



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Economics

**Intermediate Microeconomics**  
**ECONOMICS 201:21 Fall 2024**

**Lectures (CO110):**

Mon 8:30 am – 9:45 am  
Thu 10:00 am – 11:15 am

**Student hours (MULH 3043a):**

Monday 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Wed 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Thu 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

If my student hours can't fit your schedule, just let me know, and I'll do my best to find a time that works. And if you see my door open, feel free to drop by—I'd be happy to chat with you.

**Professor:** Anastasiia Suvorova

asuvorov@stfx.ca MULH 3043a

**Assessments overview (tentative):**

Assignments	15%	Jan 30, Mar 13, Apr 3 due in class
Midterm I	25%	Feb 6 in class
Midterm II	25%	Mar 20 in class
Final Exam	35%	Scheduled by the registrar

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**Welcome to ECONOMICS 201!**

**Course overview**

This course aims to provide you with the core knowledge of microeconomic theories related to consumers, producers, and markets. It serves as a foundation for more advanced economic courses that build on similar methods of analysis.

We will learn to use constrained optimization (decision-making with scarce resources) to understand and predict the choices of consumers and firms.

- Consumer theory studies how consumers decide on the optimal consumption of various goods and services when constrained by their incomes.
- Producer theory studies how firms decide how to produce goods and services efficiently and how much to produce to maximize profits, given the constraints of production technologies and consumer demand.

Consumer and producer decisions form the demand and supply of goods and services. Together, they allow us to predict how prices are determined in competitive markets.

Economic modelling uses basic calculus, which will be reviewed as part of the course.

**Prerequisites**

Econ 101, Econ 102

## Course materials

The primary source of information will be [Lectures and Lecture Materials](#).

**Textbook (recommended):** *Besanko, D., & Braeutigam, R. (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Microeconomics. John Wiley & Sons.*

I will assign suggested readings and practice problems using the textbook. You can use earlier editions of the textbook but it will be up to you to check that the practice problems align with practice problems in your edition.

**Course website:** The main portal to the course is [Moodle](#).

## Course outline (tentative)

Introduction to Microeconomics (Ch. 1)  
Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium (Ch. 2.1)

### Consumer theory

Consumer Preferences and Utility (Ch. 3)  
Budgets and Consumer Choice (Ch. 4)  
Demand (Ch. 5)  
Elasticities of Demand (Ch. 2.2– 2.3)

### Producer theory

Production Functions (Ch. 6)  
Cost Minimization (Ch. 7)  
Cost Curves (Ch. 8)

### Competitive markets

Competitive Markets (Ch. 9)

This list of topics is tentative; things may move around slightly as the semester progresses.

## Assessment:

### Assignments

There will be three assignments that you will submit **in class tentatively on January 30, March 13, April 3**. The assignments will be posted at least a week before the due date. You may submit one assignment late (during the next class following the due date) without penalty if you let me know about this delay by email before the due date.

### Exams

- 1) There will be **two midterm exams** 1 hour 15 minutes each (tentatively held on February 6 and March 20 during the regular class time in our regular classroom).
- 2) The **final exam** will be scheduled by the registrar during the finals week. It will take 2 hours. The final exam is cumulative, and covers all materials studied in the course.  
If you are unable to write the final exam at the time scheduled by the Registrar's office due to illness or due to a serious, unexpected circumstance you will need to notify the Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Academic Affairs within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time at [ada@stfx.ca](mailto:ada@stfx.ca). You will be assigned a grade of "IN" and will be required to write the exam on an alternate date.

I am not able to provide extra work to make up for low grades, because this practice would not be fair for your classmates.

**Missed Exams and Lectures** You are expected to attend all lectures and the midterms will be scheduled during class time.

**Drop date** You can drop this course, online in Banner, on or before [March 5](#). The drop date is set by the registrar.

## Communication

Email is the main form of communication beyond lectures or student hours. I will monitor emails daily during business days, so you will generally receive a response in 24 – 48 hours. I may check email on weekends and holidays, but it will be at my discretion.

**Please include the following in the subject line of ALL emails:** student ID, course number and section number. I will generally need this information to answer your question.

## Use of AI and group work

**Exams:** You cannot not use AI during the exams and must submit your own work.

**Assignments:** Assignments are aimed as a learning and practice resource. The final submission must be your own work. You can collaborate and discuss the concepts in assignments with your study group. You may also use generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot) to ask for explanations, examples, or additional practice. However, it is crucial that you can solve assignment questions independently if you want to succeed in exams. Do not use AI tools or copy answers for the final submission, as this may hinder your learning, lead to academic integrity issues and result in incorrect answers.

## Use of electronic devices

**Exams:** You can only use non-programmable calculators during exams. Unless you have medical accommodations that require use of electronic devices, or you receive an explicit permission from me before the exam, you may not use other electronic devices (ex. cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, headphones, etc.) during exams.

**Lectures:** You can use electronic devices [only for learning purposes](#) during class time. Other use of cell-phones and laptops will be distracting for you, me, and your classmates.

## General information

### Learning environment

All students are encouraged to show respect for each others learning progress. Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity.

### Copyright notice

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### Academic integrity

Students are encouraged to read section 3.8 of the [2024-2025 Academic Calendar](#).