# Intermediate Microeconomics Theory I, ECON 201

Department of Economics
St. Francis Xavier University
Autumn 2025

**Instructor:** Teng Wah LEO

**Time Blocks and Location:** U4/U5 (Monday, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.; Thursday, 1:00 p.m.–2:15 p.m.) at Mulroney Hall, MULH4034

**Office Hours:** Mondays from 10 a.m.–11 a.m.; Thursdays from 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m; Fridays from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. at Mulroney Hall, Room 3073. All other times, by appointment only.

**Objective:**
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I builds on the knowledge you have gained from Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 101). We will examine in greater detail individual household and firm decisions, and choices on resource allocation, and the consequent social implications. The development will be through first building on intuition, prior to formal theoretical exposition graphically and mathematically.

The course materials are designed for use in ECON 201 at StFX University by myself only, and are the property of Teng Wah Leo. Copying this material including assignments, assessments and examinations for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited.[**Prerequisite: ECON 101.**]

**Drop-Date:**
Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before **November 5$^{\text{th}}$, 2025**. After this date students are not permitted to drop courses without permission from their Dean. (Please see 3.1 in academic calendar for policy regarding course drops).

**Evaluation:**

There will be two mid term and one final examination. All tests and final examination will be in-person exams. In addition, there will also be practice assignments following pertinent topics to help you consolidate what you have learned. The following will be the allocations, and the tentative dates for the tests:

1. 50%: Mid-Term Tests $\times$ 2 **(October 9$^{\text{th}}$, 2025 & November 6$^{\text{th}}$, 2025)**
2. 50%: Final Examination

**Note:**

All tests and examinations are compulsory. Should you miss an examination/test without an appropriate reason provided prior to the date of the examination/test at the latest, you will be awarded a mark of zero for that examination/test. There is no recourse after the fact.

**Equitable Learning:**

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.

**Reference Text:**

Hal R. Varian, Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus, W.W. Norton & Company
Jeffrey Perloff, Microeconomics, Pearson.

**Approach to the Course:**

You are strongly encouraged to follow the class discussions actively through participation, and through the follow up considerations of the class notes which will be posted after each class on moodle. There is the additional resource of typed notes on the course website, `http://people.stfx.ca/tleo/MicroI.html`, which you may read to gain a deeper understanding. You are also strongly advised to attempt all the questions posted during the class and on the notes after class. You are free to ask me any questions during classes and office hours. It is beneficial to your experience here if you can form yourselves into study groups, which would help you understand and consolidate the subject matter taught through discussions. You are expected to think critically, and not merely memorize the details by rote.

**Course Outline:**

1. Introduction
2. Consumer Choice
    (a) Budget Constraint
    (b) Preferences
    (c) Utility
    (d) Choice
    (e) Demand
    (f) Substitution & Income Effects
3. Applying Consumer Theory – Labour/Leisure; Health; Intertemporal Choice
4. Producer Choice
    (a) Production Technology
    (b) Cost Curves
    (c) Profit Maximization
    (d) Cost Minimization
5. Market Structure
    (a) Perfect Competition
    (b) Monopoly
    (c) Monopolistic Competition