

ECO200Y1Y: Microeconomic Theory

Instructor:	Prof. Khazra	Email:	nazanin.khazra@utoronto.ca
Sections:	L0101, L0201, L0301	Times:	please check the timetable
TAs:	Posted on Quercus	Tutorials:	Posted on Quercus
Course email*:	eco200.khazra@utoronto.ca		*shared with the TAs

Important: please check your Quercus daily and make sure notifications is on. Read the syllabus thoroughly, mark your calendars with important dates, and familiarize yourself with course rules regularly.

1 Course Description

This course is the foundation of almost any micro course that you take in the future. Learning micro theory helps you think about microeconomic problems in a more structured way by formulating them in math. It will teach you to solve optimizations and explain consumers' and firms' behavior and decision-making processes. We will also talk about cool applications of the tools that we learn in this course.

1.1 Prerequisites

An administrator will remove anyone missing [prerequisites](#). Note that instructors cannot [waive](#) prerequisites.

1.2 Required Material

- Microeconomics (3rd edition) by Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson.
We are going to closely follow this textbook.
- Resource Options for ECO200 (online homework/quiz will be required):
 - Please follow the instructions in the following google page and purchase your Achieve account:
<https://sites.google.com/macmillan.com/eco200-khazra/achieve-registration>
 - This google site walks you through course registration and use of Achieve:
<https://sites.google.com/macmillan.com/eco200-khazra/home>
- You are required to watch the videos and study the slides and other material posted on Quercus

1.3 Online Delivery Requirements

This course will have some components such as tutorials/office hours/and some lectures that may be delivered in an online format. The lectures will be a combination of pre-recorded videos and in-person classes. Dates of the online sessions/tutorials will be announced on Quercus. Some/all tutorials are synchronous online. Regardless of the delivery method attending the tutorial session you are registered for is mandatory.

Refer to the section 1.2 to purchase the Achieve online homework. Besides Achieve, you need high-speed internet, a PC or laptop, and the ability to scan (or take pictures of) your assignments and upload them on our online platform. You will have a chance to practice scanning and uploading a few documents before the first assignment to make sure your software and hardware works fine. Equally important, learn to reduce the size of your files.

2 Course Rules

2.1 Email Policy

Before you start writing an email to a member of the course staff:

- a) Please make sure your question is not already answered in the syllabus or announcements on Quercus
- b) Title of your email must contain “**ECO200**” to be seen
- c) Use the course email eco200.khazra@utoronto.ca for non-content course-related questions
- d) Use your UT email address in all your communications
- e) Email is mainly for private communications. For content-focused questions, please use office hours. An alternative way to get answers, show participation, and benefit your classmates is to use our discussion platform.
- f) Please write formal emails with proper salutation, body, and closing. There are useful resources in this piece: <https://sociology.utoronto.ca/how-to-write-an-email-when-you-need-help/>
- g) If you do not receive a response from me by the end of the next three business days, the most likely reason is that one of (a)-(f) above are not satisfied.

I try to answer your emails within three business days. We will check our discussion board platform at least twice a week.

2.2 Technical Difficulties Policy

We will not accept missed work due to technical difficulty, deadline confusion, internet, or hardware problems. You can (but try not to) miss two quizzes during the year and one term test. Please find the details in section 4. Keep these options for unforeseen technical difficulties or other incidents.

3 Course Structure

The table below summarizes our weekly schedule (details subject to change).

Fri.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed./Thurs.	Fri.
Pre-recorded videos	In-person workshops	Office Hours	Tutorials	Quiz

The recommended study plan is:

- **Thursday:** study the textbook and finish the required readings
- **Friday:** watch the pre-recorded lectures

- **Monday:** attend the in-person workshop, finish assigned homework
- **Tuesday:** attend office hours (optional)
- **Wednesday/Thursday:** attend one tutorial
- **Friday:** take the quiz

Points to keep in mind:

- Plan to keep up with the weekly assignments and readings. Finish the readings before watching the videos or attending class each week and proceed to your weekly quiz or assignment.
- Keep a calendar with due dates. All times will be posted in Toronto time, and confusion over time zones will not be considered an appropriate excuse for missing a deadline. Take-home assignments are due at 7:00 PM Toronto time. Timed tests vary depending on when you start your test.

