

## ECON 384: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II

### Fall 2021\*

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- Instructor:** Valentina Kozlova (she/her)  
*email:* vkozlova@ualberta.ca  
(Please have “Econ 384” in the subject line whenever you email)
- Class Schedule:** TR 12:30 - 1:50 (we will not meet every time)
- Office Hours:** Mon 10:30 - 11:30 in person (Tory 7-15),  
Thu 14:00 - 15:00 on Zoom,  
or by appointment.
- Prerequisites:** ECON 109, ECON 281 and 299 or equivalent, and MATH 156 or equivalent. Registration in the class will be canceled if you have not taken (and passed) the prerequisites.

### Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (ECON 281). We will expand on analytical methods introduced in ECON 281. Topics covered in this course include intertemporal choice, risk, uncertainty and expected utility; oligopoly and game theory; externalities, public goods, adverse selection, moral hazard, and asymmetric information; general equilibrium.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. solve models in the topics of intermediate microeconomic theory;
2. use basic calculus to solve optimization problems;
3. complement their solutions with explanatory graphs;

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\*Note that the outline is tentative and is subject to change, given the constantly changing COVID-19 situation. All changes will be announced in class, posted to eClass and/or sent via email. Please check your email regularly. On the other hand, I need to know if you have any constraints that will not allow you to perform to the best of your ability this semester. Please let me know as early as possible should you need any changes due to your personal situation and I will do my best to accommodate you. Clear communication is especially important these days.

4. analyze different markets and market conditions from the perspective of economic efficiency.

## **Course Format:**

All course content will be delivered online in a combined synchronous/asynchronous way.

- There will be materials (short video lectures, slides, handouts) posted to eClass, which you will study on your own. Lecture videos will contain embedded and graded multiple choice questions. Specific chapters will be assigned for reading each week.
- Homework will be assigned using Pearson's MyLab. Read more below.
- About every other week during scheduled class time you will take a quiz on eClass. Read more about eClass quizzes below.
- I will hold one hour live Zoom meetings about every other week during our regular scheduled class times. In these optional meetings I will go over upcoming homework and quiz problems. Meetings will be recorded and posted to eClass for those who cannot attend.<sup>†</sup>
- Educational guidelines indicate that students should put in, on average, 140 hours for a 3-credit course. Be prepared, therefore, to spend at least 10 hours per week preparing for and actively participating in this course.
- A course calendar with all the important dates and deadlines is available here.

## **What You Need:**

### **Technical Requirements:**

You will need a computer with Windows or MacOS, high-speed reliable internet, speakers or headphones, microphone and a webcam. More information can be found at [this link](#).

You will need to access your UofA email and eClass regularly. If you need an alternative way to access UofA email, please see the details at [this link](#).

### **Required Textbook and MyLab:**

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<sup>†</sup>Recordings of this course will be used for the purposes of allowing students enrolled in the course to review the material and will be disclosed to other students enrolled in this section of the class. Students have the right to not participate in the recording and can choose to turn off their cameras and audio prior to recording; they can still participate through text-based chat. It is recommended that students remove all identifiable and personal belongings from the space in which they will be participating. Recordings will be made available on eClass until December 31, 2021. Please direct any questions about this collection to the instructor.

1. Pindyck and Rubinfeld: “Microeconomics”, 9th edition, 2018.
2. MyLab Economics, an online platform provided through Pearson. Access and registration instructions are available on eClass.

An ebook with MyLab can be purchased from the bookstore at this link.

If you have financial constraints, restricted access can be requested for assignment material only. Please note that this access does not provide you with access to the full MyLab Economics tool including access to the eText and additional study material. Your request must be received on or before September 12 and sent to [pearson.abteam1@pearson.com](mailto:pearson.abteam1@pearson.com). Restricted access may take up to 3 days to be arranged so follow the instructions in the registration document to start the 14-day temporary access while waiting for your restricted access.

## **Grading Policy:**

### **In-video Quizzes - 5%**

Many of the short recorded lectures will have multiple choice questions embedded in them. You will answer these questions in your own time.

