

Course Syllabus

Department of Economics
Intermediate Microeconomics II (CRN 21070)
ECON 313 A01 (1.5 credits)
Jan 09, 2023 - Apr 06, 2023

Instructor: **Dr. Donn. L. Feir**

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Lecture times: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:30-4:20pm.

Lecture location: David Strong Building C103

Office Hours: 4:30pm – 5:30pm Wednesdays

Course Website: <https://bright.uvic.ca/>

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Selected topics may include intertemporal choice, the organization of the firm, imperfect competition in product markets, discrimination in labour markets, basic game theory, "lemons" models, and additional topics in distribution and welfare economics not included in 203.

Prerequisites:

- A minimum grade of C in each of the following:
 - *ECON203 - Intermediate Microeconomics I (1.5)*
- Complete 1 of:
 - *ECON225 - Writing for Economists (1.5)*
 - *ENGR240 - Technical Writing (1.5)*
- Complete 1 of:
 - *MATH100 - Calculus I (1.5)*
 - *MATH102 - Calculus for Students in the Social and Biological Sciences (1.5)*
 - *MATH109 - Introduction to Calculus (1.5)*

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Econ 313 takes up where Econ 203 left off. The objective is to provide an intermediate-level introduction to some of the more advanced topics in microeconomics. These topics include: (i) general equilibrium theory, (ii) choice under uncertainty and over time, and (iii) market failures including public goods, externalities, asymmetric information. If time

permits, an introduction to behavioral economics, the economics of technology and information, and auctions will also be discussed.

Econ 313 is an analytical and theoretically-focused class. Students are expected to recall and be comfortable with the tools developed in Econ 203—in particular the basics of consumer theory and game theory—as well as with the basics of calculus. I *strongly* recommend that you review these topics early on in the semester and seek help from either myself or your TA should you need help with this review. This material will make up a non-trivial portion of the first quiz.

THIS COURSE IN THE SCHEME OF THE ECONOMICS PROGRAM:

Since this is a foundational level course, department requires it as a prerequisite for many courses. If you are considering applying for the honour stream, a B+ is the minimum grade you generally need. However, the grade should not pre-occupy you! Work consistently, have fun, see me or the TA if you need help, and your grade will follow.

PRIMARY READING MATERIAL:

- *Text:* A recommended (but certainly not required) text is Intermediate Microeconomics 8th Edition: A Modern Approach by Hal Varian.
- *Readings:* I will also post notes for some topics, slides and example practice problems.
- *Lecture slides:* I will post all lecture slides on the course Brightspace page.

Materials as Part of This Course:

- *Lecture Slides:* These will just be posted as pdfs for you to review and take notes on.
- *Lectures:* I will discuss the material in the lecture slides and talk through examples of the concepts in the course during lectures and also answer student questions and support discussions.
- *Readings:* I will not be assigning readings from the textbook but can offer suggestions for chapters if students wish for additional readings beyond the course notes.
- *Practice Questions:* These questions, and their solutions, will be provided for you to work through as preparation for your quizzes and final exam. They are not required, but act as supplementary material to the self-assessments.
- *Self-Assessments:* The weekly self-assessments are questions to test your knowledge about how you are proceeding in the class. There are 12 of these in total. Note that these self-assessments will not be as difficult as the quizzes and final, although they will be useful practice. They are marked as simply complete or incomplete.



- **Knowledge Checks:** These are not cumulative although your first quiz will test 203 knowledge. In order to pass the course, you must obtain a minimum of 50% on the cumulative scores of your quizzes and final exam and at least 50% on your final exam.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam is cumulative. In order to pass the course, you must obtain a minimum of 50% on the cumulative scores of your quizzes and final exam and at least 50% on your final exam.

COURSE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY:

To pass this course a student **must obtain a score on the final exam of 50 percent** or more. Provided that you satisfy this requirement, your final grade is computed as follows.

Grading Scheme	
Component	Weight
Weekly Self-Assessments	12%
Knowledge Checks	38% (Best 2 out of 3, 19% each)
Final Exam	50%

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Self-Assessments: The weekly self-assessments are questions to test your knowledge about how you are proceeding in the class. There are 12 of these in total. They are marked as simply complete or incomplete. Each week they will become available on Monday a 1am PST, and then no longer be available on the following Sunday at 12pm PST. Once these close, the answers to them will be available the following week for you to review. The first two sets of self-assessments will not be closed until January 25 due to the last day to add courses. However, I strongly encourage you do these in line with the course schedule and their official due dates.

