
Eco 206Y1Y: Microeconomic Theory, Summer 2024

Prof. Turner, Department of Economics, University of Toronto

Course Description Microeconomics studies how individuals make choices and the patterns that result when they interact in a market. This course builds on ECO 101 concepts to develop a deeper, more nuanced, and more technical understanding. You will learn when and how to use the basic optimization tools of the field to answer questions. Math will help us get precise and discipline our logic. Writing will help us understand and communicate the reasoning and intuition behind the math. Our goal is to equip you with the methods and concepts that will help you be successful in upper-level courses and beyond. Microeconomics is best learned (and is a lot more fun) when you use it regularly to ask and answer questions, and solve problems. We hope you will actively take part in the course and engage with the material.

Course Delivery We will meet three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11am-1pm in SS 2125. Some of these meeting times will be used for tutorials, as specified in the course outline below and on Quercus. Note that the lecture topics for each week are approximate: some topics will take longer than a single two hour class while others will take less than the two hours. As well, the schedule may be subject to minor changes with the timing of tutorials; so keep an eye on the timeline posted on Quercus. The dates of the two midterms and two in-class writing assignments are fixed will both be held during class time: two during each summer semester. See Quercus for exact dates.

COURSE INFORMATION

Material delivery and homeworks ECO 206 is a live course. We will not make recordings of the lectures or tutorials available. The course and tutorial notes will, however, be made available.

The information page for each lecture, including the slides to be covered, is posted around 6pm the night before each lecture. Sometimes topics will spill over and so we may not cover all of the posted material in the lecture on the following day.

Each week, a problem set corresponding to the current lecture material will also be posted; the problem sets vary in length from two to four questions. These problem sets don't need to be handed in but are for study purposes.

For each problem set, a solution set will be posted one week after the problem set itself is posted (i.e. When the next problem set goes up). When possible, it is a good idea to at least briefly attempt the problem sets before looking at the solutions.

A homework will be posted at 7pm AFTER each lecture. You have three days to complete the homework on Crowdmark. For the first week, you will have some extra days in case it takes a bit of extra time to "ramp up" and get familiar with Crowdmark.

Tutorial materials will be posted in the Tutorials module before the start of tutorial. Tutorials will be live in our regular meeting room. The TA will cover and posted slides and/or solve the posted tutorial questions during the meeting, written solutions will not be provided.

To accommodate any variation across weeks during the semester, for reasons like illness, technology/internet or personal problems, internet issues, religious or extracurricular conflicts, or other reasons, we will drop your lowest two weekly HW scores in each half of the course. Your homework grade will be the average of the remaining grades.

Instructor Contact Information **Prof. Turner** lmf.turner@utoronto.ca
Please email from your U of T address and put ECO 206 in the subject line. If you don't get a reply within 48 hours, feel free to email again.

TA Contact Information Stephen Tino: s.tino@mail.utoronto.ca
Sixia (Rick) Sie: sixia.xie@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours The instructor (Laura) hosts office hours on Thursday afternoons from 2:30-4:00; these will be a mix of live and online office hours depending on room and time availability; I will update you each week as to whether I'm available live and where to find me, but you can always meet via zoom even if I'm currently on campus. I'll post a zoom link in announcements. As well, I am also available for short informal live meetings with students after most lectures.

Our TAs Stephen and Rick will host virtual office hours on Friday after class, from 1:30 until 2:30. They will post an office hours link in announcements to let you know which TA is available and remind you if you want to drop in to ask questions.

Links **Course website:** Everything you need for this course can be found on the course Quercus site: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/345753>

Required Text *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus, 5th Ed.* by Jeffrey M. Perloff. The specific chapter headings are listed on the syllabus and on Quercus. **We will not use MyEconLab**, so either an electronic or hard copy of the textbook is fine, as are older editions. To buy an electronic version of the text through the U of T bookstore, visit <https://www.uoftbookstore.com/adoption-search-results?ccid=4654127&itemid=302666>

Academic Integrity Academic Integrity is central to a UofT education. We take it seriously and so should you. Your degree has value because of what you learn in your courses and your grades are a reflection of this. When you cheat you do not acquire this knowledge. When your employers realize this it impacts your career and the careers of your fellow students as it affects UofT's reputation with employers.

To make sure your work retains integrity: when studying in groups, it is a good idea to talk about the assignment or problem set you are working on, but finish the submission on your own, so you do not copy another classmate's work in haste or have your own work copied. As well, you should make sure you understand before each midterm and exam what aids are permitted. At any point, we may require you to submit your term work to the university's plagiarism detection tool.

EVALUATION

Important Dates The grade for this class will be based on the term work below.

