

## MICROECONOMIC THEORY IV ECO 6122

**Professors: Gamal Atallah and Roland Pongou**  
**Fall 2020**

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### COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Class schedule:</b>	Thursday 8:30 – 11:20
<b>Format:</b>	Online
<b>Professors' office hours:</b>	Thursday 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment (Zoom) (Pongou) Tuesday 4:00 – 5:00 (Microsoft Teams) (Atallah)
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:rpongou@uOttawa.ca">rpongou@uOttawa.ca</a> ; <a href="mailto:gatallah@uottawa.ca">gatallah@uottawa.ca</a>

### OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Microeconomic theory, including topics such as utility maximization and individual choice, decision-making under uncertainty, producer theory (technology, costs, and profit maximization), alternative market structures (competition, monopoly, and oligopoly), general equilibrium, and the economics of information.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

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This is a compulsory course for the M.A. program in Economics. It introduces students to many of the main tools used by economists to analyze problems of resource allocation and decision making. The course also intends to help students develop a rigorous method to apprehend and solve problems often encountered in the specialized fields of Economics and in social sciences in general.

# **MATERIALS**

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The required textbook for the course is:

Hal R. Varian, *Microeconomic Analysis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992).

There is also a web site for the course on Virtual Campus. Supplemental materials will be posted on this site.

# **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

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The course is provided online through pre-recorded videos.

The videos will become available in Brightspace on the day of the lecture, and will remain available until the end of the term. You can choose the time you want to watch a lecture, once it has been made available. These are NOT live lectures.

It is compulsory for students to watch all the videos prior to the exam relevant for those videos.

End of chapter exercises are very important.

This course is divided into two parts:

## Part 1 – Professor Atallah – September 10<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup>

The chapters covered in this part are the following (this may change):

- Ch. 7 Utility Maximization
- Ch. 8 Choice
- Ch. 11 Uncertainty
- Ch. 16 Oligopoly
- Ch. 25 Information
- Ch. 17 Exchange

The midterm exam will cover only the chapters covered in this part.

You can ask Professor Atallah questions during his office hours on Microsoft Teams (Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00). The link will be in Brightspace.

## Part 2 – Professor Pongou – October 15<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>

The chapters covered in this part are the following (this may change):

- Ch. 1 Technology
- Ch. 2 Profit Maximization
- Ch. 3 Profit function
- Ch. 4 Cost Minimization
- Ch. 5 Cost function
- Ch. 6 Duality
- Ch. 15 Game Theory
- Ch. 23 Public goods

The final exam will cover only the chapters covered in this part.

You can ask Professor Pongou questions during his office hours on Zoom (Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00). The link will be in Brightspace.

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

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All exams are open book exams that you write at home and submit online.

<b>Evaluation format</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>
Midterm exam	50%	October 22
Final exam	50%	TBD

## **POLICY ON DEFERRED EXAMS**

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University regulations require all absences from exams due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate.

Students who are excused for missing an exam will be required to write a deferred exam.

DFR forms must be completed for both midterms and final exams. Once completed, the form with supporting documentation (ex. medical certificate) will automatically be sent to the academic unit which offers the course. The request must be completed within five working days of the exam and must respect all the conditions of [Academic Regulation I-9.5](#).

Absence for any other serious reason must be justified in writing, to the academic assistants of the Faculty, within five business days following the date of the exam or submission of an assignment. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason. Reasons such as travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable.

The date for all deferred final exams will be Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

# **SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

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The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of a sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment or online harassment. The University, as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint. For more information, visit [Sexual violence: support and prevention](#).

## **RESOURCES FOR YOU**

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### **Faculty Mentoring Centre**

The goal of the Mentoring Centre is to help students with their academic and social well-being during their time at the University of Ottawa. Regardless of where a student stands academically, or how far along they are in completing their degree, the Mentoring Centre is there to help students continue on their path to success.

A student may choose to visit the Mentoring Centre for very different reasons. Younger students may wish to talk to their older peers to gain insight into programs and services offered by the University, while older student may simply want to brush up on study and time management skills or learn about programs and services for students nearing the end of their degree.

In all, the Mentoring Centre offers a place for students to talk about concerns and problems that they might have in any facet of their lives. While students are able to voice their concerns and problems without fear of judgment, mentors can garner further insight in issues unique to students and find a more practical solution to better improve the services that the Faculty of Social Sciences offers, as well as the services offered by the University of Ottawa.

### **Academic Writing Help Centre**

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer. In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- Master the written language of your choice
- Expand your critical thinking abilities
- Develop your argumentation skills
- Learn what the expectations are for academic writing

### **Counselling Services**

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

### **Human Rights Office**

#### **Mandate:**

To provide leadership in the creation, implementation and evaluation of policies, procedures and practices on diversity, inclusion, equity, accessibility and the prevention of harassment and discrimination.

## Contact information:

1 Stewart St. (Main Floor – Room 121) - Tel.: 613-562-5222 / Email: [respect@uOttawa.ca](mailto:respect@uOttawa.ca)

## Academic Accommodations

The University has always strived to meet the needs of individuals with learning disabilities or with other temporary or permanent functional disabilities (hearing/visual impairments, sustained health issues, mental health problems), and the campus community works collaboratively so that you can develop and maintain your autonomy, as well as reach your full potential throughout your studies. You can call on a wide range of services and resources, all provided with expertise, professionalism and confidentiality.

If barriers are preventing you from integrating into university life and you need adaptive measures to progress (physical setting, arrangements for exams, learning strategies, etc.), contact the Access Service right away:

- in person in our office
- online
- by phone at 613-562-5976

## Deadlines for submitting requests for adaptive measures during exams:

- Midterms, tests, deferred exams: seven business days before the exam, test or other written evaluation (excluding the day of the exam itself).
- Final exams: November 15.

## Career Development Centre

Career Development Centre offers various services and resources in career development to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.

## Campus Activities

Student events aimed at fulfilling all sorts of student needs.

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**uoSatisfACTION**

**SHAKE THINGS UP!**

Do you have any [comments on your university experience or suggestions on how to improve it?](#)

**Tell us!**

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## **BEWARE OF ACADEMIC FRAUD!**

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Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations, and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic fraud is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Here are a few examples of academic fraud:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned.

In recent years, the development of the Internet has made it much easier to identify academic plagiarism. The tools available to your professors allow them to trace the exact origin of a text on the Web, using just a few words.

In cases where students are unsure whether they are at fault, it is their responsibility to consult the [\*Writing and Style Guide for University Papers and Assignments\*](#).

Persons who have committed or attempted to commit (or have been accomplices to) academic fraud will be penalized. Here are some examples of the academic sanctions, which can be imposed:

- a grade of “F” for the assignment or course in question;
- an additional program requirement of between 3 and 30 credits;
- suspension or expulsion from the Faculty.

For more information, refer to the [\*Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity\*](#) and the [Academic Integrity Website \(Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs\)](#).