

**ECO204Y Sections L0501 and L0601
Microeconomic Theory and Applications for Commerce**

**University of Toronto
2022/23**

Course Description

Welcome to Microeconomic Theory and Applications for Commerce.

This is a course in microeconomic theory for students in the Commerce Program at the University of Toronto. The course has three objectives:

- 1) To master economic models of human behavior that are relevant to your studies in the B.Com. program
- 2) To provide you with the skills to succeed in a wide variety of economics courses at the 300 and 400 levels
- 3) To provide practice in applying the tools of calculus you learned in MAT133Y to social science problems

Course Prerequisites

The course prerequisites and exclusions are listed here:
<https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/course/eco204y1>. The instructors cannot waive prerequisites. Students anyone missing prerequisites will be removed from the course.

Fall Term

Instructor: Michael Baker

Office: GE 274, Max Gluskin House (150 St. George St.)

Winter Term

Instructor: Lucas Lima

Office: GE 351, Max Gluskin House (150 St. George St.)

Textbook:

Varian, Hal R., *Intermediate Microeconomics, A Modern Approach*, Ninth Edition, New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2020

Please note that most chapters in this textbook have an appendix. In each appendix you will find the material in the chapter presented using calculus. You should make it a practice to review the appendix of each chapter that we study.

The Class Website

The class Quercus website is available through the university's webpage.

On the website you will find the syllabus, class announcements, lecture summaries and tutorial problems.

Class Meetings

L0501: Wednesdays 12pm-2pm, SS2117

L0601: Wednesdays 3pm-5pm, SS2135

Tutorial

L0501: Thursdays 2pm-4pm, SS2117

L0601: Thursdays 2pm-4pm, SS2135

Office Hours Fall Term

TA Sarah Ji will hold weekly office hours Tuesdays 10:00am-12:00pm in SS2119 starting September 13, 2022

TA Jordan Schimke will hold weekly office hours Fridays 1:00pm-3:00pm in SS2119 starting September 16, 2022

Michael Baker will hold weekly office hours Mondays 1:00pm-2:00pm and Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am in GE274 starting September 19, 2022

There will be extra office hours scheduled before the midterms

Office Hours Winter Term

TBA

Evaluation

Student evaluation will be based on a series of webwork assignments/online quizzes, two writing assignments, three midterm tests and a final exam.

Entry and Miscellaneous Tasks

Three times over the year you will be asked to answer some online questions about the course—details about the syllabus, retrospective opinions on how things are going etc. Your completion of these tasks will count towards your final grade.

Webwork/Online Quiz

Roughly every 2-3 weeks. The quizzes will be made available on Quercus, Fridays between 9:00am and 11:00am and between 4:00pm and 6:00pm, and you will have 50 minutes to complete them. You must complete the assignment within the time window you choose (i.e., by 11:00am or by 6:00pm). See Quercus Announcements for further instructions.

Your best 7 out of 9 grades on these tests will count towards your final grade in the course

Writing Assignments

There are two writing assignments worth in total 8% of your grade. In the fall term the assignment is worth 3%. You will be presented with one of the graphs we have studied in the period up to the time of this assignment, and be asked to describe what the graph means in words. In your description you should avoid specific references to specific features of the graph, instead focusing on its overall message. You will have one hour to complete the assignment. Further instructions will be provided before the assignment.

The details of the writing assignment for the winter term will be provided at the start of the winter term.

Midterm Tests

The dates and times of the midterm tests are:

Test 1: Thursday November 3, 2022, 2pm-4pm (EX100, EX300)

Test 2: In the December 2022 Final Examination period

Test 3: Thursday March 2, 2023, 2pm-4pm (Room TBA)

Your best 2 out of 3 grades on these tests will count towards your final grade in the course.

Final Examination

In the April 2023 Final Examination period

Structure of Midterm Tests and Final Examination

Because the course is being taught by two different instructors, the midterm tests and final exam will have the following structure:

Test #1: cumulative to material covered up to the week of October 26, 2022

Test #2: cumulative to material covered in the Fall term

Test #3: cumulative to material covered up to the week of February 15, 2023

Final Exam: cumulative to material covered in the Winter term

Calculation of your Final grade

Entry and Miscellaneous Tasks (1% each)	3%
Best 7 of 9 webwork/online quizzes (2% each)	14%
Writing assignments (3% and 5%)	8%
Best 2 of 3 midterm tests (25% each)	50%
Final Examination	25%

Missed Term Work

You are expected to complete all required work as scheduled.

The Fall Term writing assignment will be completed on November 18, 2022. If you are unable to complete the assignment on that date the weight (3%) for this assignment will be transferred to the Winter Term writing assignment (now worth 8%). In contrast, the Winter Term writing assignment can be completed over a few days, and it will be assigned at least 3 weeks before its due date. As a result there are no extensions/make-ups for this assignment for any reason (illness, computer problems etc.). If you do not submit the Winter Term writing assignment by its due date, you get a grade of zero.

For the other term work, the marking scheme includes accommodations for missed term work. Dropping the lowest term test grade accommodates students that cannot write one term test due to illness, injury, personal/family problems, or extracurricular conflicts. It also accommodates students who write a test in difficult circumstances and do poorly. (Note: If you are going to be late to a test, you are expected to show up late and see the instructor.) Similarly, dropping the lowest two on line quizzes accommodates students who are unable to take or do poorly on those.

