

# University of Victoria, Summer 2017

## Econ 203 – A01: Intermediate Microeconomics I (CRN 31106)

### Course Outline

Class: MWTH 8:30–10:20am, COR A221.

Instructor: Dr. Fatemeh Mokhtarzadeh, Office: BEC 388, Email: [fatemehm@uvic.ca](mailto:fatemehm@uvic.ca)

**Office hours:** Th. 10:30-11:30 am or by appointment.

**Appointments:** email three possible 15-minute time slot that work for you & I will pick one of them (see “Emails”)

**Emails:** Check *at least* once a day. Emails (i) must have logical subject headers starting with “Econ 203” and (ii) include your name in the body of the message. The expectation is that correctly-sent emails (by a student or the teacher) are answered within 24 hours.

### Recommended Text

Frank, Robert H., Ian C. Parker and Ingela Alger, *Microeconomics & Behaviour*, fifth Canadian edition, 2013, McGraw-Hill Ryerson Higher Education; ISBN-13: 978 00710 51866 → [Click for website of Frank et al.10959 \(2013\)](#) [Note: The UVic bookstore also has the somewhat cheaper e-text available.]

i>clicker : you will require an i>clicker, namely the UVic supported one that allows you to answer numerical questions. In order to receive credit **register your i>clicker** by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes.

### About the Course

This is the first of two intermediate micro courses offered in Economics. Much of the material introduced in Econ 103 will be reworked, with an emphasis on technique besides results. The goal is to master the basic tools used by economists, and to be able to apply these in a variety of contexts to set up and solve economic problems. You will encounter many of the applications of the “Econ 203 techniques” in upper-level econ courses.

Predictions of economic theories are frequently ambiguous; understanding the underlying assumptions and the analytical methods used by economics is essential in assessing policy statements of governments and think tanks. Consequently, understanding the material in this course means being able to frame and solve problems; learning as well as testing your understanding by trying problems is essential.

Understanding the course concepts means you have mastered explaining them on a test in three ways: algebraically, graphically and intuitively. Train yourself to motivate and clarify the steps you follow (comprehensively, but concisely) when answering questions, as this is also the standard requirement for questions on all tests. Indeed, (unless stated otherwise) providing only answers on test questions, without stating how you arrived at that answer, will usually not earn you any marks.

## Labs

Labs are an integral part of the course. They are designed to help students learn the material covered in the lectures, usually through problem solving. The Lab TA will not hold any office hours. In a way the labs themselves are something like extended office hours.

Register for any of the labs below, but then stay in that lab section throughout the term. Labs will begin on May 10<sup>th</sup> and will be run by a TA.

Details lab sections:

Lab Section	Time	Place
B01	MW 2:30pm - 3:20pm	David Strong Building C128
B02	MW 3:30pm - 4:20pm	David Strong Building C128
B03	MW 4:30pm - 5:20pm	David Strong Building C128

## Assessment

To pass this course a student **must obtain a score on the final exam of 42.5 percent** or more. Provide you satisfy this requirement, your final grade is computed as follows.

Item	Weight in grade calculation
Participation / I-clickers	5 percent
Math test	2 percent
Problem sets	2x5 = 10 percent
Midterms	Best 22 %, Worst 16%
Final Exam	45 percent

**Grade concerns.** Students that have questions or concerns regarding their grade on any test should **email the instructor asap** (see “Emails” above). All concerns should normally be dealt with **within one week after the grade was returned**. After one week your grade is final.

Provided you score at least 42.5 percent on the final exam, your percentage grade translates to a UVic letter grade as follows:

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

#### Assessment Details:

**Participation.** I will run quizzes through i-clickers frequently. Communication between the students during these quizzes is not permitted. But most i-clicker questions in the course are about participation, so not so much about getting the right answer. For such i-clicker questions you earn a mark when you just answer (correctly or incorrectly) the question (and active discussion with your classmates is encouraged).

The **math test** grades of students will be either 0%, 20%, 40%, 80% or 100% (This equates to either 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, or 2 of the percentage score on the course.)

