

# ECON 350

Fall 2026

## Mathematical Economics: Introduction to Static Methods

CRNs: Lecture – 11139; Lab – 11140

Unit Value: 1.5

**Instructor:** Dr. Colette Salemi, [csalemi@uvic.ca](mailto:csalemi@uvic.ca)

**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Zoom)

**Teaching assistant:** Keddy Wright, [keddyme@uvic.ca](mailto:keddyme@uvic.ca)

**Lecture:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00–2:20 p.m., Clearihue Building A317

**Lab (graded in-class exercise):** Mondays, 3:30–4:20 p.m., Hickman Building 116

**Course dates:** September 9–December 7, 2026

Land acknowledgement: *We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

## 1 Learning objectives

**Prerequisite/corequisite:** MATH 208 - Mathematics for Economics and Econometrics (1.5) with a minimum grade of B. Alternatively, MATH 101 - Calculus II (1.5), plus one of MATH 110 - Matrix Algebra for Engineers (1.5) or MATH 211 - Matrix Algebra I (1.5), and MATH 200 - Calculus III (1.5). In addition, students must have completed, or be concurrently enrolled in, ECON 203 - Intermediate Microeconomics I (1.5).

**The course is in person, and all exams are held in person**, consistent with the established format of this course and this department.

**Quick summary:** This course reviews the mathematical tools most frequently used by economists – single- and multivariable calculus, matrix algebra, and constrained/unconstrained optimization – and uses them to bridge the gap between the algebra-based tools of your prior courses and the proof-based theory of upper-level Economics. Beyond the tools themselves, the course emphasizes how to read and construct a formal mathematical argument, applied wherever possible to economic examples.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- use algebra, calculus, and linear algebra to formulate and analyze static economic models;
- characterize equilibria and conduct comparative static analysis;
- recognize and apply mathematical properties such as continuity, concavity, and convexity in economic models; and
- translate between economic questions and formal mathematical arguments, including reading and constructing simple proofs and interpreting mathematical results economically.

## 2 Textbook and course notes

**Required textbook:** *Mathematics for Economics* by Michael Hoy, John Livernois, Chris McKenna, Ray Rees, and Thanasis Stengos (MIT Press: Cambridge, 2022). The instructor is working off of the second edition; any edition second or beyond is fine. Students are not required to purchase the textbook new. The instructor encourages students to borrow from a peer, find a PDF version, or order it used online.

Dr. David Scoones has kindly granted permission for us to use a set of notes he wrote, which will be posted on Brightspace as an additional resource this term. We are not working directly from these notes in lecture. They're a genuinely useful reference - they compile key definitions in one place and can be a good base for note-taking, since you can annotate them directly as we go (writing worked examples, connections to lecture, and your own clarifications in the margins). Printing the full set of notes at Zap Copy will cost about \$25 CAD.

Dr. Scoones' notes are for the exclusive use of students enrolled in ECON 350. They may not be shared, posted, or uploaded onto websites, sold, or commercialized in any way. Students are forbidden from uploading them into an LLM or other AI interface. Failure to abide by these rules constitutes a violation of academic integrity and will be reported.

The instructor only uses Brightspace to disseminate PDFs and links. The instructor posts: Dr. Scoones' notes, the Zoom link, this syllabus, and slides on days the instructor uses them instead of the blackboard. The instructor keeps a separate gradebook. Students are responsible for tracking their own grades.

## 3 Minimum grade requirement

Students pursuing the BSc in Economics must earn a minimum grade of C in ECON 350 for it to count toward their program requirements. Some students in the Financial Mathematics and Economics program under earlier Calendar requirements may also require a minimum grade of C. Students should consult their CAPP report for the requirements that apply to their program.

## 4 Grade determination

ECON 350 follows the University of Victoria grading scale:

- A+ (90-100%); A (85-89%); A- (80-84%)
- B+ (77-79%); B (73-76%); B- (70-72%)
- C+ (65-69%); C (60-64%)
- D (50-59%)
- F or N (0-49%)

Grades are determined based on student performance in in-class exercises (ICEs), two midterms, and one final exam.

## 4.1 In-class exercises (ICEs): up to 11 total; normally the top 9 determine the ICE grade

**In-class exercises are worth 40% of the final grade.** Up to 11 ICEs will be completed during the Monday Lab, 3:30–4:20 p.m. The ICE grade is based on the nine highest scores. If 10 ICEs are administered, the lowest score is dropped; if all 11 are administered, the lowest two scores are dropped. If fewer than nine ICEs are administered, all ICEs administered are weighted equally.

### 4.1.1 ICE procedures

The following procedures apply to all ICEs:

- **Format:** ICEs are completed in groups. Collaboration is limited to members of the submitting group.
- **Participation:** Only students who are physically present and participate may be listed on an ICE submission or receive credit. Students must be present when the ICE is distributed and remain until their group submits it, unless the instructor or TA explicitly permits otherwise. An absent or non-participating student may not be listed on a submission.
- **Permitted items:** Writing utensils (pencils preferred), an approved non-graphing calculator, and either printouts of Dr. Scoones' notes or handwritten notes.
- **Timing:** ICEs are completed in person during the Monday Lab and are due at the end of the Lab.

Students may not use AI or other online resources to complete an ICE. Doing so is cheating and will be reported as academic misconduct.

### 4.1.2 Missed ICEs

There are no make-up ICEs. A student who does not complete an ICE receives a zero. The dropped scores described above are intended to accommodate occasional legitimate absences, including illness.

## 4.2 Midterms

There are two **midterms, each worth 15% of the grade (30% in total)**, held in person during the Thursday lecture slot. Each midterm is 70 minutes long. Only writing utensils and an approved non-graphing calculator are permitted. Students must present UVic photo identification, follow all seating and invigilation instructions, and submit all distributed examination and scratch paper before leaving.

**Midterm dates:** Thursday, October 8, 2026, and Thursday, November 12, 2026.

There are no make-up midterms. A missed midterm receives a zero unless an academic concession is granted for that absence under University policy. If a concession is granted for one missed midterm and the other midterm is completed, the completed midterm receives the full 30% midterm weight. If concessions are granted for both missed midterms, the final exam

receives the additional 30% weight and is therefore worth 60% of the final grade. If both midterms are missed but a concession is granted for only one, the approved 15% weight is transferred to the final exam and the other midterm receives a zero.

### 4.3 Final exam

**The final exam is worth 30% of the final grade**, is 2 hours long, and is the only mandatory course component. It is cumulative but focuses more heavily on content from the second half of the term. Only writing utensils and an approved non-graphing calculator are permitted. Students must present UVic photo identification, follow all seating and invigilation instructions, and submit all distributed examination and scratch paper before leaving.

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the December 10–23, 2026 examination period; exact date TBA. Students should not make travel or work plans that conflict with the examination period.

Students who miss the final exam must follow UVic’s procedures for requesting an academic concession. If a deferral is approved, arrangements will be made to complete the outstanding exam in accordance with University deadlines. Failure to complete the final exam without an approved concession will result in an N grade.

### 4.4 Grade adjustment

The instructor may deduct 1–5 percentage points from a student’s final course grade for a documented serious incident or for documented repeated conduct after the student has been clearly directed to stop. This includes repeated disengagement, distraction, refusal to follow reasonable instructions, or other conduct that materially worsens the classroom experience. The amount of the deduction will reflect the seriousness and frequency of the conduct, and the student will be informed in writing of its basis and amount. This does not limit referral to an appropriate University office. Emails or meetings asking for additional points, rounding, or a higher letter grade will not result in a grade adjustment.

Students who believe an arithmetic or recording error has occurred should contact the instructor with a clear description of the issue. I only respond to grading inquiries in writing; requests to reconsider academic judgments should first be raised with the instructor within one week of the grade or answer key being released.

## 5 Class policies

### 5.1 No audiovisual recording

Lecture and Lab are not routinely recorded by the instructor. The October 15th class will be delivered as an online asynchronous video to accomodate instructor absence.

Students are not permitted to record any part of the course (lecture or lab). This includes photographing or filming the board or the instructor/TA without explicit permission.

Audio recording is not permitted unless a student has explicit permission documented in a CAL letter. In this case, the student with the appropriate CAL letter is not allowed to share the recording with others, and is not allowed to upload the recording to an LLM or AI platform.

Recording without permission violates the privacy of the instructor and the TA. If an unauthorized recording is used in conjunction with AI, it will additionally be treated as theft of the instructor's/TA's intellectual property and reported as academic misconduct.

## **5.2 Electronic devices**

Electronic devices are discouraged but not banned during Monday and Thursday lecture.

During all Labs and ICEs, midterms, and the final exam, no electronic or wearable device may be used or accessible except an approved non-graphing calculator. This includes laptops, tablets, phones, smart watches, smart glasses, earbuds, and similar devices. Prohibited devices must be powered off and stored in a closed bag or in another location designated by the instructor, TA, or invigilator; they may not be worn, carried, or kept on the desk.

The instructor, TA, or invigilator may require a student to remove or briefly present glasses or another item for inspection to verify that it is not an electronic device. Refusal to comply with a reasonable inspection or storage instruction results in an automatic zero on the affected ICE, midterm, or final exam and may also be documented and referred under University policy. Students who require electronic eyewear as an approved disability accommodation must arrange this through CAL in advance.

The instructor strongly urges students to either print the Scoones notes and use them as the basis of written note-taking, or use a tablet to annotate the Scoones notes, printing off relevant pages for Lab sessions.

