

Till Gross, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05 am - 11:25 am
Tutorial Hours: Tuesdays, 4:05 pm - 5:25 pm
Class and Tutorial Location: Please consult Carleton Central
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 - 2:00 pm, D-897 Loeb
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ECON 5020
Microeconomic Theory
Carleton University, 2026 Fall

Introduction

An introduction to graduate-level 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.

Evaluation

There are three grade requirements for this course:

Midterm: 30%, scheduled for October 22nd

In-class exercise: 5%, scheduled for December 3rd

Final exam: 65%, scheduled by the University.

Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a grade of D- or higher. The in-class exercise consists of a “game” in which you make decisions for a hypothetical firm. Your grade in this category will depend on your firm’s performance compared to a previously defined benchmark.

Students who can *document* a compelling reason for missing the midterm or in-class exercise will be excused and their final grade will be based on their performance in the rest of the course; i.e., the weight of each of the remaining evaluation instruments will rise by a factor of Y , where Y is $100/(100 - X)$, with X being the weight of the missed evaluations. Students must inform the instructor of such an absence in advance, if possible.

Tentative Schedule

Please note that this schedule (including the dates of the midterm and the in-class exercise) is subject to revision and may change during the course of the semester. Weekly tutorials will be conducted to demonstrate the applications of concepts and theories presented in class, starting in week two.

10-Sep	Introduction	
15-Sep	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	Tutorial
17-Sep	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	
22-Sep	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	Tutorial
24-Sep	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	
29-Sep	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	Tutorial
01-Oct	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	
06-Oct	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	Tutorial
08-Oct	Jehle & Reny Chapter 1	
13-Oct	Jehle & Reny Chapter 2	Tutorial
15-Oct	Jehle & Reny Chapter 2	
20-Oct	Jehle & Reny Chapter 2	Tutorial
22-Oct	Midterm	
03-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 2	Tutorial
05-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 2	
10-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 2	Tutorial
12-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 3	
17-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 3	Tutorial
19-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 3	
24-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 3	Tutorial
26-Nov	Jehle & Reny Chapter 3	
01-Dec	Jehle & Reny Chapter 3	Tutorial
03-Dec	In-class exercise	
08-Dec	Jehle & Reny Chapter 4	Tutorial
10-Dec	Jehle & Reny Chapter 4	

Textbooks

Jehle, Geoffrey, A, and Philip J. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, 3rd edition, London: Financial Times Prentice Hall, 2011 (**required**, estimated cost \$120, earlier editions are also available)

Varian, H. R., *Microeconomics Analysis*, 3rd edition, New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1992 (**reference**)

Mas-Colell, A., M.D. Whinston, and J.R. Green, *Microeconomic Theory*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1995 (**reference**)

Ungraded assignments

There will be weekly assignments and exercises in the textbook that are ungraded. I strongly recommend spending a lot of time on the assignments, as they prepare you for the exams. Try thinking about problems without looking at your notes or the book first. When you get stuck, consult your notes; when you get really stuck, ask your fellow students for help or come to office hours. I encourage you to form study groups.

Course Modality

This is an **in-person course**. It is **not suitable for online students**. Since **course attendance is mandatory**, students who are studying online should not register.

Preclusions & Prerequisites

Precludes additional credit for ECON 5000 (no longer offered) and ECON 5001 (no longer offered). Prerequisite for ECON 5029 and 6027.

Note on Copyright

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Plagiarism, Resources, Mental Health, Accommodations

You are responsible for reading and knowing the information about plagiarism, Carleton University resources, and academic accommodations found **here**.