ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

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Department of Economics

Intermediate Microeconomics
ECONOMICS 201:21 - Winter 2026

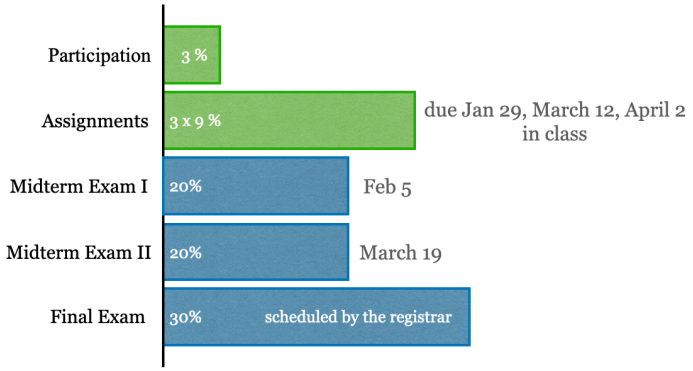
Lectures (BB337):
Mon 8:30 am – 9:45 am
Thu 10:00 am – 11:15 am

Professor: Anastasiia Suvorova
asuvorov@stfx.ca MULH 3043a

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.

Assessments overview (tentative):



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 limited by their incomes.
- Producer theory studies how firms decide how to produce goods and services efficiently and how much to produce to maximize profits, within the limits 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 involves basic calculus, and key concepts will be partially reviewed during the course.

Prerequisites

Econ 101, Econ 102

Course materials

The primary source of information will be Lectures and Lecture Materials.

Textbook (recommended but not required):

Besanko, D., & Braeutigam, R. (6th edition). Microeconomics. John Wiley & Sons.

- Suggested readings and practice problems will be assigned from the textbook.
- A copy will be made available for **3-hour reserve** at the library.
- The e-book is available for purchase through the bookstore.

Course website: The main portal to the course is Moodle.

Course outline (tentative)

Introduction

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:

Participation (3%)

Participation grade will be based on occasional in-class quizzes and activities run during lectures. These will be low-pressure and graded on attempt.

Assignments (24% total: 3 × 9%) — Due: Jan 29, March 12, April 2 (submit in class)

Three assignments (each worth 9%) will be posted at least one week before their due dates.

You may submit **one** assignment late (by the start of the next scheduled class after the due date) without penalty, provided you email me **before the original due date** to inform me of the delay.

Midterm exams (40 % total: 2 × 20%) — Tentative date: Feb 5 and March 19 (in class, 1 hour 15 minutes)

There will be two midterm exams, each 1 hour and 15 minutes long, with a mix of question formats.

Final exam (30%) — Scheduled by the Registrar during finals week

- 2 hours, cumulative, covering all course material.
- If illness or another serious, unexpected issue prevents you from writing the final, notify the Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Academic Affairs (ada@stfx.ca) within 48 hours. You'll be given an "IN" grade and write on an alternate date.

Extra work cannot be assigned to make up for low grades, to keep grading fair for everyone.

Use of AI

Exams

You may not use AI or collaborate during the exams. All exam submissions must be your own individual work.

Assignments

Assignments are designed as practice to help you prepare for the exams. Using AI tools or copying answers may feel helpful in the short run, but it will significantly reduce your ability to perform well on the midterms and final, which must be completed without AI.
For that reason, you may not submit AI-generated solutions as your own work. You are responsible for understanding and being able to reproduce any work you submit.

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 11. 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 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

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 – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity.

Copyright notice

These course materials are designed for use in Course Winter 2026 ECON 201:21 at StFX University and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited.

Academic integrity

Students are encouraged to read section 3.8 of the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

Raising Concerns about Instruction or Instructor Conduct

StFX is committed to maintaining a respectful and inclusive academic environment where all members of the community feel empowered to express concerns. If you have questions or reservations about an instructor's teaching or behaviour, please follow the steps below:

1. Speak with the Instructor
Whenever possible, begin by discussing your concern directly with the instructor. You can request a meeting by contacting them at asuvorov@stfx.ca**.** Open, respectful dialogue is often the most effective path to resolution.

2. Contact the Department Chair
If the issue remains unresolved, or if you prefer to speak with someone else, contact the Chair of the Department to which the instructor belongs. The Chair can help mediate the situation and work with you to identify appropriate solutions. The Chair can be reached at gtkacz@stfx.ca.
If the instructor is also the Department Chair, or if you do not feel comfortable contacting the Chair, proceed to Step 3.

3. Reach out to the Dean's Office
As a final step, you may contact the Dean's Office at **nkaur@stfx.ca**. The Dean's Office can assist you in arranging a meeting and provide further guidance on how to address your concern.