Knowledge Checks: There are three quizzes spaced throughout the term. They will be in class and on paper. Your final quiz grade will be the best grade of the two of the quizzes. You will be provided practice problems in addition to the self-assessment in the form of pdfs you can work through to prepare for the quizzes.

Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative. In order to pass the course, you must obtain a minimum of 50% on the cumulative scores of your quizzes and final exam and at least 50% on your final exam.

Deferred final exams will be given only on the basis of documented illness or family

affliction, and for no other reasons. The documentation must provide specific detail to be acceptable.

Students that have questions or concerns regarding their grade on any test should notify the instructor as soon as possible. All concerns should normally be dealt with within one week after the grade was returned. After one week your grade is final.

ENSURING YOUR PROGRESS IN THIS COURSE:

Econ 313 is an analytical and theoretically-focused class so you will be expected to be comfortable using the basics of calculus and recall the concepts introduced in Econ 203. I *strongly* recommend that you review these topics early in the semester and seek help from either myself or your TA should you need help with this review.

Trying problems and practicing is the most effective way to develop the skills used by economists. It is important that you train yourself to motivate and clarify the steps you follow when answering problems. Not only will this help you clarify your thinking, showing your work is necessary on the midterms and the final exam (providing only a numerical value as your answer to the question asked, without explaining how you arrived at it, will generally not earn you any marks).

[Calendar Grading Information](#)

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topic	Knowledge Checks	Self Assessments
1: Jan 9-15	Introduction to Course and 203 Review		SA 1
2: Jan 16-22	Choice Over Time		SA 2
3: Jan 23-29	Choice Under Uncertainty		SA 3
4: Jan 30-Feb 5	General Equilibrium	KC 1 (Thursday)	SA 4
5: Feb 6 – Feb 12	General Equilibrium		SA 5
6: Feb 13 – Feb 19	Externalities		SA 6
7: Feb 20 – Feb 26	<i>Reading Break</i>		



8: Feb 27 – Mar 5	Externalities (virtual lecture on the 27 th)		SA 7
9: Mar 6 – Mar 12	Public Goods	KC 2 (Monday)	SA 8
10: Mar 13 – Mar 19	Asymmetric Information		SA 9
11: Mar 20 – Mar 26	Asymmetric Information		SA 10
12: Mar 27 – Apr 2	Modern Topics	KC 3 (Thursday)	SA 11
13: Apr 3 – Apr 6	Modern Topics and Review		SA 12



OTHER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Policy on Use of Email: Due to the large number of emails I receive, please limit email to *urgent and critical matters* regarding your personal participation in the course (such as inability to attend an exam or prolonged illness) and be sure to include “ECON 203” in the subject line (lest your email be mistaken for spam). Proper etiquette for professional communications should be followed in all emails (for instance, all emails should be signed and should not include text message abbreviations). *Questions on course material are encouraged but they should be asked during office hours, during class, and before or after class, rather than by email.* Almost all administrative questions you have are likely to be answered by material posted on the course website and/or in class, and I encourage you to check the website regularly when you have questions.

Waitlisted Students: I cannot guarantee that waitlisted students will eventually be added to the class roster. If you have an urgent need to take 313 this term and have a scheduling conflict, please see the undergraduate advisor. I have no personal ability to increase class size or admit students into the class as much as I would like to.

Missing a Test: Accommodations can be made for missed tests, but only in cases of unforeseen emergencies, such as serious illness (a cold does not qualify). Relevant documentation (such as a doctor’s certificate) *must* be promptly provided in such cases. If you cannot provide adequate documentation you will receive a score of zero for the missed test.

Repeating Courses: Be aware of the policy regarding the repeating of courses; see [University Calendar](#). In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the [Repeating Courses](#) policy on the Economics website. Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness: The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

University Policy on Plagiarism and Cheating: The standards and the reputation of a University are the shared responsibility of its faculty and student body. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. Plagiarism and cheating are considered a most serious breach of academic integrity and shall be dealt with as such by the Department of Economics.

University Policy on Examinations and Travel Arrangements: Students are advised not to



make travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights after the end of the examination period (see the University Calendar). There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Accessibility Statement: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and register with the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://www.uvic.ca/services/rcsd/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Course Experience Survey (CES): I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity