected part of the problems submitted will be graded; all of the online problems are automatically graded online.

4. Assignments are VERY important! Although it many seem like very few marks per assignment (relative to the work required for each assignment) the main payback is in terms of more learning, and better performance in the course. Professor Hoy has done some computations correlating midterm performance with completion and achievement on his assignments.

	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fail Rate</i>
<i>Overall</i>	62.5%	18%
<i>Did all assignments</i>	70%	7%
<i>Did no assignments</i>	55%	30%

5. Extra problems: Besides reading the text and studying your lecture notes, it is also **extremely important** for you to try extra problems. Extra problems will be assigned and some of them will be covered in the labs. It is beneficial for you to try to do even more problems.

6. Labs: Lab attendance is critical. It permits you to ask questions, see where you went wrong and see how we work through problems. **Midterms will be taken up in the labs.**

7. Final Exam: The final exam will be at a higher level of difficulty than the midterms because it covers more material. Also, both the midterms and the final **may contain problems that you have never seen before.** These problems can be solved with a good understanding of the concepts learned, and the problems solved in class and in the labs.

Midterm and Final

Missed Exams and Time Conflicts

Students with time conflicts with the final exam cannot register for this course. If the final exam is missed, the course is not completed.

If you have a documented medical or compassionate reason for missing a midterm, you will have an opportunity to write a make-up exam at a given date and time (there will be only one make-up for each midterm), or you may choose to transfer the weight to the final exam. If you fail to write the make-up exam, the weight of the midterm will be transferred to the final exam. If you miss the midterm without a legitimate reason, your grade for the midterm will be 0%.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of a time conflict with a midterm exam within the first two weeks of the course and to discuss how this time conflict will be handled. After this period, it is in the instructor's discretion to decide how the time conflict will be handled.

Communication and Office Hours

I am available for students during my office hours and by appointment. Appointments have to be made ahead of time. The teaching assistant will also hold office hours (see courselink for times, days, and rooms). Teaching assistants are only available for discussions and questions regarding the course material and not for discussions about grades and other personal matters.

If you have a question about the course in general, or about the course material, please post it on the online discussion board instead of sending an email to me. Indicate the theme of the question (or the question itself, if short) in the subject line. If you have a question, it is likely that other students wonder about this, too. If you post the question, everyone can see the answer. I will answer to a posted question within 24-48 hours and during standard working times and days. If you know the answer to a posted question, do not hesitate to answer it before I do. This will be very helpful to your fellow students.

If you have a personal questions or concerns, please email me. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours and during standard working times and days. **I do not accept or answer emails that do not come from a *uoguelph* account and do not have "Econ 3710" in the subject line.**

Extra Credit Opportunities

There may be extra credit assignments throughout the course. They will be announced in class and on courselink. Extra credit assignments will be handwritten and have to be submitted in person (not by email).

Electronic Devices and Recording of Lectures

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

Course Resources

Required Text:

Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, 11th edition, W. Nicholson and C. Snyder, Dryden Press, 2012.

Note: A copy will be placed on reserve in the library. You may buy a used textbook, however, if it is a different edition, and I refer to pages or questions from the text, **it is your responsibility to find out what material I mean.** You DO NOT NEED access to the online website of the book, as we will **not** use any online materials related to the text. You may buy an **ebook** instead of a hard copy, if such is available.

Course Website:

The course website is on courselink. On the website, you will also find all necessary information regarding the course, as well as all announcements made throughout the course and additional online materials (such as solutions to midterm exams). All grades except Maple TA, will be posted there as well. However I will not be computing your final marks on courselink, so you should not worry about weights in courselink, or any computation of your final mark.

The online discussion board for students provides a valuable means of communications between you and your classmates.

Students are required to visit the course website regularly: Announcements will only posted there and not sent by email. Students are expected to be aware of all announcements made on the website.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08...>

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/csd>

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#)

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, Mar 11, 2016**. For regulations and

procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08>

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

Skills

Numerical Problem Solving: Students will learn basic problem solving techniques used in microeconomics. This includes, for example, techniques to calculate elasticities, determine market equilibria, compute different costs, solve the profit-maximizing problem of a firm, and use simple game theory to analyse strategic interactions between different firms. This will be tested in online quizzes and three exams.

Analytical Problem Solving: Students will use algebraic and graphical analysis to demonstrate and interpret various economic models, including the demand-and-supply model, determination of the market equilibrium, the impact of government intervention, different market systems (perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly, among others), strategic interactions between firms, and social welfare. It will be tested in the quizzes and the exams.

Problem Solving in a Real-World Context: **Students will apply the microeconomic principles learned in this course to critically examine everyday economic events.**

Knowledge

Microeconomic modelling, analysis of specific markets (e.g., perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly), economic policy and government intervention, mathematical methodology.