

Principles of Microeconomics

EC1021A-004

Department of Economics  Western
Social Science

Instructor: Nicholas Kahnert

September, 2016

Office: SSC 4035

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm (subject to change),
or by appointment

E-mail: ntkahner@uwo.ca

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca>

Class Location: HSB 40

Sessions: Monday & Wednesdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Note: You must also be enrolled in 1 tutorial section associated with this course. Tutorials occur on Fridays.
Please consult the University timetable for the scheduled time of the tutorial in which you are enrolled.

Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in a course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the microeconomic principles that will enable you to understand and interpret events in the world around you. We will analyze the choices of consumers and producers, and how these choices influence market outcomes. We will explore how these decisions are affected by market conditions and government policies and interventions.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand, explain, and analyze:

- The economic way of thinking using the concepts of scarcity, choosing at the margin, tradeoffs, and incentives.
- How prices and quantities are determined under perfect competition, imperfect competition and monopoly.

- How consumers and producers react to changes in prices.
- How consumers choose what to buy given budget limitations.
- A producer's costs and its profit maximization decision under perfect competition, imperfect competition, and monopoly.
- The impact of government intervention in markets.

Required Textbook:

Parkin & Bade, 2015. *MICROECONOMICS: Canada in the Global Environment, Ninth Edition*, Pearson, ISBN: 978-0-321-93118-4.

Optional Resources:

FlexText for Principles of Microeconomics, Pearson, ISBN: 9780134544298.

Online Learning Resource: www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com

(Access code is included with the purchase of a new course textbook, or can be purchased separately)

Course ID: kahnert66028

Grading:

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| Tutorial Quizzes (best 3 of 4) | 10% |
| Midterm Examination 1 (Saturday, October 15) | 25% |
| Midterm Examination 2 (Saturday, November 12) | 25% |
| Final Examination (to be scheduled) | 40% |

1. Quizzes (10%)

This component is intended to encourage participation and student engagement in course tutorials. A total of four (4) quizzes will be administered during tutorials throughout the semester. The best 3 of 4 quiz grades will count toward your final grade for this component. Please refer to the timetable on the course website for quiz dates.

All students **MUST** write their quizzes in their OWN assigned tutorial section. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0, with no exceptions whatsoever. **There are no make-ups for tutorial quizzes.** Any missed quizzes will result in a grade of 0. As such, the first missed quiz will automatically be considered your lowest quiz grade and will be dropped. If more than 1 quiz is missed, where ALL absences are due to LEGITIMATE reasons (i.e. illness), then accommodation MAY be available at the discretion of the Instructor. In such instances, the student must be able to provide

supporting documentation to prove legitimate reasons for ALL missed quizzes. Documentation requirements are the same as for missed exams (see Department Policies below).

2. Midterm Examinations (25% each)

Two (2) midterm exams have been scheduled for October 15 & November 12 respectively. Each exam will be 2 hours in length and will consist of approximately 50 multiple choice questions. All Department and University policies regarding missed exams and necessary documentation apply. Please see attached **Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**.

3. Final Examination (40%)

The final examination will occur during the regular final exam period and will be scheduled by the registrar. The final exam will be 2 hours in length and will consist of approximately 50 multiple choice questions. This exam will be a cumulative assessment of students' ability to meet the learning outcomes of the course and will be based on ALL concepts learned during the course, with more weight being assigned to material covered after the 2nd midterm examination. All Department and University policies regarding missed exams and necessary documentation apply. Please see attached **Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**.

EXAM POLICIES

All exams will be scheduled for **2 hours** and will be closed book examinations. Dictionaries and translators are **NOT** allowed into the examinations. Only **non-programmable calculators, without case**, will be allowed into the exams. No other electronic devices are permitted in the exam. Devices that **are NOT allowed include**, but are not necessarily limited to: programmable or graphing calculators, cell phones, portable listening or communication devices, laptops, tablets, and electronic/digital watches of any kind. Students may NOT have any restricted electronic devices on their person (eg. In pockets) during the exam, even if they are turned off.

