

ECO200Y1Y: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Fall Syllabus

Basic Course Information:

Instructor: Laura Turner

Email: lmf.turner@utoronto.ca

TAs and TA emails:

- Xiangmin Zeng (xiangmin.zeng@mail.utoronto.ca)
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Course email: (messages are seen by the instructor, TAs, and administrative assistants):
eco200y1y.a@course.utoronto.ca

Sections: L0401, L501

Meeting times: Mondays and Wednesdays: see Acorn for times and locations

Important: Please check your Quercus at least twice a week and have your Quercus notifications ON. As well, you should read this syllabus thoroughly, mark your calendars with important dates, and familiarize yourself with course rules regularly.

Course Description: This course is the foundation of almost any microeconomics and micro-related field course you will take in the future. Learning micro theory helps you think about microeconomic problems in a structured way by formulating them in math. This course will teach you to solve optimizations and explain consumers' and firms' behaviour and decision-making processes. We will also discuss real-world applications of the tools we learn in this course.

Prerequisites: See <https://artsci.calendar.utoronto.ca/course/eco200y1>. Please note that instructors do not have the authority to waive prerequisites for students.

Required Material and Resources:

Textbook (online edition; required): [Microeconomics \(3rd edition\) by Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson](#). Available as an e-text via Achieve or as a hard copy in the U of T bookstore. (Note that you need Achieve even if you purchase a hard copy, so the bundled electronic copy is recommended.)

Achieve Resources (online, through Quercus): Available through the Achieve Module on Quercus. Instructions for purchasing the e-text + Achieve resources can also be found [here](#).

Slides and Video Lectures: These will be provided via Quercus. The video lectures will serve

as a general supplement to in-class lectures and can serve as an occasional substitute during weeks when you need to miss class. However, perpetually missing class will put you at a disadvantage in ECO200 as some information, both on the material itself and the general form of evaluation of the material (e.g. emphasis), is provided only in class.

Personal Laptop and Ability to Scan/Take Pictures: During the fall semester, most of the material outside of our test dates can be completed via Quercus Quizzes and/or Achieve. However, you will need to have access to a laptop to complete the in-class writing assignments. You will very likely also need to be able to scan or take pictures and upload written work as at some point during ECO200, so make sure you have these skills; if you need help, please feel free to come to office hours and ask.

Weekly Schedule:

For sections 0401 and 0501, the following is the approximate weekly schedule:

Sunday: Lecture slides and textbook readings for the week posted on the Quercus main page.

Mondays: Video lectures posted in the morning; Live class during the evening

- There is no video for Week 1, our introductory lecture. Note that the remaining video lectures are being newly prepared during the semester, so in some weeks we may run late and the videos may not be available until later in the week. Once posted, the lecture videos will remain online for the duration of the course as a resource. If you need to miss class during a particular week, you can use these lecture videos as a substitute. During the weeks you plan to attend class (which should be most weeks), you should not need to watch the video before our live lecture on Monday evening, so long as you have looked over the slides and the associated textbook readings.

Tuesdays: Weekly homework (via Quercus Quizzes) and/or Achieve modules posted

Wednesdays: Live tutorials in the evening (one hour) with the course TAs

Fridays: Office hours with the TAs (morning) and with the prof (afternoon)

- Office hours may be live, virtual or both depending on the week; we will let you know on Quercus

Saturday: Current Quercus quiz homework and/or Achieve Module closes just before midnight

Evaluation:

Course evaluation for the fall semester comprises 36% of the final ECO200 grade. Full evaluation of ECO200 sections 0401 and 0501 is as follows:

Item	Course weight	Date	Details
Homework/Quizzes: Fall	5%	Weekly	See (*) below
Participation: Fall	3%	Roughly bi-weekly	See (**) below
Writing Assignment 1	7.5%	October 11 th	See (***) below
Term Test 1	13%	November 15 th	See (****) below
Writing Assignment 2	7.5%	December 6 th	See (***) below
Homework and Participation: Winter	8%	TBD	Details provided on the winter syllabus
Term Test 2	13%	January 24 th	Details provided on the winter syllabus
Term Test 3	13%	March 6 th	Details provided on the winter syllabus
Final Exam	30%	TBD: April	

Evaluation Details:

* To practice the material we are covering in 200, you will complete weekly homeworks in Quercus Quizzes (for this reason we call them homeworks and quizzes interchangeably) starting in Week 2. The questions in each quiz will be a mix of questions taken from Achieve and instructor-written questions. The quizzes are made available on Tuesday mornings and will close Saturday evening at midnight. You may take up to two quizzes per week if you choose: the quiz questions are randomized so the quizzes you take will be slightly different from each other and slightly different from your classmates' quizzes. You may take two quizzes per week from Week 2 through to Week 12, meaning you can take up to 22 quizzes during the fall semester. Of these, the top 10 quiz marks will each count for 0.5% of your final grade. It's a good idea to take as many of the quizzes as possible: a bad mark is not very risky since only the top 10 count! The correct answers for any quiz you take will be released when the quiz closes on Saturday night but you must attempt a quiz to see the answers in Quercus!

** Periodically, approximately six times during the semester, we will post some additional Achieve content for you to work through to help digest the material we've learned in class. For instance, in Week 1, we will post some math review videos and exercises, and you should work through them: these exercises will remain available for two weeks after being posted and we will post them again before the exam at the end of the course. For these Achieve exercises, you only need to complete them (i.e. View the videos and attempt the exercises) to receive the marks: your actual performance on the exercises doesn't matter. However, your performance should provide a barometer to you of how you are doing with the course concepts and required skills.

*** The first writing assignments will be a strictly in-person assessment, we will give you a topic with some associated readings to look at in advance, but the essay question on which you will write will be presented only at the assessment. The second writing assignment will be either in-person or (more

likely) a hybrid consisting of a take-home and an in-person component. Details on the assessments will be provided the week before the assessment takes place.

*** The term test will cover all material from ECO200 up to the Monday before the test. A sample term test will be made available on Quercus the week before the assessment on November 15th.

Missed Work Policy:

During the fall term, you must complete the midterm and the two writing assignments; you cannot re-weight any of the three assessments to the exam. However, you may miss ONE of these scheduled assessments on the day it is given, and we will hold a make up session on the final day of term, Tuesday December 7th, during your regularly scheduled lecture time (4pm to 6pm or 6pm to 8pm depending on your section), for you to complete the missed assessment. If you plan to miss a particular assessment for any reason, simply send an email to the course in-box eco200y1y.a@course.utoronto.ca letting us know. You don't need to give us a reason or provide any documentation for the missed assessment. However, since you can only make up one assessment on the make up day, if you miss an additional assessment, you will receive zero on this second missed assessment. (Note: you can make up any one of the assessments you miss but will still receive zero on the remaining assessments which are not made up.) Second missed assessments can only be made up under extraordinary circumstances. 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.

Missed homeworks and Achieve activities account for 0%, but in the case of homeworks, you can afford to miss several of them, depending on your schedule and other course obligations. However, we will not re-open the Quercus Quizzes or Achieve activities if you miss the deadlines, even if just by a minute or two, for any reason. If you miss a homework deadline, just try again next time!

Regrade Requests:

There are no regrade requests for the homeworks; however, if you feel there is a mistake with the auto-grader, please feel free to let us know by emailing the course inbox eco200y1y.a@course.utoronto.ca and we will check it for you. (This can potentially be a service to your classmates as well.) You can request regrades of the term test or writing assignments by email within one week of the assessment grades release date; if you believe there is a simple adding mistake with your final grade please note that in your emailed request to eco200y1y.a@course.utoronto.ca and we will check it right away. Otherwise, we will regrade your entire test and/or essay and submit the new possible adjusted grade (up or down); but the adjusted grade may not appear until the end of the semester, depending on the number of regrade requests and the instructor/TAs' time constraints.

Accommodations:

If you have an ongoing disability issue or you need accommodation, please register with Accessibility Services (AS) (at 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.

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).

Winter Term

This syllabus and the schedule of topics on the following page correspond to the first half of ECO200 with Laura Turner. Dr. Mir Ahasan Kabir, who is teaching the second half of ECO200, will provide his own syllabus at the start of the winter term. However, the full course evaluation, and dates of the assessments, are provided for both the fall and winter terms above.

Learning and Assessment Schedule for Fall:

Week and Live Meeting Dates	Topics (Approximate)
Week 1 Class: September 11 th No tutorial	Course Introduction: Adventures in Microeconomics
Week 2 Class: September 18 th Tutorial: September 20 th	Demand and Supply (I)
Week 3 Class: September 25 th Tutorial: September 27 th	Demand and Supply (II)
Week 4 Class: October 2 nd Tutorial: October 4 th	Consumer Behaviour (I)
Week 5 Class: October 9 th Tutorial: October 11 th	Consumer Behaviour (II)
Week 6 Class: October 16 th Writing Assessment #1: October 18 th	Individual vs. Market Demand
Week 7 Class: October 23 rd Tutorial: October 25 th	Producer Behaviour
Week 8 Class: October 30 th Tutorial: November 1 st	Costs (I)
Week 9 Class: November 13 th Midterm #1: November 15 th	Costs (II)
Week 10 Class: November 20 th Tutorial: November 22 nd	Supply Under Competition
Week 11 Class: November 27 th Tutorial: November 29 th	Monopoly and Market Power (I)
Week 12 Class: December 4 th Writing Assessment #2: December 6 th Make Up Assessment: December 7 th	Monopoly and Market Power (II)