

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
ECONOMICS EC1021A-002
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2020

General Information:

Instructor: Irene Trela

Virtual Office Hours (weekdays 8am-8pm Eastern Time):

Via e-mail: use your uwo e-mail to e-mail me at itrela@uwo.ca (you should typically expect a reply within 24 hours, except weekends and holidays)

Via Zoom: A student can request a zoom meeting by emailing me using their uwo e-mail and requesting a day/time in the Eastern Time Zone; I will then set up a Zoom meeting for that individual student

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

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 this 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 are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives:

This course will acquaint students with microeconomic tools necessary for understanding the behaviour of consumers and producers and their decisions to interact in society, and how these decisions are affected by changing economic conditions and government policies. Students will be shown how microeconomics can be used as a tool for decision making and how it can help to understand what goes on in the world each day. Exposition of the microeconomic theory will be integrated throughout with real-world examples to help illuminate to students the power and versatility of the microeconomic way of thinking and to give students an appreciation of its relevance and practical, problem-solving uses.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to identify and explain economic concepts and theories related to the behaviour of economic agents, markets, firm structures, social norms and government policies.

Students will be able to integrate theoretical knowledge with quantitative and qualitative evidence in order to explain past economic events and to formulate predictions on future ones.

Students will be able to articulate critical features and shortcomings of market structures and government policies and evaluate their effects on individual and social welfare.

Students will be able to use economic reasoning to formulate and evaluate economic advice and policy.

Required Textbooks and Online Resources:

Michael Parkin and Robin Bade, *Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment*, 10th edition, Pearson Canada Inc., 2019

MyEconLab: <http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com> (**REQUIRED for assessments**)

Course ID: trela10846

Access code to MyEconLab can be purchased with a new textbook, an e-text, or separately.

You must register for MyLab using your **UWO email and student number**. Users using emails other than their UWO emails and/or without their UWO student number will be removed. If an account is removed, all activities and assessments associated with that account will also be removed, and permanently, and will NOT be considered for grading.

Technical Requirements

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone and Webcam
- Scanner/ Smartphone

Assessments and Grading:

All regularly scheduled assessments in this course will be held online on either MyEconLab or OWL. Instructions on how to access MyEconLab are found on the course website under Resources>MyLab Economics. The tentative date, coverage, allotted time and weight of the assessments in the calculation of your course grade are as follows:

Assessment	Tentative Date	Tentative Chapters	Tentative Start Time	Tentative End Time	Allotted Time	Weight
Quiz 1	Sept 29	1-3	5PM ET	8PM ET	1 hour	15%
Quiz 2	Oct 20	4-6	5PM ET	8PM ET	1 hour	15%
Quiz 3	Nov 17	9-11	5PM ET	8PM ET	1 hour	16%
Quiz 4	Dec 8	12-14, 17	5PM ET	8PM ET	1 hour	14%
Final Exam	TBA	1-6, 9-14, 17	TBA	TBA	2 hours	40%

Quizzes/Exams will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office and are tentatively set for the dates/times noted above, but subject to change. Students will be notified once officially scheduled.

ET refers to Eastern Time.

The quizzes and final exam will be mixed format (a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions).

Each quiz is due at 8PM ET on the date of the quiz and will be available to students at 5PM ET on that date. Once you begin the quiz you will have 1 hour or until 8PM ET whichever is shorter to complete the quiz. Students will only be allowed to submit each quiz once.

Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:

Students who miss any assessment (whether a quiz or final exam) **must** follow Western University's procedures for approval of their absence in order to receive an accommodation. Please see the **Please Note Department Policies for 2020-2021** section of this syllabus for details on these procedures. If during the Fall 2020 term Western University announces any changes to these procedures, please follow those procedures.

There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. Students with an approved absence from **two or fewer** quizzes will have the weight of the missed quiz(zes) transferred to the final exam. Students who miss **more than two** quizzes during the term will not be permitted to reweight them to the final exam and will receive a zero grade for these missed quizzes. In addition they are likely not to have met the course learning outcomes and may not be permitted to pass the course, regardless of grades received on the previous or remaining quizzes. They should contact the instructor for additional steps.

Students with an approved absence from the final exam will be required to write a zoom-proctored final makeup exam that may be a different format than the original scheduled final exam and may be delivered on a different platform.

Online Proctoring Notice:

Makeup exams in this course will be conducted using Zoom. You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will not be recorded.

More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please discuss this with your instructor in advance of the test or examination.

