Econ 203 (20990) – A01: Intermediate Microeconomics I

Leila Salarpour Goodarzi

Class Detail: 10:30 am - 11:20 am, TWF, David Strong Building C118, Jan 06, 2020 - Apr 03, 2020

E-Mail: lsalarpour@uvic.ca
Office: BEC 314
Office Hours:
Tuesdays 11:45AM-1:15PM, or by appointment

Course Content

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 concepts and basic tools used by economists and to be able to apply these to set up and solve economic problems in a variety of contexts, including in contexts that are strictly speaking new to you. You will encounter many of the applications of the “Econ 203 skill set” in upper-level econ classes.

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, yet always realize these problems are only examples and the task is to distil the general lessons.

Understanding the course concepts means you can explain them on tests 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 clarifying the steps you took to arrive at your answer, will typically not earn you any marks.

To major in Economics, you need a minimum grade of 60%.

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. Register for any of the labs below. Labs will begin in the second week of classes and will be run by a TA.

Details lab sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Section</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20991 - ECON 203</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm</td>
<td>David Strong Building C126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20992 - ECON 203</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 4:30 pm - 5:20 pm</td>
<td>David Strong Building C126</td>
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<tr>
<td>20993 - ECON 203</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 5:30 pm - 6:20 pm</td>
<td>David Strong Building C126</td>
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<tr>
<td>20994 - ECON 203</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 6:30 pm - 7:20 pm</td>
<td>David Strong Building C126</td>
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</table>
Textbook

You can purchase the book from the book store or any other resources. It’s possible to use the previous editions for the book; however, it will not be supported by me in class. The student is required to make a comparison with the new versions and make sure to have the most recent material. To help out with this situation for those people who might find the older books more affordable, I will provide a 9e book in the reading book. Students will be able to access the textbook from the library reading book for short term use.

I might add additional reading materials for specific topics during the semester.

Top Hat (Required)

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: https://app.tophat.com/e/143954
Note: our Course Join Code is 143954
Top Hat may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.
You will need to provide your first and last name, V-number, and a valid email. Please make sure this information is consistent with your University information. If for any reason you prefer not to use your information for registration, you need to contact me as soon as possible to arrange the appropriate alternative name.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.
If you are uncomfortable submitting your personal information Tophat, then that is not a problem whatsoever. In that case, please contact me by email as soon as possible to discuss the matter and alternative pseudo names.

*Connect (Not required)
If you are interested in additional questions, resources, and practice, you can purchase the Connect access from the bookstore along with the book. I will not use Connect as my source of assessment, and it is not required for this class.
Information about share of personal details as per what McGraw-Hill provided about Connect:

“McGraw Hill Connect only collects the information we require to provide, maintain and improve the digital learning solution you use. When you register, or are registered within Connect, we collect your name, school, instructor, class, and login information such as email. Once you begin using Connect, we collect your input to questions, technical specifications, and other information about how you use Connect.”
Connect servers are located outside of Canada in Northern Virginia. All buildings require keycard access, with additional authorization to enter restricted areas where servers are kept. McGraw Hill Education takes the utmost care in establishing and preserving security around all systems related to data being collected. Firewalls are in use, and Connect has active IDS protection.”

**Grading**
The final grade is determined as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight in grade calculation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>8 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Test</td>
<td>2 Percent (mandatory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (Class)</td>
<td>7 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
<td>8 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Midterms</td>
<td>2x15 = 30 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>45 percent</td>
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**Homework Assignments**
There will be four online problem sets during the semester. Assignments will be posted ahead of time and will close at 5pm PST on the due date. The submission will be closed right at 5 pm, and the answer key will be shared right away. There will be no extension under any circumstances. 1 second or one-day delay will not have any difference. Please leave sufficient time for possible technical problems.

No late work will be accepted. If you miss an assignment due to medical reasons and can provide me with an appropriate medical certificate, the weight of the uncompleted work will then be reassigned equally to the other assignments. Please contact me as soon as you know that you cannot submit an assignment on time due to medical reasons.

**Participation**
Participation grades are divided into few separated parts. It includes attendance and answering to the questions provided through tophat during the class.

**Attendance:**
To pass the course, aside from the overall grade, every student needs to be present for at least 70% of the sessions and Labs.
If you believe you do not need to or cannot participate in the required number of classes, you need to discuss it with me at the beginning of the semester providing sufficient evidence that the class is not required in your ability to understand and practice the material. For more information, you can refer to the student’s code of honesty.
It’s not permitted to ask other students to sign the attendance or answer to the questions for you.
I might occasionally take attendance using other methods beside Tophat. If any student is signed as present and is not in the class at the time of taking attendance, I will assume it to be a recurring behaviour and every time this happens, the absent counts as 3 absence. I will take the 70% rule seriously and if this causes the student to fall below the necessary presents to pass the course, I will not grant an exception.

