



Economics 203
Intermediate Microeconomics 1
(Spring Term, 2017: Section A02)
CRN#: 20905

Class Web Page - <http://web.uvic.ca/~bettyj/203>

INSTRUCTOR: Betty J. Johnson

Office: BEC 324

e-mail: bettyj@uvic.ca

Office phone: 721-8547

OFFICE HOURS: Friday 1:30-2:20 pm. (Monday after class)

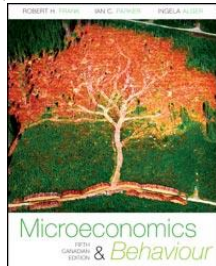
Lecture: Cornett A221, Monday and Thursday, 1 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Tophat: Course code: 718972

<https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/718972>

text: 1-(647)-931-6504

Required Text: Frank, Robert H. and Ian Parker, Microeconomics and Behaviour, Fifth Canadian edition, 2013, McGraw-Hill Ryerson Higher Education;



ISBN-13:0-07-105186-6.

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.]

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 in the second week of classes (i.e the week of Jan 9-13) and will be run by a teaching assistant. The instructor retains the right to drop you from the course if you have not registered by Jan 15 for *both* the lecture and *one* of the lab sections below (Note: *any* lab section will do).

Details lab sections:

Lab Section	Time	Place
B04	W 2:30pm - 3:20pm	DSB C108
B05	W 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm	DSB C108
B06	W 4:30 pm - 5:20 pm	Clearihue C115

Assessment

To pass this course a student **must obtain a score on the final exam of 45 percent** or more. Provided you satisfy this requirement, your final grade is computed as follows.

Item	Weight in grade calculation
Participation / TopHat	5 percent
Math test	2.5 percent
Problem sets	$3 \times 2.5 = 7.5$ percent
Best 2 out of 3 midterms	$2 \times 17.5 = 35$ percent
Worst midterm	5 percent
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 **no later than one week after the grade was returned**. After one week your grade is final.

Provided you score at least 45 percent on your final, 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		

Passing Grades	Description
A+ A A-	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	Very good, good and solid performance. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	Satisfactory , or minimally satisfactory . These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
Failing Grades	Description
F	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements.
N	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of the term.

Assessment Details:

Participation. I may do one or a few quizzes through Tophat. Communication between the students during these quizzes is not permitted. But most Tophat questions in the course are about getting the right answer necessarily, but rather about actively participating. That is, you earn marks on the Tophat questions by just answering (correctly or incorrectly) the questions I ask in class. For these Tophat questions I do encourage you discuss with your fellow students.

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, 2 or 2.5 of the percentage score on the course.) All other tests will carry a regular-type percentage score.

You will hand in three **problem sets** for marks (in the course box to the right of the door to **BEC 363**). Approximately 70% of your grade for the assignment will be for completeness & effort and 30% for correctness of answers. A selection of questions from the assignment (perhaps 3-5) will be graded for marks. **You are to work in groups but groups are capped at 3 people.** If you do work in a group then hand in **one copy only** for all group members. (Normally – deviations from the 3-students rule may be possible, but you need to get permission, which you need to ask me for by email **at least 9 days before the deadline** on the problem set.) Note that 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 45% on the final.

Tentative Outline

Week	Topic	Problem sets	Midterm exams (outside of class)	Lab
1: 2-6 Jan	Ch.1 Introduction Ch.2 Review			No Labs
2: 9-13 Jan	Ch.3, 3A Consumer Choice			Math Lecture # 1
3: 16-20 Jan	Ch.3, 3A Consumer Choice			Math Lecture # 2
4: 23-27 Jan	Ch.4, 5 Deriving Demand			Math Test on Wednesday 25 January (no calculators)
5: 30 Jan-3 Feb	Ch.9, 9A Production Technology	PS1 due on 3 Feb @ 4:30pm (course box)		TBA
6: 6-10 Feb	Ch.10, 10A Cost of Production		MT1 on Th 9 Feb (Ch. 1 to 5) at 4:30 p.m.	TBA
7: 13-17 Feb	Reading Break			
8: 22–26 Feb	Ch.11 Perfect Competition			
9: 29 Feb – 4 Mar	Ch.11 Perfect Competition	PS2 due on 3 March @ 4:30pm (course box)		TBA
10: 6-11 Mar	Ch.12 Monopoly		MT2 on 9 Mar (Ch. 9 to 11) At 4:30 p.m.	TBA
11: 7-18 Mar	Ch.12 Monopoly Ch.13.5-13.7 Game Theory			TBA
12: 20-25 Mar	Ch.13.5-13.7 Game Theory	PS3 due on 20 Mar @ 4:30pm (course box)	MT3 on 23 Mar (Ch.12 & 13.5-13.7) At 4:30 p.m.	TBA
13: 27-31 Mar	Ch.13A Oligopoly			
14: 3-7 April	Ch.16.1 Trade, Course Review / exam prep			

Policies

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 (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcl.html>) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

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 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 (bettyj@uvic.ca) or leaving a voice mail message (250-721-8547). 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 for work that will be completed after course grades are submitted by the instructor.** 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. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

According to the University of Victoria 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>

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

To obtain permission, students must completely fill out the [Request to Repeat Courses form](#) and submit it to the Economics Department main office (BEC360) as soon as possible. The form can also be submitted electronically to the Department Secretary, [Ms. Judy Wood](#). The outcome of a request will be emailed within 5 business days.

If you have questions about this process, please contact the [Economics Undergraduate Advisor](#).

Winter Session - Second Term

January 2017

1	Sunday	New Year's Day ¹
4	Wednesday	Second term classes begin for all faculties
6	Friday	Senate meets
12	Thursday	Last day for course changes for Faculty of Law
17	Tuesday	Last day for 100% reduction of second term fees for standard courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date. For non-standard courses see www.registrar.uvic.ca
20	Friday	Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term Last day for graduate students to register in a personal leave in second term
31	Tuesday	Last day for paying second term fees without penalty

February 2017

3	Friday	Senate meets
7	Tuesday	Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses. 100% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date. For non-standard courses see www.registrar.uvic.ca
13	Monday	Family Day ¹
13-17	Monday-Friday	Reading Break for all faculties
15	Wednesday	Faculty of Graduate Studies deadline to apply to graduate for Spring Convocation (students completing in the Spring term only)
28	Tuesday	Last day for withdrawing from full year and second term courses without penalty of failure

March 2017

3	Friday	Senate meets
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April 2017

4	Tuesday	Last day of classes for all faculties, except Faculty of Human and Social Development ²
7	Friday	Senate meets Examinations begin for all faculties, except Faculty of Human and Social Development ²
14	Friday	Good Friday ¹
17	Monday	Easter Monday ¹
25	Tuesday	Examinations end for all faculties End of Winter Session

Calculators

If a calculator is allowed in tests and examinations in a course offered by the Department, then the only acceptable calculators are the the Sharp EL-510R, EL-510RN or EL-510RNB models. It may be purchased at the UVic Bookstore or elsewhere for about \$12. In some courses, calculators are not allowed.



Bookstore only allow the Sharp EL-510R