## **5.3 Classroom conduct and privacy**

Students are expected to behave respectfully and professionally. Conduct that is rude, hostile, dishonest, disruptive, or needlessly distracting is not acceptable. This includes talking over others, making excessive noise, carrying on side conversations, refusing reasonable instructions, misrepresenting events, disrespecting peers or the instructor, or otherwise interfering with teaching or with other students' ability to learn.

The instructor may direct a student to stop their conduct, change seats, or leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave must do so promptly and may be required to meet with the instructor or an appropriate university office before returning. Repeated or serious incidents may be documented and referred to the Department of Economics, the Office of Student Life, Campus Security, or another appropriate university office.

Potential academic integrity violations specific to ECON 350 include:

1. copying from another student, or using banned technology or notes, during a midterm or the final exam;
2. listing an absent or non-participating student on an ICE submission;
3. using AI or other banned online resources to complete an ICE;

4. recording the instructor or the TA without permission, particularly if the recording is used in conjunction with AI; and
5. refusing to comply with a reasonable assessment-related inspection, seating, storage, identification, or invigilation instruction.

Suspected violations will be addressed under the University of Victoria Policy on Academic Integrity. An ICE, midterm, or the final exam affected by academic misconduct may receive a score of zero, in addition to any other university process or penalty.

## 5.4 Emailing the instructor and TA

Email is appropriate for brief administrative matters that cannot be resolved through Brightspace or during office hours. Examples include:

- identifying an apparent error in notes, readings, or Brightspace;
- asking about a grade on an ICE, midterm, or the final exam;
- arranging an alternative meeting when a documented course conflict prevents attendance at regular office hours;
- asking a brief question that is not answered in the syllabus or on Brightspace;
- sharing a relevant article or current event; or
- requesting a letter of reference.

Students do not need to email simply to report a routine class absence. Requests to reschedule ICEs cannot be granted. Questions requiring substantial explanation are usually better handled during office hours.

Please use a clear subject line, identify the course, and allow two business days for a response. Messages sent on evenings, weekends, or holidays may be answered on the next working day.

## 5.5 Addressing the instructor

The instructor uses she/her pronouns. Students may address her as Colette, Dr. Salemi, or Professor Salemi.

## 5.6 Instructor availability

The instructor is traveling on October 15, 2026; that class will be held asynchronously. Materials will be posted on Brightspace in place of the regular in-person session.

# 6 Course schedule

*This is a tentative plan for the course. We will adjust the pacing as we go, but the schedule for in-class exercises and midterms is fixed.*

- **Week 1 (Thu Sep 10):** Introduction. Sets. Truth tables. [*Ch. 1; no ICE*]
- **Week 2 (Mon Sep 14; Thu Sep 17):** Introduction. Models & Logic. Functions. [*Ch. 2; ICE #1*]
- **Week 3 (Mon Sep 21; Thu Sep 24):** Sequences and Limits. [*Ch. 3; ICE #2*]
- **Week 4 (Mon Sep 28; Thu Oct 1):** Univariate Calculus: Continuity, Derivatives. [*Ch. 4-5; ICE #3*]
- **Week 5 (Mon Oct 5; Thu Oct 8 – Midterm 1):** Univariate Calculus: Optimization (single session). [*Ch. 6; ICE #4 (Mon); Midterm 1 (Thu) – covers Weeks 1–5*]
- **Week 6 (Thu Oct 15 – asynchronous, instructor traveling; no class Mon Oct 12 – Thanksgiving):** Linear Algebra: Systems of Equations, Matrices. [*Ch. 7-8; no ICE this week*]
- **Week 7 (Mon Oct 19; Thu Oct 22):** Linear Algebra: Determinants and Inverses. [*Ch. 9; ICE #5*]
- **Week 8 (Mon Oct 26; Thu Oct 29):** Linear Algebra: Advanced Topics (Eigenvectors, Quadratic Forms, Hyperplanes). [*Ch. 10; ICE #6*]
- **Week 9 (Mon Nov 2; Thu Nov 5):** Multivariate Calculus: Functions of n-Variables. [*Ch. 11; ICE #7*]
- **Week 10 (Thu Nov 12 – Midterm 2; no class Mon Nov 9 – Reading Break):** No new content this week. [*no ICE this week; Midterm 2 (Thu) – covers Weeks 6–9*]
- **Week 11 (Mon Nov 16; Thu Nov 19):** Multivariate Calculus: Unconstrained Optimization (Mon); Constrained Optimization (Thu). [*Ch. 12, 13; ICE #8 (Mon)*]
- **Week 12 (Mon Nov 23; Thu Nov 26):** Multivariate Calculus: Comparative Statics. [*Ch. 14; ICE #9*]
- **Week 13 (Mon Nov 30; Thu Dec 3):** Multivariate Calculus: Concave Programming. [*Ch. 15; ICE #10*]
- **Week 14 (Mon Dec 7 – last day of classes):** Review (Ch. 1-15). [*ICE #11*]

This is the end of the Syllabus as it pertains to ECON 350. The remainder of this document contains standardized UVic information that the University expects instructors to include.