**Exams**
Math exam will be held during the lab sections. It will test the necessary basic skills you need to be able to pass the course. Participation in the math exam is mandatory for all students.

**Midterm(s):** The Midterm exams are scheduled for
Midterm 1: February 13: 4:30pm - 5:30pm, Location: BWC B150
Midterm 2: March 12: 4:30pm - 5:30pm, Location: BWC B150
Each Exam will be 60 minutes long.

**Final exam:** TBA

**Grading**
you have **exactly one week** to report and correct any errors in grades. After one week, the grades will be final.

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<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<td>A+</td>
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<td>90-100</td>
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Students should review the University’s more detailed summary of grading.

![The only permitted calculator:](image)

If a calculator is allowed in tests and examinations in a course offered by the Department, then the calculator used must be a Sharp Calculator with a model number starting with “EL-510R”. The latest such model may be purchased at the UVic Bookstore. In some courses, calculators are not allowed.

**Course Experience Survey (CES)**
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the 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.
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
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included 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 a 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 behavior, 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.

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.

**Repeating Courses**
According to the University of Victoria Calendar [http://web.uvic.ca/calendar](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar)

“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](http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/course%20policies/index.php)

Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

**CourseSpaces**
- CourseSpaces is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture notes will be posted in CourseSpaces. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in CourseSpaces. Students are advised to check it frequently.
**Course Schedule**
This is the estimated class schedule and might be subject to some changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Important Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HW1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,17*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>HW2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>MT1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reading Break</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>HA3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>MT2</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>HA4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Final</td>
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E-mail correspondence

I find emails to be a convenient way of communication. You should make sure to email me as soon as possible for critical matters, such as the inability to attend an exam or prolonged illness.

**You should always include the course name, section, and number in the subject line (ECON203-A01).**

I will not respond to emails that do not have the course name and number on the subject.

The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g., Dear….), including full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your full name and V#. Text message lingo should not be used.

Please do not use Coursespaces to email me.

If you have a question about the course material or homework questions, you should make sure to include the specific question, your thoughts on it, and what you are unclear about, so I can respond accordingly. If it’s hard to type the question or there is a figure involved, you can scan your file and include it in your email. The scanned file must be easy to read and saved in common types like PDF, word, or png.

*If you don’t receive an answer within two days of your initial email, forward me the previous email and mention on the subject “repeating email.” I’ll try my best to answer the emails as soon as possible. If you don’t get here from me within 48 hours, I most likely didn’t receive the email.*

Please consider this two-day policy if your email is regarding an upcoming deadline for an assignment. Don’t leave your questions for the last minute.

**Requesting Appointment**

In the case of conflict between your class schedule and the office hour, or in exceptional cases if you feel you need more privacy or more help, you can request an appointment.

Email for the appointment must be sent to me **at least 3 days before the requested appointment.** Due to my schedule, I’m not able to accommodate last-minute appointments.

Typically close to the time of the exams, the number of student requests for appointment increase. Unless there is a conflict on the student’s schedule with the office hours, I will not accept appointment requests that are submitted before the time of midterm or final exams.

I strongly recommend students to use the office hours, and if they have a conflict in schedule, email me ahead of time (at least 72 hours before the appointment request).

To request an appointment, you need to provide me with a few possible times, and I will match them with my schedule to find a suitable time. Make sure to provide this information on your email to avoid delays in scheduling.

**Electronic devices**

You can only use your computers or cellphones during class time when it’s related to the course. I find the use of phones and unrelated electronic devices disturbing and disrespectful to the class and ask everyone to avoid it.

**Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response**

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support, please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, Jan</td>
<td>6 Jan</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Class Starts</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, Jan</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 Lab1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, Jan</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Lab2, Math Exam</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, Jan</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Lab3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>5, Feb</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Lab4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>6, Feb</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 Lab5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 MT1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, Feb</td>
<td>17 Reading Week</td>
<td>18 Reading Week</td>
<td>19 Reading Week</td>
<td>20 Reading Week</td>
<td>21 Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>8, Feb</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 Lab6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>9, March</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Lab7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10, March</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Lab8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 MT2</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>11, March</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 Lab9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19 Happy Spring ☃️</td>
<td>20 No class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, March</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Lab10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>13, April</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 Lab11</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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