First Half : May 6-June 24

Test	Weight	Date	Time
First in-class writing assignment	8%	31-May	11:00AM-1:00PM
Midterm 1	20%	June exam period, determined by A&S	
Weekly Homeworks	5%	After each lecture; On problem set	

Second Half : Jul 2-Aug 23

Test	Weight	Date	Time
Second in-class writing assignment	12%	15-Jul	11:00AM-1:00PM
Midterm 2	20%	26-Jul	11:00AM-1:00PM
Weekly Homeworks	5%	On problem set	
Final	30%	August Final exam period, determined by A&S	

Tests: Coverage and Missed Tests

Details and topics coverage will be posted before each test in the Term Tests module on Quercus. Midterm 1 covers the material up to and including Lecture 11. Midterm 2 covers all the material from Lecture 12 to Lecture 19. (Note: if we get a bit behind in the schedule, topic coverage will be updated accordingly.)

The final exam is **cumulative** and will cover all the material from the summer.

All assessments must be completed; we will not re-weight grades to the final exam. Students may, however, miss **one** in class assignment or midterm per semester due to illness or conflicts.

If you have to miss either a writing assignment or midterm, you need to notify the instructor (Laura) by email **before the assessment begins**. We do not need a doctor's note or other documentation.

There is only one make-up sitting per semester, which will be held on Monday, July 2nd and Tuesday August 13th respectively. Since you can only make up one (either the writing assignment or the midterm) during this sitting, you cannot miss both midterms and you will receive a zero for whichever one you don't write on the make up date. There is no make up for the make up.

Regrade Requests

Regrade requests are to be made via email within a week of the grade release (you'll get an opportunity to see your assessment during that week before submitting a regrade request). We will re-read your entire assessment so the mark could go up, down or remain unchanged.

COURSE OUTLINE (APPRXIMATE)

Date	Day	Week	Lec	Chapters	Topics
06-May	Mon	1	1	1,3.3	Introduction and Budget Constraints
08-May	Wed	1	2	3.1,3.2	Preferences and Utility
10-May	Fri	1	3	3.4	Choice I
13-May	Mon	2	4	3.4-3.5	Choice II
15-May	Wed	2	5	4.1	Demand and Income Effects
17-May	Fri	2			<i>Tutorial: 1 Derivatives + Optimization</i>
20 May Victoria Day: no class					
22-May	Wed	3	6	4.2	Substitution Effects
24-May	Fri	3			<i>Tutorial 2: Individual Demand</i>
27-May	Mon	4	7	5.1-5.2	Consumer Surplus I
29-May	Wed	4	8	5.3	Consumer Surplus II
31-May	Fri	4			In-class Writing Assignment I
03-June	Mon	5	9	5.4	Individual Labour Supply
05-June	Wed	5	10	16.1-16.3	Uncertainty I
07-June	Fri	5			<i>Tutorial 3: Consumer surplus</i>
10-June	Mon	6	11	16.1-16.3	Uncertainty II
12-June	Wed	6			<i>Tutorial 4: Uncertainty and Insurance</i>
14-June	Fri	6	12	7 (exclude 7.5)	Production
17-June	Mon	6			<i>Tutorial 5: Midterm I review</i>
19-June to 24-June	tbd				Midterm 1
25-June to 1-July Summer Break: no class					
03-July	Wed	7	13	7.1-7.2	Costs and Cost Minimization I
05-July	Fri	7	14	7.3-7.4,	Costs and Cost Minimization II
08-July	Mon	8	15	8.1-8.3	Profit Maximization
10-July	Wed	8	16	8.4-9.2	Competitive Market Equilibrium
12-July	Fri	8	17	9.3-9.5	Welfare and Distortions
15-July	Mon	9			In-class Writing Assignment II
17-July	Wed	9	18	15.1	Factor Demand and Factor Markets
19-July	Fri	9			<i>Tutorial 6: Competitive firm theory</i>
22-July	Mon	10	19	10.1	Competitive General Equilibrium I
24-July	Wed	10			<i>Tutorial 7: Midterm 2 review</i>
26-July	Fri	10			Midterm 2
29-July	Mon	11	20	10.2-10.5	Competitive General Equilibrium II
31-July	Wed	11	21	11.1-11.5, 12.1-12.2	Monopoly, Monopsony and Price Discrimination
02-Aug	Fri	11	22	13.1	Game Theory – Static Games
05-Aug Holiday: No class					
07-Aug	Wed	12	23	13.2-14.1	Game Theory – Dynamic Games
09-Aug	Fri	12	23		<i>Tutorial 8: Static Games</i>
12-Aug	Mon	13	24	17.1-17.6	Externalities and Public Goods
13-Aug	Tue	13			<i>Tutorial 9: Dynamic Game</i>
August Exam: August 15-23					