3.1 Lectures

I will post some lectures recordings on Quercus. In the pre-recorded videos, I will cover the main topics and the theories. Depending on whether the course continues to be in-person or move to online during the following year and your feedback, we may have all or some of the lectures pre-recorded.

Do not share any of the course material. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

3.2 Workshops

We will have workshops on Mondays during class times. The workshops will be shorter in length if I post a recorded video by Friday the week before. Otherwise, we will use the entire regular class time for lecture. The in person workshops will not be recorded except for the first two weeks of the Fall semester. Be advised that the two recorded workshops will be imperfect substitutes for in person attendance. During the workshops, expect to be active in solving questions, writing, and interacting with your classmates and the instructional team.

3.3 Tutorials and Office Hours

Tutorials are mandatory. Active participation in tutorials is part of your participation grade. Among other ways to participate, you should answer polls and participate in Q&As during tutorial sessions. Tutorials are run by TAs online at the designated time.

Similar to the quiz policy, your two lowest tutorial marks will be dropped (you can miss two tutorial sessions). You are advised to leave this option for unexpected technical difficulties, illness, etc.

	Time**	Held by	By Appointment
Non-content consultation*	Fri. 9:00AM-10:00AM	Instructor	Yes
Content office hours	Tues. 11:00AM-1:00PM	Instructor	No
Content office hours	check Quercus	TAs	No

* In **non-content consultation** office hours, content questions will not be answered.

** Make sure to check Quercus for updated details on office hours schedule and the join links.

4 Test and Assignments

Public health situation may result in test-date and time changes. Please find the current schedule below.

Item	Weight	Due Dates	Timing
Online Quizzes*	10%	Almost Weekly	Timed
Participation (see section 4.3)	6%		-
Writing Assignment 1	7.5%	Thurs. 14 Oct.	Take home
Term Tests 1**	13%	Wed. 17 Nov.	9:00AM-11:00AM
Writing Assignment 2	7.5%	Wed. 8 Dec.	Take home
Term Tests 2	13%	Wed. 26 Jan.	9:00AM-11:00AM
Term Tests 3	13%	Wed. 9 March.	9:00AM-11:00AM
Final	30%	Final examination period, TBD	Timed

All tests and quizzes are cumulative.

Tests Special Accommodation

In case that you have to miss a quiz or a term test due to illness, technical difficulties, etc., you can use the special accommodation described below. You are strongly advised only to use them if necessary.

* Your **two lowest quiz marks** will be dropped. If you miss more than two quizzes during the academic year for any reason, they are going to be marked as zero.

** If the mark on your final assessment is higher than **your lowest term-assessment mark**, we will replace this lowest mark with your final-assessment mark when calculating your course grade.

- If you miss a term test, for whatever reason, you receive a 0 for that test.
- Your final test/assessment mark can replace at most one term test mark.

Let's work through some of the implications of this policy.

- For the first term test you miss, there is no need to self-report any reason or illness. No documentation needed/accepted. Your mark for this test will be equal to the mark you earn on your final test/assessment.
- If you miss a subsequent term test, you may want to consider dropping the course as you will receive a zero for the test. In the case of extraordinary circumstances, contact your college's Registrar's Office. The only possibility of adjusting the marking policy would be the result of our consultation with your college's Registrar.

- We point out there is absolutely no benefit to missing a term test, even if you are unable to adequately prepare for it.
- Further, missing a term test is risky as you do not know what the future holds. Assume that for whatever reason, you are going to be forced to miss the last term test.

4.1 Quizzes

Quizzes are cumulative and are almost weekly. They are due at 7:00 PM Toronto time of the Friday from the day they have been released.

