

# University of Alberta

## Department of Economics

### Course Outline

ECON 384 –Section A1

*Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II*

**Schedule:** Tuesday & Thursday (11:00-12:20), **Location:** T1-093  
Fall 2021

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**Instructor:** Mesbah Sharaf

**Office:** 9-11 Tory

**E-mail:** [sharaf@ualberta.ca](mailto:sharaf@ualberta.ca)

**Office hours:**

A blend of online & in person office hours will be offered.

Online office hours will be held on zoom through a link that will be posted on eclass.

Thursdays (in person in my office): 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Fridays (online): 09:00 AM-10:00 AM

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**Prerequisites:** Students must already have credit for ECON 281 and 299 or equivalent. Whether you have these prerequisites or have obtained the consent of the department to take the class without these prerequisites, will be checked. Students who do not satisfy the prerequisites will be notified to drop the class.

**Course objectives:** This course is a continuation of Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (ECON 281). The objective of this course is to expand on the analytical methods introduced in ECON 281 and to use microeconomic theory to address and explain more advanced real world problems. Topics include intertemporal choice, choice under uncertainty, oligopoly models, game theory, externalities, public goods, asymmetric information, and general equilibrium models.

**Required Textbook:** Pindyck, R. and D. Rubinfeld (2017): *Microeconomics*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Pearson.

**Note:**

- In addition to the textbook, students are required to study any posted supplementary notes on the course website (eclass) which will complement the textbook.
- Sample practice questions will be made available on eclass.

**Important Dates:**

- First Day of Classes: September 1
- Add/Delete Date: September 15
- Last day of Classes: December 7
- Fall term reading week: November 8-12

**Covered chapters**

Topic
1. Introduction (review)
2. Review of Monopoly and Market Power (Chapter 10, omitting 10.5&10.6)
3. Intertemporal Choice (Chapter 15, only sections 15.1 to 15.7 are covered)
4. Choice under Uncertainty (Chapter 5, only sections 5.1 to 5.3 are covered)
5. Game Theory (Chapter 13, all sections are covered)
6. Oligopoly (Chapter 12, all sections are covered)
7. General Equilibrium (Chapter 16, all sections are covered)
8. Asymmetric Information (Chapter 17, omitting 17.5)
9. Externalities and Public Goods (Chapter 18, omitting 18.3)

**Note** : I may add or cancel topics as the term progresses. The order of listed topics may not necessarily reflect the order in which I will cover them during the semester.

### Evaluation

The evaluation in this course will be based on the following table:

	<b>Weight</b>
Assignments	15 %
Midterm exam	30 %
Final Exam	55 %

	<b>Covered chapters</b>	<b>Date</b>
Midterm exam	5,10,13,15, and 12. For chapter 12, the midterm will include till whatever is covered in the lecture before the midterm exam)	Thursday, October 28 during the lecture time
Final exam	Cumulative (All covered materials)	Students are responsible for checking Bear Tracks for the exact date of the final exam.

Though class attendance is not mandatory, students are highly encouraged not to miss lectures, as this is essential for effective learning. Students are required to visit the course website (eclass) on a regular basis to check any announcements or posted materials such as lecture notes, and practice questions.

### Midterm test

There will be **one** midterm test. The midterm test will be worth **30%** of the final grade. No term test can be written after the scheduled test date and time. If you missed a midterm test, its weight would be automatically transferred to the final exam, and you will get an **Excused Absence** (EA) for that midterm test. A student who misses the final exam because of illness or any other compelling reason (including religious conviction) may apply for a deferred final exam. Students seeking a deferred exam need to apply to their Faculty. The instructor does not have the authority to approve such applications.

The final exam will be cumulative as shown in the Table above. Midterm exam grades will be posted on the course website (eclass). Please note that midterm test marks take approximately one week to process.

**Deferred Final Examination:** For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

**Warning:** *“Transferring the weight of missed midterm exam to the Final exam could result in the student **not** being approved for a deferred final examination as they may not have completed the required 50% of term work.”*

### Homework Assignments:

There will be **Two** homework assignments allocated throughout the entire semester. Homework assignments are good practice to prepare for the exams. Solutions to the assignments will be posted on the course website after the due date. There is no makeup for any missed assignment. Late homework assignments **will not** be accepted.

## University Grading System

“Grades reflect judgments of student achievement made by instructors. These judgments are based on a **combination of absolute achievement** and **relative** performance in class.” 23.4(4) *University of Alberta 2014-15 Calendar*. *The following table will be used to translate the numerical grade to a letter grade.*

Range	letter grade	Range	letter grade
0 - 50	<b>F</b>	72.1-77	<b>B-</b>
50.1-57	<b>D</b>	77.1-82	<b>B</b>
57.1-60	<b>D+</b>	82.1-86	<b>B+</b>
60.1-64	<b>C-</b>	86.1-90	<b>A-</b>
64.1-68	<b>C</b>	90.1-94	<b>A</b>
68.1-72	<b>C+</b>	94.1-100	<b>A+</b>

### Note:

- The use of unauthorized materials, dictionaries, programmable (graphing) calculators, and/or electronic communication devices **is not** permitted during tests or exams. Please be courteous by **turning off your cell phone**, blackberry, etc. at the door! It is required that you have your student ID with you for term tests and finals.
- That the Department of Economics General Office hours are 8-4 PM, CLOSED from 12-1 PM.

## Student Responsibilities:

**Academic Integrity:** The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

**Recording of Lectures:** Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

**Disclaimer:** Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

## **Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

### **Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

### **The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

### **The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

### **Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

### **Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

### **Territorial Statement:**

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

### **Sexual Violence Policy:**

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>