Course Websites:

<http://owl.uwo.ca>: This site gives you access to lecture notes, textbook readings, MyEconLab homework questions (found on MyEconLab), tutorial questions (additional questions assigned weekly from the textbook that will be posted on OWL along with step-by-step answers), and announcements. **Students are reminded that lecture notes, MyEconLab questions, end-of-chapter worked problems, and tutorial questions will ALL be subject to examination.**

<http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com>: This site gives you access to MyLab Economics for the Parkin and Bade textbook, an online learning tool that allows you to work homework questions (*in addition to the assigned end-of-chapter worked problems and tutorial questions*). On the MyLab Economics site for Economics 1021A-002-Fall 2020 (course ID: trela10846), in the left hand margin select 'Assignments', then select the chapter homework of your choice, then select 'Start Test' and work the questions. *For instructions on how to gain access to MyLab Economics for Economics 1021A-002-Fall 2020 (course ID: trela10846), see the student registration handout for MyLab Economics on the course website in OWL* <http://owl.uwo.ca> under Resources>MyLab Economics.

Course Outline:

Introduction to Microeconomics Chs. 1-2 (including Ch. 1 appendix)

How Markets Work Chs. 3-5 (including Ch. 3 mathematical note)

Midterm #1: tentatively covering Chs. 1-5

How Markets Work (cont'd) Ch. 6

Households' Choices Chs. 9

Firms and Markets Chs. 10

Midterm #2: tentatively covering Chs. 6, 9, and part of 10

Firms and Markets (cont'd) Chs. 11-14

Markets for Factors of Production Ch. 17

NOTE: we will not be covering Chs. 7, 8, 15, 16 and 18

How to do well in the course:

1. Start each week by reading the assigned textbook chapter(s), which can be found on OWL under Resources>Textbook Readings. Then read the lecture notes provided to you (including answering the questions in ‘Some Additional Questions to Consider’), which can be found on OWL under Resources>Lecture Notes).
2. Then work the **Worked Problem(s)** at the end of the chapter in the textbook, followed by the assigned tutorial questions (posted weekly on OWL with answers, found under Resources>Tutorial Questions), and finally the assigned MyEconLab homework questions (refer to the previous page of this syllabus for details of how to access these MyEconLab homework questions). The Worked Problems, tutorial questions and assigned MyEconlab homework questions will not be graded, but are vital in doing well in the course. So why the importance of working questions? Because economics requires active learning. The quizzes and final exam will test students not on their ability to memorize the course material but rather on their ability to understand and use logical step-by-step reasoning to arrive at answers. Passively reading the textbook and lecture notes rarely results in a passing grade.
3. If you have any questions, post them in the online Forum rather than emailing your TA or myself. Your classmates will be happy to discuss your question(s) with you, which will also be monitored by your TAs and myself to address unanswered questions or, if necessary, to correct answers provided by other students.
4. Remember you can always email me if you require additional assistance or if there are personal matters you wish to discuss. I monitor my email account closely every weekday, and you should typically expect a reply within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
5. (Optional) **Academic Success Program- Economics:** Please note that during first term, this course is participating in the Academic Success Program. The program runs in parallel to our course and is designed to facilitate connections with your online classmates, enhance your academic skills, and communicate tools and campus resources that can assist in your successful transition to Western. Each registered student has been placed in a group, and each group has been assigned a Peer Leader, an upper year student who has completed this course in the past. If you haven’t already heard from your Peer Leader, you can expect to hear from them in the coming days. Your active participation in weekly programming with your group and Peer Leader is encouraged but optional; please plan to participate for 1-1.5 hours each week of first term, excluding the Fall Reading Week. Please send any questions regarding this program to your Peer Leader or ase@uwo.ca.

Copyright:

Course materials are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes. Students may not reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.

Statement on Recording of Remote Learning Sessions:

Some/All of the remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal

identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Online Etiquette:

Some components of this course may involve online interactions (typically through one-on-one zoom office hours, but can potentially involve a group of students). To ensure the best experience, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- please “arrive” to the meeting on time
- please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- [for group meetings] to minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire meeting until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- [for group meetings larger than 30 students] In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire meeting unless you are invited to speak
- [suggested for cases where video is used] please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the meeting and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- if you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- self-identify when speaking.
- remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the meeting.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the meeting and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately. Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online meetings, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a meeting or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences 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 Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a first term half course:

Thursday September 17, 2020

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Thursday November 12, 2020

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:
[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.