### **Homework - 20%**

Homework will be assigned through MyLab. The instructions on how to get access to MyLab are posted on eClass. You will have 8 assignments throughout the semester, each assignment is worth 2.5%. The assignments are open book/resources, but strictly individual work. The goal of these assignments is to help prepare you for quizzes and the final exam, that is why it is important to go through them on your own. Assignments will be available at least a week before they are due. Late assignments are accepted until the last day of semester for half marks. If you need technical help with MyLab, please contact Pearson tech support at this link. There will be optional zoom study sessions where I will go through some of the homework problems and potential quiz questions. Homework deadlines and study session schedule can be found in the course calendar.

### **eClass Quizzes - 50%**

eClass quizzes serve as a major learning tool for mastering the material of each learning module. There will be 6 quizzes, but only the top 5 grades will count, so each quiz is worth 10%. The format of questions will vary, including (but not limited to) multiple choice, true/false/explain, short answer, and numerical.

Quizzes will take place during our scheduled class times, usually from 12:30 until 13:30 MST. Students are allowed to use any resources, including textbook, internet, eClass, etc. There will be some time pressure, so make sure to be prepared and do not rely on your ability to consult notes and other resources. Quizzes are strictly individual work, no form of collaboration with others is allowed.

There is an alternative time to take the quizzes for those students who are unable to join during class time due to work, different time zones or other commitments. These students will take the quiz synchronously on the same day as the rest of the class, but 8 hours later, that is, at 20:30 MST. Students who would like to be considered for this alternative schedule need to contact me directly by email no later than September 15. A student must choose either the regular quiz time or the alternative quiz time and take all quizzes in that chosen time slot throughout the semester. I am not able to accommodate switching between the time slots.

Quiz dates are available in the course calendar.

### **Final Exam - 25%**

Cumulative final exam will be delivered through eClass on December 21.

Overall grades will be collected and aggregated in percentage form and assigned letter grades at the conclusion of the course. There is no pre-set distribution of grades for this course. Both absolute performance and relative performance to the rest of the class will be considered in assigning letter grades. Improvement and class participation will be taken into account for rare borderline cases.

## **Communication Policy:**

### **eClass Forum**

There is a forum set up on eClass that students can use to discuss anything related to this course with fellow classmates and the instructor. This is the place to ask most of your questions, like “how do I solve this problem?” or “why is this answer correct?” or “what does this mean?” or “when is this work due?” or anything at all that is unclear. Everybody can reply to other people’s questions and I will monitor the forum frequently.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are held in person every Monday at 10:30 (Tory 7-15) or over Zoom every Thursday at 14:00. These are open office hours, where many students can show up at the same time. Students will have a chance to ask questions in the order that students show up. Any questions are welcome during this time. The Zoom sessions will not be recorded. If you feel that your questions should be asked privately, or if these times do not work for you, please email me to schedule a separate Zoom or in person session at a different time.

### **Email**

Email is for questions that must be asked privately. Please have your course number in the subject of your email. I will do my best to respond to emails received Monday through Friday within 24 hours. I do not check email over the weekend. Questions about course content and course organization should be posted to the eClass forum.

## **Missed Term Work:**

In-video quizzes cannot be made up, since they will be available for many days for students to complete at any time. All in-video quizzes must be submitted by the last day of class, December 7. After that day no more in-video quizzes can be accepted.

Late homework assignments are still accepted, but for half marks. All homework assignments must be submitted by the last day of class, December 7. After that day no more homework assignments can be accepted.

A missed eClass quiz will get a grade of zero. If you miss one quiz, you do not need to do anything as one lowest grade will be dropped. If you miss two or more quizzes, the weight of the second, third, fourth (and so on) quizzes will be automatically transferred to the cumulative final exam. This option is only available to students who miss two or more quizzes and not available for grade improvement.

If a student misses the final exam, they have to apply for a deferred final in their home faculty. Deferred final exam will take place on December 22.

## **Academic Integrity in This Course:**

All work in this course is open book and open resources (internet, encyclopedias, ancient runes, etc), but strictly individual, except where you are explicitly instructed to work in groups. For example, when taking an eClass quiz, you are allowed to use your textbook, notes, eClass materials, internet sources, but you are not allowed to consult with any person, inside or outside of class.

## **Other Policies:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.

*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 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. Online resources can be found at [this link](#).

*Recording:* 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 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).

*Accessibility Resources:* If you have a condition that may require some classroom or exam modifications, please contact Accessibility Resources to obtain a determination as to what

accommodations should be made.

*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.

*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.

*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 [this link](#).