

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
ECONOMICS EC1021A-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2020

General Information:

Instructor: Shahed Khan
Office: 4050 SSC
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 85349
E-mail: mkhan333@uwo.ca
Office hours: Office hours will be held online using Zoom
Mondays 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm ET (Eastern Time)
Delivery mode: Online asynchronous lectures and in-person tutorials
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or 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:

The goal of this course is to introduce the principles and methods of economics with emphasis on microeconomic theory. Topics include general and basic concepts of demand and supply, utility analysis and demand, production and costs, pricing in competitive and monopolistic markets, and government regulation.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Use production possibility theory to explain scarcity, choice, tradeoffs, opportunity costs and economic growth.
- Define the principles of demand and supply, and explain how the market forces of supply and demand cause prices to be what they are.

- Understand how consumers and firms interact to reach equilibrium in different markets for goods and services.
- Explain the concept of marginal cost, how it relates to average cost and other costs, and how costs for the firm differ in the short and long run.
- Explain how externalities could affect the efficiency of markets, and what can be done to improve the efficiency of markets in which externalities exist.
- Discuss how public goods can be provided and how prices of common resources are determined.

Required Course Materials:

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

MyEconLab (MEL): www.pearsonmlabandmastering.com (**REQUIRED for assessments**)

Course ID: khan72765

Access code can be purchased with a new textbook, with an eText access, or separately.

You must register for MEL using your **UWO email and student number**. Students 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 in no way be considered for grading.

Technical Requirements:

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone
- Webcam

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>)

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Assessments and Grading:

All regularly scheduled assessments in this course will be held online on MEL or OWL (under special circumstances). Instructions on how to access MEL are found on the course website under Resources. The tentative coverage, date, length and weight of the assessments in the calculation of your course grade are as follows:

Assessment	Tentative Date*	Tentative Coverage	Tentative Time Window*	Length	Weight
Quiz 1	Sept 29	Ch. 1-3	6 PM – 8 PM ET	1 hour	15%
Quiz 2	Oct 20	Ch. 4-6	6 PM – 8 PM ET	1 hour	15%
Quiz 3	Nov 17	Ch. 9-11	6 PM – 8 PM ET	1 hour	16%
Quiz 4	Dec 8	Ch. 12-14, 17	6 PM – 8 PM ET	1 hour	14%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office	Ch. 1-6, 9-14, 17	To be determined	2 hours	40%

*The dates/times of the quizzes are tentative and subject to change.

The quizzes and final exam will be mixed format (a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions). Each quiz will be available to students for **two hours** on the date of the quiz. Once you begin the quiz you will have **1 hour** or until the **closing time** whichever is shorter to complete the quiz. Students will only be allowed to submit each quiz once.

Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:

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 who miss the final exam, with approved documentation will write a zoom proctored makeup final exam that may differ in format from the original scheduled final exam and may be delivered on a different platform.

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.

Contacting the Instructor:

My office hours are listed on page 1. Please feel free to join to my Zoom office hours using **UWO e-mail** to seek help or to discuss matters related to the course. If my scheduled office hours conflict with your schedule, you can request an appointment with me via email. Please insure that your email has subject line starting with "EC 1021," this will minimize the risk of your email being overlooked or perceived as spam.

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
- 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)

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.

Contingency Plan:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining in-person tutorials will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change.

Topics Covered and Readings:

The course will closely follow the required textbook (see above). The tentative outline is as follows:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| Ch. 1 | What is Economics? (including Ch. 1 appendix) |
| Ch. 2 | The Economic Problem |

Ch. 3	Demand and Supply (including Ch. 3 mathematical note)
Ch. 4	Elasticity
Ch. 5	Efficiency and Equity
Ch. 6	Government Actions in Markets
Ch. 9	Possibilities, Preferences, and Choices
Ch. 10	Output and Costs
Ch. 11	Perfect Competition
Ch. 12	Monopoly
Ch. 13	Monopolistic Competition
Ch. 14	Oligopoly
Ch. 17	Markets for Factors of Production

Note: Some material in some chapters will be excluded, which will be announced as the course progresses.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, 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 record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other 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:

- Start each week by reading the assigned textbook chapter(s). Then read the lecture notes which summarize the main points of each chapter.
- Treat this course as you would do a face-to-face course. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or notes in a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching.
- Work out practice questions on MEL and assigned problems at the end of each chapter in the textbook.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you have any questions or are struggling with a topic, post them on the online Forum. 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.
- Remember you can always email me if you require additional assistance. I monitor my email account closely every day, and you should typically expect a reply within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

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.

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.