

Huron University College
Department of Economics
Economics 3357A– Industrial Economics
Fall 2022
Classroom: W106
Time: 8:30-10:30 am Tuesdays
8:30-9:30 am Thursdays

Instructor: Dr. Mahdiyeh Entezarkheir

Office: V122

E-Mail: menteza@uwo.ca

Instructor's Office Hours: By appointment, on Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am 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 at the above address regularly.

Course Description and Objectives

Industrial Economics is an introductory course in the field of industrial organization and provides students with a foundation for further study in this area. So far in our Economics courses, we have learned that in perfectly competitive markets the allocation of resources is efficient, meaning producers sell their goods and services at their marginal cost and consumers pay prices that indicate their marginal valuation. Nevertheless, in the real world, we barely come across perfectly competitive industries. This course addresses different theories of imperfectly competitive markets and their impacts on pricing and output. Particularly, we will try to address interesting questions, such as how firms price their products, the impacts of mergers, and what market structure and market power are, as time permits.

Course Method

We begin the term with a short review of the needed foundation of microeconomics for industrial economics. We proceed with discussions on market structure, market power, and mergers. We incorporate their applications into real-world examples. As time permits, we continue this term with the analysis of price discrimination, entry and exit decision of firms, and advertising. This course engages students in understanding new topics in microeconomics and industrial economics by requiring them to write short summaries on various journal articles or other material, such as TED talks throughout the term.

Prerequisites

The instructor assumes all students are familiar with elementary algebra and calculus, as well as Econ 2160 and 2161. Students are responsible for checking that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s): Economics 2165F/G, 3364A/B, 3365A/B.

Prerequisite(s): Economics 2261A/B

Textbook

The following textbooks are optional in this course, as I use a variety of resources for each lecture. The first one will be available at Book Store at Western.

- Optional: Peball, Lynne, Dan Richard, and George Norman (2011), *Industrial Organization: Contemporary Theory and Empirical Applications*, Blackwell Publishing, ISBN: 9781405176323.
- Optional: Whinston and Smith (2008), *Lectures on Antitrust Economics*, MIT Press, ISBN: 9780262731874.
- Optional: Massimo Motta (2004), *Competition Policy: Theory and Practice*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN: 9780521016919.
- Optional: Perloff (2008), *Microeconomics: Theory and Application with Calculus*, First Edition, Pearson / Addison Wesley.

Completion

Please be prepared to have a lot of readings in this course due to the nature of the course.

Students will be assessed based on the following activities:

- Assignments: 66%
- Midterm exam [**Nov 15**]: 34%

Assignments (66%):

-This may be individual or group work. It depends on the number of students and resources available to the instructor.

-There will be around 11 assignments throughout the term and each will be worth around 6%.

-In case of group work for assignments, I will group students in alphabetical order, and I will announce groups on OWL. Only the designated representative from each group should submit the group work assignment for that group.

-Any group change must be done by September 29 at 4:00 pm. Changes after this date are not allowed.

-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. The instructor will not do the negotiations.

-In the 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 (prof.mahdiyeh@gmail.com) in that email, and explain the problem to that student at least a week before the due date of the group work in the course.
- 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 complaints from groupmates after the class participation activity is submitted.

-If a student is sick during assignments, conditional on providing proper documentation, (please consult with **Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds** below) I will use the average mark of their other assignments for the missed assignment. In the case of group work, the rest of the group continue with their assignment.

*Midterm Exam (34% on **Nov 15**):*

-A note on simple algebra and rules of derivatives are posted on OWL.

-Midterm exam is based on lectures, which will be specified by the instructor.

-The exam is during class time.

-For **Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds** please refer to the following. In case proper documentation is not provided promptly, the student receives no grade on that task and his/her final grade will be computed in accordance with the specified assessment above. If proper documentation is provided, there will be no make-up test for the midterm exam. The instructor may conduct an oral test or prorate the grade of the missed test to the final exam, which is cumulative.

-Any complaint on the midterm mark should be done within 15 days from the day that marked midterms are returned in class. No complaint on the midterm mark will be considered after this date. 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.

Policy on Missed Classes

If you miss a class, read notes carefully and if you still have questions, please contact me for your questions during office hours. Otherwise, you will need to use a tutor.

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 microeconomics and firms. We will proceed with market competition, market structure, and market power. We will also cover mergers and acquisitions and their outcomes for the economy. In the next step, we will cover imperfectly competitive markets. 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 class. These notes are useful for review, but they are not meant to take the place of lectures. Students who rely only on notes traditionally do not do well on their exams in instructor's courses.
- All the materials covered in lectures either on the posted slides or not are in exams.
- Essays are not in your exams.

- Additionally, I solve practice questions during lectures. To get solutions, students need to be present in the lectures. I do not provide answer keys to those questions separately. Please do not ask. 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.**

Communication with the Instructor:

- You can contact me at menteza@uwo.ca
- When emailing, the **subject of the e-mail must contain ECON 3357**. Otherwise, the email will not be considered, as I do not know exactly who the sender is among all my students.
- 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 lecture materials even when such lectures or materials are posted online and students are not to post lectures or lecture materials to any other websites or platforms or use the lecture recording or materials for any other purpose without my consent.

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.

Writing a Reference Letter:

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

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.



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

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further 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 \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academiccalendar/) . 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 \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar) 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 \(uwo.ca\)](#)