You will hand in two **problem sets** for marks (in the course box to the right of the door to **BEC 363**). Approximately 40% of your grade for the assignment will be for completeness & effort and 60% for correctness of answers. A *selection of questions* from the assignment (perhaps 3-5) will be graded for marks. You are encouraged to work in groups but groups are capped at 3 people. Groups hand in only **one copy only** for all group members. Doing a problem set together does not mean that you simply “divvy up” the questions. *Each of the group members carries the responsibility for possible “issues” with answers, including possible issues of academic integrity.* Completion of the problem sets will require a **big time investment**, while they carry a relatively small weight. The goal of assigning merely a small, but positive weight is to encourage students to work on practice problems, while at the same time minimizing anxiety levels if these practice problems prove hard to solve. Doing the problem sets well is probably a student’s core strategy to prepare well for the midterm exams and the final.

The **final exam is cumulative.** Again, to pass the course, you must obtain at least 42.5% on the final.

**Tentative Outline** (The Course Outline is tentative and all the changes will be announced on CourseSpaces.)

Week	Topic	Problem sets	Tests	Lab
1.8-11 May	Ch.1 Introduction Ch.2 Review Ch.3, 3A Consumer Choice			No Lab on May 8th Math Lecture #1
2. 15-18 May	Ch.4, 5 Deriving Demand		Math Test Wed. May 17 <sup>th</sup> will run by TA during the lab.	Math Lecture #2 TBA
3. 22-25 May No class on 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Victoria day)	Ch.9, 9A Production Techn. Ch.10 Cost of Production	PS1 due Tue 23 May @ 2:00 pm(course box)		
4. 29 May- 1 Jun	Ch.10 Cost of Production Ch.11 Perfect Competition		MT1: Mon 29 May, In class (Chapters TBA)	TBA
5. 5-8 Jun	Ch.11 Perfect Competition Ch.12 Monopoly			TBA
6. 12-15 Jun	Ch.12 Monopoly	PS2 due Mon 12 Jun@2:00pm(cour se box)	MT2: Thu 15 Jun, In class (Chapters TBA)	TBA
7. 19-22 Jun	Ch.13.5-13.7 Game Theory			TBA
8. 26-29 Jun	Ch.13A Oligopoly		Final: Thu 29 Jun, In class	TBA

## Policies

### Repeating Econ 203 (or Econ 103, 104, 204, 245, 246, 313 and 345)

The UVic Calendar states:

*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 his or her declared or intended program.”*

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the link **Repeating Courses** at <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/course%20policies/index.php>

Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course by the Economics Department (not by the instructor).

### Academic integrity (including on problem sets)

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARE/PoAcI.html>) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University. Please browse [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Questions to you. Q1: Can plagiarism be applicable to problem sets? Q2: Can I be duped by others who I worked with on the problem set? Answer Q2: Yes, absolutely, so do your due diligence.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and labs in which they are enrolled (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARE/index.html>). An instructor may refuse a student admission to a lecture or laboratory because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who are absent because of illness, an accident or family affliction should report to their instructors upon their return to classes.

### Late assignments

Late assignments will normally not be accepted.

### More on tests and missing a test

- **What to submit for a test?** Students that write a test must submit the question sheets, answers, as well as scrap paper, if any before leaving the room. **No duplication in any form of any of the material is allowed.**
- **Missing a test & make-up tests.**
  - Make-up mid-term exams will only be given on the basis of a serious illness or family affliction that is documented by a relevant professional (e.g. a GP in case of an illness). **The documentation** must provide specific detail (e.g. clear start and expected finish dates of the illness) to be acceptable.
  - A second necessary condition for being able to write a make-up midterm is that the situation is reported (a) timely and (b) correctly. Students must (a) email the instructor no later than the time or due date of the test or assignment, (b) to supply the instructor with

both a **phone number** and an **email address**. Contact the instructor by either by email ([schure@uvic.ca](mailto:schure@uvic.ca)) or leaving a voice mail message (250-721-8535). As indicated earlier, students (as well as the instructor) are expected to get back to emails regarding the case **within 24 hours**. Students that do not stick to these rules will find their options run out very fast.

- **Academic concession part 2: the final exam.** In the event of a missed final examination, please follow again the “missing a test” steps. In this case the instructor will normally have to ask you to submit a Request for Academic Concession (RAC) to Undergraduate Records with the required official documentation from a health professional within 10 working days of the end of the examination period. The RAC form is available on the Undergraduate Records website (<http://registrar.uvic.ca/undergrad/records/forms/forms.html>).

**University Policy on Working Environment:** The University of Victoria is committed to promoting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

**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 you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. 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. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. What specific suggestions do you have as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively? (Have you tried to communicate these to the instructor during the term as well ?
3. What specific other suggestions do you have as to how this **course** could be improved.