## 7 University policies and support systems

This course follows the undergraduate policies of the University of Victoria and the Department of Economics. Students should review the Department of Economics course-policy page and the University Calendar for current rules concerning academic concessions, academic integrity, grading, late registration, course repetition, review of grades, accessibility, waitlists, and student conduct.

### 7.1 Waitlist policies

- Instructors cannot independently admit students from a waitlist or raise the course enrolment cap.
- Waitlisted students should follow the Brightspace or instructor guidance provided for keeping up with early course material.
- Registered students who do not participate during the first seven calendar days of a full-term course may be dropped under Department of Economics policy.
- Students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping it promptly.
- Waitlist offers end after the final date for adding courses.

### 7.2 Repeating courses

A student may not attempt a course a third time without the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty and the Chair of the Department in which the course is offered, unless the calendar course entry states that the course may be repeated for additional credit. A student who has not received this approval may be deregistered from the course at any point and may be asked to withdraw from their declared or intended program.

### 7.3 Academic integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to all scholarly work. At the University of Victoria (UVic), students are expected to comply with the university's academic regulations and must not engage in acts of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in any academic work. Violations of [the University's academic integrity policy](#) may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

### 7.4 Student conduct

Students are expected to follow the University's standards for respectful conduct. Behaviour that disrupts instruction, threatens safety, or targets others may be referred to the appropriate university office.

### 7.5 Academic concessions and religious observance

Students who experience circumstances beyond their control may be eligible for an academic concession under the University's Academic Concession Regulations; speak with the

Undergraduate Advisor if you need to apply for a concession. Students who anticipate a conflict between a course requirement and a religious observance should contact the instructor as early as possible to arrange an accommodation.

## 7.6 Appeals

Depending on the nature of a concern, students should normally try to resolve it in this order: the course instructor; the Associate Chair ([econassoc@uvic.ca](mailto:econassoc@uvic.ca)); the Associate Dean of Academic Advising; and the Senate. Students seeking a formal review of an assigned grade should also consult the academic calendar's regulations on the [review of an assigned grade](#).

## 7.7 Human rights, equity, and fairness

The University is committed to a learning and working environment that is safe, respectful, and free from discrimination and harassment. Students can consult Equity and Human Rights for information, advice, and support.

## 7.8 Academic advising

Economics students may contact the Department of Economics undergraduate advising office at [ecadvice@uvic.ca](mailto:ecadvice@uvic.ca). Students may also use university-wide academic advising, the Centre for Academic Communication, and mathematics and statistics learning supports.

## 7.9 Accessibility and CAL

Students who experience disability- or chronic-health-related barriers may register with the Centre for Accessible Learning. Once an accommodation plan is in place, students should release their accommodation letter for the course and follow CAL procedures for activating and booking accommodations. I need your letter as early as possible – late notice limits what can realistically be arranged, especially for time-sensitive components like ICEs.

The instructor can implement approved accommodations but cannot independently create disability-related accommodations without documentation from CAL. Students who encounter difficulty obtaining or implementing an accommodation should contact CAL or the Office of the Ombudsperson.

## 7.10 Health and mental health services

The Student Wellness Centre provides medical care, counselling, and wellness support to students.

SupportConnect is a free and confidential 24/7 mental-health support service for UVic students:

- Toll-free in North America: 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

Students seeking support are encouraged to contact these services early rather than waiting for a concern to become a crisis. In an immediate emergency, call 911 or Campus Security at 250-721-7599.

## **7.11 International student resources**

International students are held to the same academic standards as all other students and are welcome to use the full range of course and university supports.

The International Centre for Students provides immigration advising, transition support, and programs through the Global Community. Students who would benefit from language or academic-writing support should also consult the Centre for Academic Communication.

## **7.12 Student Experience of Learning Survey**

Near the end of term, eligible students will be invited to complete the confidential Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey. UVic requires at least five students in a CRN for a survey to be administered. Questions or concerns about this policy should be directed to Learning and Teaching Innovation (LTI).

## **7.13 Sexualized violence prevention and response**

Students are encouraged to review the University's sexualized-violence prevention and response resources. Students seeking information, advice, or support may contact the Sexualized Violence Resource Office through Equity and Human Rights.

## **7.14 Indigenous student and community supports**

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement provides programs and supports for Indigenous students and the wider university community, including access to local Elders and Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

## **7.15 Additional student resources**

Additional University resources include UVic Learn, the University Library, the Centre for Academic Communication, the Learning Assistance Program, Student Awards and Financial Aid, and the Office of the Ombudsperson. Students may consult these services directly as relevant to their circumstances.