You do not need to provide medical documentation or reasons for missing one term test, or up to two on line quizzes.

Accommodations for missing term work in excess of these allowances (missing more than one test or more than 2 quizzes) are extremely limited: (A) an ongoing and substantial injury, illness, or personal/family problem seriously affecting your ability to complete term work in all courses over an extended period of time and as documented and confirmed by your College Registrar; or (B) more than one conflict not related to injury, illness or personal/family problems in which

case we are contacted *well in advance*. In these *limited situations*, we will consider whether accommodations can allow you to meet all course requirements or whether you should be advised to drop the course and retake it when you are able to complete the required work.

Note that for ongoing injury, illness, or personal issues, you are strongly encouraged to contact your College Registrar office for guidance and support.

Crowdmark

This course will use Crowdmark, a collaborative online grading tool for marking and providing feedback on graded term assessments. Crowdmark provides efficiencies with grading, data recording, returning term assessments and handling regrade requests. Copies of student work marked in Crowdmark, including grading and feedback, will be available online to students for at least one year. Digital (i.e., online) copies will serve as the authoritative record for course administrative purposes, and paper copies of assessments scanned and uploaded to Crowdmark will be destroyed after the term has ended and final grades are approved. If you have questions about how your information is stored on Crowdmark, please contact your course instructor.

Plagiarism Detection Tool

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>).

Course Delivery (Fall Term)

Lectures will be delivered in person. A summary for each lecture will be provided on Quercus before the in person meeting. I encourage you to review them as you read the text and to bring them to class. They should lessen the note taking demands of the lectures, allowing you to annotate the equations presented and focus on drawing the graphical solutions to the different models we study.

Tutorials will meet in person. Before each tutorial I will post 4-5 problems for you to complete. The answers to these problems will be presented and discussed in the tutorials. You are encouraged to attempt the problems *before* you attend the tutorials. If you simply copy down the answers to these problems in the tutorials you are likely to find the midterm tests very challenging.

One of the best decisions you can make to help you succeed in this course is to form a study group with your peers. There is perhaps nothing so disheartening as getting stuck on a

economics concept or problem,...., alone,...., just before a test. I encourage you to try to form a study group in the first weeks of class. The University of Toronto is a big place, and the B. Com. is a big program, and some of you may not initially know many people in your section of the course. If this is true, I encourage you to apply to lead or join one of the Recognized Study Groups supported by the Faculty of Arts and Science starting September 19, 2022. This is a great way to meet and form a study group in courses in which you do not already know a lot of people. See <https://sidneysmithcommons.artsci.utoronto.ca/recognized-study-groups/join/>.

Class Schedule (Fall Term)

Week 1	September 14, 2022	Supply and Demand	Varian Ch. 1
Entry Task		Friday September 16, 2022	
Week 2	September 21, 2022	Preferences, Utility Functions	Varian Ch. 3-4
Quercus Quiz #1		Friday September 23, 2022	
Week 3	September 28, 2022	Budget Constraints and Consumer Optimum	Varian Ch. 2 & 5
Week 4	October 5, 2022	Consumer Optimum and Individual Demand	Varian Ch. 5-6
Week 5	October 12, 2022	The Slutsky Equation	Varian Ch. 8
Quercus Quiz #2		Friday October 14, 2022	
Week 6	October 19, 2022	Market Demand and Welfare	Varian Ch. 14-15
Week 7	October 26, 2022	Technology and Profit Maximization	Varian Ch. 19-20
Week 8	November 2, 2022	Profit Maximization and Cost Minimization	Varian Ch. 20-21
1st Midterm Test		Thursday November 3, 2022	
Week 9	November 9, 2022	READING WEEK	
Week 10	November 16, 2022	Cost Curves and Firm Supply	Varian Ch. 22-23
Fall Term Writing Assignment		Friday November 18, 2022	
Week 11	November 23, 2022	Firm and Industry Supply	Varian Ch. 23-24

In Person and Online Behaviour

To keep class and tutorials as useful and productive as possible, please be courteous and limit disruptions to other students (and to myself or the TA). This includes: arriving on time (or being discrete if you have to enter the room late), not chatting with your classmates outside of group activities, not texting/messaging/browsing.

I also ask that you behave online the same way you would in person. Please be considerate and respectful in your interactions with the other students and the teaching team.

Student Well Being

The University provides a number of resources to help you stay healthy and be well:
<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/>

There are also a number of resources in case you are feeling distressed:
<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/>

In case of emergency, call 911. For ongoing injury, illness, or personal/family problems, or if you feel you are falling behind in your courses, you must contact your College Registrar immediately. The earlier you do, the easier it is to find solutions.

If you have an ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS. For more information on services and resources available to instructors and students, please contact Accessibility Services at <https://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca>

Academic Integrity

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism, representing someone else's work as your own, collaborating on webwork/online quizzes are serious offences that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

For the writing assignment:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. This includes verbatim copying of any lecture notes distributed by the instructor.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids, including smartphones.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

On the online quizzes :

- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Collaborating.

More generally in an academic context:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

There is good advice at the following sites: Perils and Pitfalls

<http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/perils-and-pitfalls> and Smart Strategies

<http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/smart-strategies>