

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
ECONOMICS 1021A-650
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2024

General Information:

Instructor: Emilie Rivers
Office: 4080 SSC
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 85276
E-mail: erivers5@uwo.ca
Office hours: Mondays, 10:00AM-12:00PM in SSC 4080
[Students may attend via Zoom if they notify me via email in advance]
Delivery mode: Online asynchronous class with in-person Final Exam
Course website: westernu.brightspace.com
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4078 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. The former Economics 1020 is an anti-requisite.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you have taken the anti-requisite course, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

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.

Textbook and Course Materials:

Textbook (available as an eText): *MICROECONOMICS Canada in the Global Environment*, 12th Edition, by Michael Parkin and Robin Bade

MyLab Economics (Required for assessments)

- Access code with eText access can be purchased from The Book Store at Western, or from the Pearson website during the registration process.
- Students must register for MyLab using their UWO email address and student number. (Registration instructions are available on the course website.)

Technical Requirements and Support:

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone required for students who would like to attend online office hours.
- Webcam may be required for online tests.
- For technical support, contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>) or see the OWL Brightspace help page (<https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/student/>).
- Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Communication:

- Students should check the course website for newly posted course material at the start of each week (Monday, except in the case of a holiday)
- Students should check the course website for announcements multiple times per week. Students should have email instant notifications turned on for new announcements and updated announcements in their OWL Brightspace notification settings.

- Students are expected to check their UWO email daily.
- Students should post all course-related content questions on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions.
- Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions on the forums. The forums will be monitored by the instructor or teaching assistant to correct and/or supplement answers provided by students. Questions not answered by other students will receive a response from the instructor or teaching assistant after about 48 hours.
- For questions unrelated to course content, please contact the instructor via email from your UWO email account. Students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Chapters
1 (partial week)	Sept 5-6	1-2
2	Sept 9-13	1-2 (cont.)
3	Sept 16-20	3
4	Sept 23-27	4
5	Oct 1-4	5
6	Oct 7-11	6
Reading Week	Oct 14-18	none
7	Oct 21-25	9
8	Oct 28-Nov 1	10
9	Nov 4-8	11
10	Nov 11-15	12
11	Nov 18-22	14
12	Nov 25-29	17
13	Dec 2-6	Review Week

*Some chapters will have topics omitted. Details on chapter coverage will be provided on the course website.

Assessments and Grading:

The tentative date, coverage and weight of the assessments in the calculation of your course mark are as follows:

Assessment	Date	Chapters	Weight
Test 1 (Online)	Oct 8	Ch. 1-5	25%
Test 2 (Online)	Nov 12	Ch. 6, 9-11	25%
Final Exam (In Person)	TBD	Ch. 1-6, 9-12, 14, 17	50%

Tentative Test 1 and 2 Details: Tests will be mixed format. Tests will be 75 minutes in duration and will be available on MyLab Economics at 8:00-10:00PM Eastern Time on the date indicated in the table above.

Students should keep this schedule and workload in mind given their other courses and commitments. Students should plan ahead to ensure that they have the capacity to complete the tests on these dates. Students should notify the instructor of conflicts with either test date no later than September 27.

Tentative Final Exam Details: The Final Exam will be cumulative and will be held in person. The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. Once the date and time of the Final Exam is available, it will be announced on the course website. Students with a Final Exam conflict must inform the instructor within one week of the announcement of the Final Exam date.

During assessments, students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor. Students are forbidden from using any books, notes, study guides, diagrams, communication equipment such as a cell phone, computer programs or software, online resources or websites, or other aids unless specifically authorized by the instructor. Such authorization must be stated explicitly in the assessment instructions. Students may use a non-graphing, non-programmable calculator on all assessments.

Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:

Students with an approved absence from Test 1 or Test 2 will have the weight of the missed test reallocated to the Final Exam. Students who miss both tests are likely not to have met the course learning outcomes and will not be permitted to pass the course, regardless of whether the test absences were approved. In this case, students will be debarred from writing the Final Exam.

Students with an approved absence from the Final Exam will be required to write a make-up exam. The make-up Final Exam may differ in length and format from the regularly scheduled Final Exam.

Students who miss any assessments must follow Western University's procedures for approval of their absence in order to receive an accommodation. Please see pp. 6-8 of this syllabus for details on these procedures. If Western University announces any procedures for the approval of absences during Fall 2024 that supplement or supplant the information provided on this syllabus, please follow those procedures. Any assessments missed without approval will receive a mark of zero.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct.
- All course materials, including notes and outlines, handouts, videos, practice exercises, assessments, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute any course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

1. Start each week by reading the assigned textbook chapter(s). Then read the course notes provided for you. The course notes are a synopsis of the chapter. They do not contain all of the material that you need to know! You must read the textbook.
2. Work as many problems as you need to do to feel comfortable with the material. There are problems on MyLab Economics, at the end of the chapter in the textbook, and on the course website. There is no lack of problems to work on! Economics requires active learning. Passively reading the textbook rarely results in a passing grade.
3. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you have questions or are struggling with a topic, post them on the discussion forum. Your classmates will be happy to discuss your question with you, and the teaching assistant and I will check the Forum to make sure that no one will lead you astray.
4. Make it a daily habit to log onto the course website to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and meet on a weekly basis for study and peer support.

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024

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

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. A [*new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students **cannot** self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
4. **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 suspension or expulsion.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

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 4.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. 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 proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. **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.
9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to **DROP/WITHDRAW** first term full or half course: **Mon, Dec 2, 2024**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), 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](#).
- **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. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** 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.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **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.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.