

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT: ECONOMICS

DATE: March 31, 1992

Economics 301  
NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

Intermediate Microeconomics  
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

5  
UCFV CREDIT

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the neo-classical microeconomic paradigm and some of the criticisms of this view at the intermediate level. The emphasis throughout the course will stress the application of analytical techniques to "everyday" economic problems. The course will concentrate on the theory of consumer behaviour and revealed preference, the nature of costs and production theory, theories of organization and coordination of firms in both the "price-taking" and "price-searching" market models, theories of wage determination in factor markets, and, finally, theories of income distribution and welfare economics.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Economics 201 and 202; Math 111/112 or Math 113/114.  
Students may not receive credit for both Econ 301 and Econ 307.

COURSE COREQUISITES:

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	Lecture	60. hrs	Student Directed	
	Laboratory	. hrs	Learning	. hrs
	Seminar	15. hrs	Other - specify:	
	Field Experience	. hrs		. hrs
			<u>TOTAL</u>	75. HRS

UCFV CREDIT  TRANSFER

UCFV CREDIT  NON-TRANSFER

NON-CREDIT

TRANSFER STATUS (Equivalent, Unassigned, Other Details)

UBC

SFU

UVIC

Other

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COURSE DESIGNER

J.D. TUNSTALL, Ph.D.  
DEAN OF ACADEMIC STUDIES

Economics 301NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

COURSES FOR WHICH THIS IS A PREREQUISITE:	RELATED COURSES

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

**TEXTS:**B. Curtis Eaton and Diane Eaton, *Microeconomics*, (2nd edition), W.H. Freeman and Co., 1991.  
Nancy Gallini, *Problem Solving in Microeconomics (Study Guide for Eaton and Eaton)*, W.H. Freeman and Co., 1991.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course students should have developed an understanding of the functioning of the market mechanism and its ability to deal with questions of what should be produced, how to produce the bundle of goods and services, and how to distribute the bundle. The emphasis will be on communicating an understanding of and a critical approach to microeconomics.

The course will develop the students' analytical and intuitive knowledge of microeconomics. The primary focus will be on helping students apply the theories to real world situations.

METHODS:

The lectures will emphasize the major topics and ideas in each chapter. Time will be spent developing the theories and then applying them to current economic problems. Graphs will be used extensively, while calculus and algebra will be used sparingly.

The Study Guide will be used to help students "walk" through, in a logical manner, the ideas developed in the text.

STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Assignments:	20%
Mid-term:	30%
Final:	50%

COURSE CONTENT

**COURSE TOPIC OUTLINE:**

- 1.Theory of self interest: self interest, preferences, and utility functions.
- 2.The problem of economic choice: utility maximization under perfect information.
- 3.Production and costs: cost minimization and profit maximization.
- 4.Theory of perfect competition.
- 5.Theory of monopoly.
- 6.Theory of undifferentiated oligopoly.
- 7.Allocation of resources: theories of input demand and factor pricing under various market structures.

Depending upon the focus of the course, the instructor may choose from the following list as additional material to include in the Course Topic Outline:

- 1.Utility maximization under imperfect information.
- 2.Models of monopolistic competition: product differentiation and/or spatial competition (address models).
- 3.Efficiency and the allocation of resources: a general equilibrium approach.
- 4.Market failure: externalities and public goods.