Exams will be scored using computer software which examines the answer sheets for unusual coincidences in the pattern of answers given which may be indicative and used as supporting evidence of cheating.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures **as well as** the assigned material in the text. **Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need**. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course. Exams will not be returned to students but may be reviewed in the instructor's office.

Other Exam Information

- Students **MUST** bring student identification (with photo) all exams.

- Nothing is to be on/at one's desk during an exam except HB pencils, an eraser, an approved calculator and the individual's student card
- Do not wear baseball caps to exams.
- Students may be asked to place all jacket, coats, hats, bags and other non-exam related personal belongings at the front of the exam room.
- No food or drink is accepted in the exam room unless pre-approved by the instructor.
- Cell phones are NEVER permitted in exam rooms. If you have a cell phone with you, ensure it is OFF and placed in your bag AWAY from you. If a cell phone or other communication device makes a sound during an exam, it will be deemed to constitute an attempted academic offense.
- Students must follow directions from their exam proctor(s) and may be required to follow further instructions as they may appear on the front page of the exam question booklet.

POLICIES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

1. Academic offenses of any kind are met with zero tolerance in this course. Students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offenses. With respect to exams, looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, examination supervisors (proctors) of the tests may ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront or as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring. A copy of guidelines about how to avoid cheating can be obtained from the office of the Ombudsperson, Room 251 University Community Centre, (519) 661-3573.
2. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of, and avoiding the occurrence of, any academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offenses in the Academic Calendar. Claims of ignorance of university or department policies are not considered legitimate excuses for academic integrity.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offense may include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment or exam, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

EMAIL POLICIES

The following policies apply to all emails between students and the Instructor. Please respect the fact that the Instructor receives hundreds of emails from students and must deal with those emails in a fair and organized manner. Non-acceptable emails will receive a reply saying only "Please see Email Policies on the course outline". You are responsible for ensuring that sufficient space is available in your e-mail account to accept new e-

mails. I will try to respond to all e-mails within 48 business hours (not counting weekends or holidays).

1. UWO Email Addresses Only

Due to privacy reasons (FIPPA regulations), students must use their Western email accounts to contact the Instructor. The Instructor will not respond to emails from non-uwo.ca addresses (e.g. hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.).

2. Subject Line MUST include Course and Section number

The subject line of emails must contain the name or number of the course, and the section number in which the student is enrolled. The Instructor teaches different courses and sections and cannot properly respond to questions if he does not know which course or section you are enrolled in.

3. Examples of acceptable Emails

- questions about the course content or materials
- asking to set up an appointment to ask questions or review an exam
- notification of illness or other special circumstances
- providing constructive comments or feedback about the course

4. Examples of unacceptable Emails

- e-mails where the instructor is not addressed by name or where the student has not included their name and student number at the end
- questions that may be answered on the course website (OWL) or on this course outline
- asking what material will be covered on an exam
- asking when grades will be posted
- asking what grade a student received
- asking where or when an exam is scheduled or the material covered on an exam, requests for grade increases, extra assignments, etc.

Please Note
Department Policies for 2016 – 2017

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 online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations” <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg136.html>.
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 behavior. 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 at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>).

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 University’s Procedures in the current UWO Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html>). Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider any appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If after this discussion you remain dissatisfied with a grade or other decision, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for your appeal. A useful form and checklist is provided at http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals.

7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

Last day to **add** a first term half course:
Friday, September 16th, 2016

Last day to **drop** first term half course without academic penalty:
Monday, November 7th, 2016

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 by documentation that there are **compelling** medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

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 for a midterm or a final examination, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone, preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test, but definitely within **24 hours** of the date of the test or exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor. If the instructor is not available, you may send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca (Social Science Room 4075). **Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.**

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. Documentation must support your reasons. Medical documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the test)** if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. 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. If your

documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, if you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstances, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counsellor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple color form for final examinations). Once you have this form, contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup test and exam.

For final examinations, you need permission from your *home* Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay. 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/procedures/havingproblems.asp> or in Social Science Room 2105. Your "Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg111.html>. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

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

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information and a complete list of resources, as well as how to obtain help.