Preliminary outline

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Office Hours: TBA; always possible to make an appointment.
CourseSpaces page (for both sections): https://coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=68292

Course Content
What is this course about?
This course is a continuation of Economics 203. It provides an intermediate level introduction to some of the more advanced topics in microeconomics. The course begins with a review of general equilibrium in an exchange economy, and expands this to include production. The emphasis is on defining and describing efficient outcomes; this is formalized in the first fundamental theorem of welfare economics. Most of the term is devoted to the consideration of real-world circumstances under which this theorem fails to hold, so we have what is commonly called “market failure”. Reasons for market failure are asymmetric information, externalities and public goods.

Frequent use will be made of the material covered in 203, including calculus (with two variables, primarily for utility and production functions). Later in the term basic game theory will be used.

"Understanding the material" in this course means that you are able to frame and solve problems, verbally as well as mathematically (using both geometry and algebra). When you test yourself on the material by writing out answers to questions on the problem sets and posted previous exams, explicit about each step in your analysis (comprehensively but concisely). On the quizzes, midterm and final, providing only final answers to questions will generally earn you few marks (if any): you must demonstrate the techniques you used to find the answers, as well as define your terms. You must provide definitions of key terms.

Textbook
There is no required text for this course. You should have access to

a) your notes from the first intermediate micro course - 203 at UVic and Camosun, another number at a different university/community college, and


My primary reference will be Frank (b), as this is the text used most recently for the first intermediate micro course (203) at UVic. Previous editions of this text are also useful.
Course Schedule (will be updated as the course goes on)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Weeks (timing is approximate)</th>
<th>Frank chapters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Overview</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3-5; 9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. General Equilibrium</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fairness?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Choice under Uncertainty</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Asymmetric Information</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Externalities</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Public Goods</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Behavioural economics</td>
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(Note: some of the material covered in class for sections 5-7 is beyond what is in Frank.)

Learning Outcomes

Microeconomic theory provides a “toolbox”, the contents of which can be used to analyze the interactions of agents in a variety of social and economic situation. The basic technique is individual optimization subject to constraints. A student who succeeds in this course should be able, in simple terms, to

- identify decision-makers in a given situation
- identify their constraints
- given some description of preferences, discuss the incentives facing each decision-maker
- provide an informed prediction of whether an outcome will be efficient or not.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on 4 short in-class quizzes, one midterm, and a final exam. After your final exam has been marked, I will determine your final grade using whichever of the following grading schemes results in the higher grade for you:

Grading scheme: 1 2

Midterm Examination* 40% 30%
Final Examination 45% 55%
Quizzes (best 3 out of 4)** 15% 15%

Assignment and problem sets: Assignment #1 will be available by Sept. 5th, at the latest. It will be a review of important concepts from ECON 203 (and MATH 102). It will be due by 4:00pm on Thursday, Sept. 12. Assignment # 1 will not be graded, but must be submitted in order to write the final exam. Other problem sets will be available on the Coursespaces page for this course for you to check your progress in this class, but will not be marked.

*Midterms: A01 and A02 will write the same midterm, so it will be scheduled outside of class times. The midterm will be on Thursday, October 17, 6:45-8:15 pm. The midterm will be written in ECS 123.

**Quizzes will be on Sept 23, October 7, November 7 and November 25.

Grading Disputes. If you have questions or concerns regarding your grade on a quiz or the midterm, please provide me with a written statement together with your graded exam. In your statement you must make an argument why you think that you should receive more points. All questions should be dealt with no later than one week after the midterm is returned. After two weeks your grade is no longer subject to change.

Final exam: First Term (December) exam timetables are posted at the end of October. The final exam will be cumulative, and you must pass the final to pass the course. You will have 3 hours to write the final.
Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F or N</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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</table>

Students should review the University’s more detailed summary of grading.

Course Policies
This course adheres to the Undergraduate Course Policies of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:
- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations

The following policies are included in this outline because of their importance.

Examinations
Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

Students are advised not to make work or 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 that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Waitlist Policies
- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity
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 in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review What is Plagiarism for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

All lecture notes and course materials that I make available to you, and all exams and quizzes, are my intellectual property, and are made available to students for instructional purposes only. You may not distribute my lecture notes or any exams or quizzes from the course without my permission; doing so,
through note-sharing sites or other means, violates the Policy on Academic Integrity.

**Academic year important dates:** Winter Session - First Term

- Sep 2 Monday Labour Day (University closed)
- Sep 4 Wednesday First term classes begin for all faculties
- Sep 17 Tuesday Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fees for standard first term and full year courses.
- Sep 20 Friday Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term.
- Sep 30 Monday Last day for paying first term fees without penalty

- Oct 14 Monday Thanksgiving Day (University closed)
- Oct 31 Thursday Last day for paying first term fees without penalty

Nov 11-13 Mon-Wed Reading Break

- Dec 2 Monday Last ECON 313 class
- Dec 4 Wednesday National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Classes and exams cancelled from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Dec 4 Wednesday Last day of classes in first term

**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.

See [General University Policies](#)

**Accessibility & Health Resources**

- **Centre for Accessible Learning**
  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, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the **Centre for Accessible Learning** (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

- **Health Services** - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

- **Counselling Services** - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

- **Elders' Voices** - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

**CourseSpaces**

- CourseSpaces is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture overheads will be posted in CourseSpaces. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures, and you are responsible for all material presented in class, whether on CourseSpaces or not.
- All announcements will be posted in CourseSpaces. Students are advised to check it frequently.
- Assignments will be posted in CourseSpaces.
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 the CES log-in. You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed 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.
- What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

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.

E-mail correspondence
Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Failure to do so may result in deletion of the email. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Hello (or Hi), Dr Welling,….), include full sentences and conclude with a signature that includes your full name and V#. Text message lingo should not be used.

Electronic devices
My policies with respect to electronic devices are based on minimizing distraction for all students and me.

Laptops and tablets may not be used in the classroom except for course-related material. If you want to use one, please sit at the back of the classroom so your screen does not distract me or other students. (If this proves difficult for you, please talk to me.)

Cellphones should be turned off while you are in class. If there is a good reason to have yours on during lectures (and several students in previous courses have had what I considered to be good reasons), speak with me about this.