

Huron University College
Department of Business and Economics
Economics 3381B– Advanced Microeconomics I
Winter 2023

Classroom: Huron-HC A1
Time: Tuesdays 11:30-1:30pm
Thursdays 11:30-12:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Mahdiyeh Entezarkheir

Office: v122

E-Mail: menteza@uwo.ca

Phone: 519-438-7224 ext217

Instructor's Office Hours:

By appointment, on Tuesdays, 2:15-3:15 pm in Zoom. To avoid any delay during office hours, please send me an email to book a spot. If this timing is not conducive to your schedule, please feel free to email me so that we can set up an appointment. The office hours will be conducted in Zoom, and the Zoom link will be provided to students once they book their spot. If a student wants an in-person office hour, they should let me know via email (menteza@uwo.ca).

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 consumers and firms in a more advanced level. 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/Superfreakonomics, as specified on the course webpage. 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 14**, during class]: 35%
- Group or individual presentation: 17%
- Short exams after presentation: 13%
- Final examination: 35%

I report the highest of Mark A and Mark B at the end of the term.

Mark A=35% Midterm+Presentation 17%+short exams 13%+Final exam 35%

Mark B=25% Midterm+Presentation 17%+short exams 13%+Final exam 45%

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 exam is 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. It means only Mark A will be reported for the student. If a proper documentation is provided, the grade of the missed test will be prorated to the final exam of the course. This means the mark will be calculated based on Presentation 17%+short exams 13%+Final exam 70%.

Group Presentation with Power Points (17%=10% presentation+ 4% PowerPoint Slides+3% exam's design and conduct)

- 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 announced on Owl.
 - I will group students, and I will announce groups on Owl. I will assign a presentation date and chapter of Freakonomics or Superfreakonomics 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 16 at 12:00 pm. Changes after this time are not allowed.
- The length of the presentation is 20 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 a part of 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. In case a member is shirking, see the following. In case, a student is absent from presentation due to sickness, see the following.
 - 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.
 - A marking scheme for how the instructor marks presentations is posted on Owl. Please make sure to consult with that (the 10% of the mark).
 - Each group or student must prepare Power Point slides for the presentation (the 4% 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 on your slides.
 - Each group or student needs to design a one short essay question test for their presentation (the 3% of the mark). They have to bring a print out of their exam for all the class, and conduct the 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.

Short exams after presentation (13%)

- 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 the rest of the group support the contribution of the absent student, 10% of the presentation mark will be shifted to the final exam and the remaining 7% will be based on the mark of the group.
- 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.
- 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.
- For the proper documentation concept, please refer to Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds in the following.

Policy on shirking students

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

- A student who feels a groupmate is shirking should send an email to that student, **cc me (menteza@uwo.ca)** 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 due date of the assignment.

Final exam (35%)

- To be scheduled by the registrar.
- Will cover all course material for the term. It is cumulative.
- 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.

- 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.

- Presenting students use the book for their presentation.
- 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.

(Required) Super Freakonomics, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner.

- Presenting students use the book for their presentation.
- 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***

A variety of sources will be used for the following topics in addition to the textbook. We will have a review on consumer theory. We will proceed with expected utility. We will also cover theory of the firm, partial and general equilibriums. In the next step, we will cover game theory, imperfectly competitive markets, and market structure. Please note that this course schedule is tentative. Some of the materials in this schedule may need more or less emphasis. To accommodate that need, this schedule may 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:

- You contact me at menteza@uwo.ca
- 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.

Instructor's Intellectual Property on Lectures

I would like to have a reminder that I, the instructor, own the intellectual property of my lecture and course materials even when such lectures or materials are posted online and students are not to post lectures or course materials to any other websites or platforms or use any lecture recording or course materials for any other purpose without my consent.

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

- 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 principles of respect, dignity, and well-being of others. Thus, students are expected to follow proper behaviour. For more information about the rules and regulations of the Code of Student Conducts, you may consult the 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.

Writing a Reference Letter:

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



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

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

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). The appeals process is also outlined in this

policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad

outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)