

The University of Western Ontario  
London Canada

Department of Economics

ECONOMICS 1021B - 001

**INTRODUCTORY MICROECONOMICS**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**January 2010**

**Instructor:** Al Slivinski  
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**Class times:** Tuesday, Thursday, 9:30-10:30am Room SEB 2200  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 10:30-11:30

**Website address:** <http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/1021B001>

**Undergraduate Enquiries:** Jeremy Chambers  
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**Registration**

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If you notice a problem, please contact your faculty academic counsellor right away.

**Prerequisite Note**

There is no prerequisite for this course.

**Goal of the Course**

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the principles of microeconomics. These will enable you to understand and interpret economic events in the world around you in a way that is superior to that of most newspapers, news channels and blogs. It will also make you a better dancer and get you invited to all the best parties. The core unifying element in microeconomics is the attempt to understand the decisions made by individuals, firms, and government `deciders', and how they interact.

## **Required resources**

MicroEconomics: Canada in the Global Environment, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Parkin & Bade, with access kit for MyEconLab.

Access to the internet is required in order to complete the online quizzes from MyEconLab. These will not count toward your course mark, but are a valuable study tool. These quizzes are completed at the [www.myeconlab.com](http://www.myeconlab.com) website, and access to this website is included with the purchase of the textbook package or can be purchased separately. (The MyEconLab website includes an online version of the textbook.) There are various computer labs at the university.

## **Method of evaluation**

Mid - term test #1 – 25%

Mid - term test #2 – 25%

Exam – 40% (This exam will cover all material taken since the beginning of the course)

Tutorial quizzes – 10% (your mark on the best four of six quizzes will count)

All tests and exams are 2 hours and will consist of multiple choice questions. Results will be emailed to your UWO email address. Your final grade will be available on the Registrar's website.

You are required to bring to the tests and exams:

- Current UWO student ID card
- Pencil
- Non-programmable calculator (graphing and cell phone calculators are not allowed)

## **Missed Tests**

Students should review the attached information and the following regarding missed tests.

If you know in advance that you have a conflict with a mid-term test, you must discuss this with me at least one week before the test date. If your reason for not being able to write the test is approved by me, you will write a make-up test before the regular test date. (Please note that even if you have a conflict with a test in another course, failure to follow this policy will result in a mark of zero if you miss my test.)

If something comes up the day of one of the mid-term tests, then you should email me within 48 hours. You must also see your academic counselor in order for them to review your reason and documentation for missing the test. If both your counselor and I agree that you had a legitimate reason to miss the test (supported by the appropriate documentation) then your mark on the final exam (adjusted for any differences in the means between the missed test and the final exam) will count as your mark for the missed test. If you miss both mid-term tests you will write a make-up test consisting of short answer and essay style questions. Details regarding the University policy on missed tests are at the end of this course outline.

## **Missed Tutorial Quizzes**

There are no make-ups for tutorial quizzes. Any missed quiz will earn a mark of zero.

## SCHEDULE

DATE (approx week)	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan. 7	- Introduction to Economics	- Ch. 1
Jan. 12	- Making and Using Graphs - The Economic Problem  - How Prices and Quantities are Determined (Demand and Supply)	- Ch. 1 Appendix - Ch. 2 (omit "Gains From Trade, pages 40-43) - Ch. 3
Jan. 19	- How Prices and Quantities are Determined (Demand and Supply) - The Relationship Between Price and Quantity (Elasticity)	- Ch. 3 - Ch. 4
Jan. 26	- The Relationship Between Price and Quantity (Elasticity) - Efficiency and Equity	- Ch. 4  - Ch. 5 and "Price Discrimination" and "Capturing Consumer Surplus" pages 309-310
Feb. 2	- Government Intervention - Review for Test	- Ch. 6
Feb. 6	<b>Mid-Term Test I – 25%</b> Time and location TBA	
Feb. 9	- How an Individual Decides How Much to Buy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility</li> <li>• Indifference Curves</li> </ul>	- Ch. 8 - Ch. 9 (omit "Work-Leisure Choices, pages 214-215)
Feb. 13-21	Conference Week	Relax, review and recover
Feb. 23	- Economic Profit - Market Types - Costs of Production	- Ch. 10 pages 227-230 - Ch. 10 pages 237-241 - Ch. 11
March 2	- How an Individual Firm Determines Price and Production Levels in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perfect Competition</li> <li>• Monopoly</li> </ul>	- Ch. 12 - Ch. 13
March 9	- How an Individual Firm Determines Price and Production Levels in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monopolistic Competition</li> <li>• Oligopoly</li> </ul> Review for Test	- Ch. 14 Ch. 15
March 13	<b>Mid-Term Test – 25%</b> Time and location TBA	
March 16	- Externalities	- Ch. 16

March 23	- Public Goods and Common Resources	- Ch. 17
March 31	- Resource Markets	- Ch. 18 and pages 214-215
April 6	- Inequality Review for exam	- Ch. 19 pages 448-452
	<b>Final Exam – 40%</b> To be scheduled during the exam period (April 12-30) Covers all material from the beginning of the course	

### **TUTORIAL QUIZ DATES**

Jan. 15, 22, 29; Feb. 26; March 5, 26

**There will be no tutorials on Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and April 2**

## Please Note

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own academic programs. Also remember to check your registration to make sure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted in the glass case near Social Science Room 4071.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations”.
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behaviour. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on your official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge it by using quotation marks where appropriate and referencing with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the current UWO Academic Calendar).

The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form. Those found guilty will have penalties imposed as noted in point 3.

5. It is Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students are responsible for submitting assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Departmental Procedures (<http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Appeal.pdf>) which is also in the current UWO Academic Calendar. Please note deadlines.

The Department Chair will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If, after discussion, you remain dissatisfied with a grade, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Department Chair stating reasons.

7. Systematic adjustments of the entire grade distribution can occur either up or down in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** a reason to appeal.
8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

Last day to add a second term half course:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Last day to drop second term half course:

Friday, February 12, 2010

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is not an excuse for a make-up. This rule applies to all mid-term tests and final exams in the Department of Economics.

## Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

*Academic Accommodation will **not** be granted automatically on request. You **must** demonstrate to your instructor by documentation that there are **compelling** medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

Students who seek a makeup test or examination must provide medical or other relevant verification that their absence from a regularly scheduled test or examination is beyond their control. Students are directed to fill out the Student Medical Certificate found here [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) If you decide to write a test or an examination, you must be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis, is **not** permitted. Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations. Airline flights must not conflict with test or final exams.

If you are requesting a makeup test or exam, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone within **48 hours** of the date of the test or exam. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor and provide documentation regarding the missed test or exam. **Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.** Documentation must support your reasons. Failure to follow this procedure, or to provide supporting documentation, may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero.

**Midterm Tests:** Documentation should be given to your instructor **prior** to the scheduled date of the test if at all possible. If the instructor is not available, you may leave a message with the Undergraduate Office (Social Science Room 4075). If your documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

**Final Examinations:** Documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 48 hours)** if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. Until you receive permission from your *home* Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Chair, you will not be allowed to write a makeup examination. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero.

**NOTE** – Even if approved from your *home* faculty Academic Counsellor, your instructor or Department Chair can deny your request if s/he does not agree that your reason for missing the examination is valid. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

## Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

Information about the Faculty of Social Science’s policies regarding academic accommodation is found on its website at <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> (choose “having problems?”) or in Social Science Room 2105. Your “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse.

## Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If your instructor views your class attendance as unsatisfactory, you can be debarred from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, you will be warned in writing.