4.2 Writing Assignments Late Submission Policy

Late writing assignment submissions will be **penalized by day**. There is a grace period of 15 min which is advised to be reserved for technical difficulties. After that 15 min, there is a 30% penalty (out of the original grade) for each calendar day of late submission. For instance, if the writing assignment is due at 7:00 PM of a Thursday, all the submissions until 7:00 PM on Friday will incur a 30% late penalty. No submissions will be accepted 3 calendar days after the deadline.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

4.3 Participation

You should consistently participate in the course. You can calculate your participation mark after the final grades are released on ACORN given your marks for quizzes, term tests, writing assignments, and the final. The participation mark depends on the consistency and the **quality** of your participation through the year and cannot be appealed.

The participation mark is 6% of your final grade. It has four components with the following weights:

1. 30% tutorial participation: students should attend all tutorial sessions and answer the polls/in class activities. Lowest two tutorial participation mark will be dropped.
2. 30% class participation: students should attend all in-person workshops/lectures and show their participation. Lowest two in-person workshop/lecture participation mark will be dropped.
3. 20% Piazza participation: students should at least post one content related question and/or answer on Piazza by Friday 6:00PM of each week. Random posts do not count as participation, we assess the quality of the question/answer posted. Be advised that Piazza will be inactive during weekends and holidays.
4. 20% homework: there will be various homework assigned throughout the year. You will work through a selection of end of the chapter problems on our Achieve

platform. We may have other types of exciting homework if time and resources allow.

In addition to the mandatory activities, you can also show your participation in other ways by engaging in opportunities that will be announced during the year.

4.4 Regrade Requests

There are no regrade requests for auto-graded quizzes. You can request regrades in writing for term tests within two weeks of the test release date. We will regrade your entire test and submit the new possible adjusted grade (up or down) after the two weeks.

5 Ongoing Learning Disability or Accommodation Requirement

If you have an ongoing disability issue or you need accommodation, please register with Accessibility Services (AS) (accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. After AS processes your request, we will coordinate to provide the required accommodations for you.

6 Academic Integrity

The University of Toronto is deeply committed to the free and open exchange of ideas, and to the values of independent inquiry. As such, academic integrity is also fundamental to the University's intellectual life. What does it mean to act with academic integrity? U of T supports the International Center for Academic Integrity's definition of academic integrity as acting in all academic matters with honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage.

Please visit academicintegrity.utoronto.ca for smart strategies and information on academic integrity processes and procedures at the University of Toronto. The website includes a link to decisions of the University Tribunal in student cases involving academic integrity. You can review the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters in its entirety [here](#).

Common forms of academic misconduct with code references include:

- Possession or use of unauthorized aids (B.I.1.b). Impersonation (B.I.1.c). Plagiarism (B.I.1.d) (plagiarism is a serious instance of academic misconduct, and university policy explicitly stipulates that ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable defense.). Submission of work for which credit has previously been obtained (B.I.1.e). Submission of work containing purported statement(s) of fact or reference(s) to concocted sources (B.I.1.f). Assisting another student in committing an offence (B.II.1.a).

7 Schedule and Weekly Learning Goals

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. This schedule should be viewed as a road map to the fundamental concepts that students should learn and study before each test. The topics below are the chapter title of the textbook. Some chapters will be discussed longer than others.

Week 01 Adventures in Microeconomics

Week 02 Supply and Demand

Week 03 Using Supply and Demand to Analyze Markets Application

Week 04 & 05 Consumer Behavior

Week 06 Individual and Market Demand

Week 07 Producer Behavior

Week 08 & 09 Costs

Week 09 Supply in a Competitive Market

Week 10 Market Power and Monopoly

Week 11 & 12 Pricing Strategies for Firms with Market Power

Week 13 & 14 Imperfect Competition

Week 15 & 16 Game Theory

Week 17 Factor Markets

Week 18 TBD

Week 19 & 20 General Equilibrium

Week 21 & 22 Asymmetric Information

Week 23 Externalities and Public Goods

Week 24 TBD

8 The Final Word

“A university is a place where the universality of the human experience manifests itself.”

Albert Einstein

Everyone is welcome in this class. We should all actively try to create an inclusive environment to give everyone equal chances to grow. I can't do this alone and need your help to achieve this mission. Try to connect with as many of your classmates as the online world allows and welcome new ideas, perspectives, and identities. I look forward to meeting you all!