

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

September 2021

General Information:

Instructor: Irene Trela
Office: 4081 SSC
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext.85054
E-mail: itrela@uwo.ca
Office hours: M 10:30-12:30

- in person (simply drop by my office during scheduled office hours)
- online using zoom (must be arranged in advance via email)

Classroom meeting

time(s) & location: M, W 9:30-10:30 SSC 2050

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:

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 Textbook and Online Resources:

Michael Parkin and Robin Bade, *Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment* (packaged with MyLab Economics and Pearson eText), 10th edition, Pearson Canada Inc., 2019

MyLab Economics (**REQUIRED FOR ASSESSMENTS** and to access assigned homework questions)

- website: <http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com>
- Course ID: trela49660
- Access code comes with the purchase of a new textbook (paperback or e-text), or can be purchased separately
- To register for MyLab Economics for Economics 1021A-002-Fall 2021 (course ID: trela49660), see the student registration handout for MyLab Economics on the course website <http://owl.uwo.ca> under Resources>MyLab Economics.
- Students must register for MyLab Economics using their **UWO email and UWO student number** (Registration instructions are available on OWL). **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 associated with that account will also be removed, and permanently.**

Below is the link to the paperback and e-book versions of the textbook (and accompanying MyLab Economics access code) that students can purchase through the Book Store:

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=002_UW/ECO1021A

Technical Requirements:

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

This equipment is needed for the following purposes: (1) to access the resources and announcements on OWL, (2) to participate in virtual office hours using Zoom, (3) to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances. One such circumstance is that, if due to Covid 19 there is another lockdown and classes return to virtual, students may be required write exams on OWL and scan or take pictures of handwritten answers and either send these images to the instructor via email or upload them onto OWL.

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (call in for assistance at 519 661-3800 or create a Service Desk ticket at <https://jira.uwo.ca/servicedesk/>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL.

Assessments and Grading:

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

Assessment	Tentative Date	Tentative Time Window	Allotted Time	Weight
Quiz 1	Oct 1	Oct 1 12AM ET to Oct 2 11:59PM ET	20 minutes	3.33%
Midterm 1	Oct 17	1-3PM ET	2 hours	25%
Quiz 2	Oct 29	Oct 29 12AM ET to Oct 30 11:59PM ET	20 minutes	3.33%
Midterm 2	Nov 14	1-3PM ET	2 hours	25%
Quiz 3	Nov 26	Nov 26 12AM ET to Nov 27 11:59PM ET	20 minutes	3.34%
Final Exam	TBA	TBA	2 hours	40%

The dates/times of the quizzes and exams are tentative and subject to change. Students will be notified once the dates/times are officially scheduled by the Registrar’s Office. Coverage will be ascertained closer to the assessment date.

ET refers to Eastern Time.

The quizzes will be mixed format (a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions) and open book, and will be administered online via MyLab Economics (instructions on how to access MyLab Economics can be found on the course website under Resources>MyLab Economics). Each quiz will be available to students for 48 hours beginning on the date of the quiz. Once you begin the quiz you will have 20 minutes or until the closing time whichever is shorter to complete the quiz. Students will only be allowed to submit each quiz once.

The midterm and final exams will be multiple choice, with a mix of theory questions (in multiple choice format), true and false statements (in multiple choice format), problems (in multiple choice format), and questions based on information presented in graphs (in multiple choice

format). The exams will be closed book and will be held in-person. Building and room numbers will be announced at a later date.

Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:

There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. Students with an approved absence from a quiz will have the weight of the missed quiz transferred to the succeeding exam that covers the same material.

Students who miss an exam (midterm or final), with approved documentation will be required to write a makeup exam that will be in the same format as the original scheduled exam.

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

Course Website:

<http://owl.uwo.ca>: This site gives you access to lecture notes, textbook readings, homework questions (questions from MyLab Economics that you should work to do well on quizzes and exams), and announcements (i.e. midterm exam scheduling and room allocations, class cancellations, and other important announcements). **The lecture notes posted on the course website are supplementary material and should not be regarded as a substitute for lectures. There will be a significant amount of additional material covered in class that is NOT in the lecture notes posted on OWL.**

Course Outline (for a detailed reading list, see the course website under Resources>Textbook Readings):

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

Final Exam: cumulative, covering Chs. 1-6, 9-14, 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 attending class and reading the assigned textbook chapter(s), which can be found on OWL under Resources>Textbook Readings. Make use of the lecture notes provided to you, and be sure you attend class to obtain the answers to ‘Some Additional Questions to Consider’(answers not otherwise provided); both the lecture notes and ‘Some Additional Questions to Consider’ 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** (taken up weekly during your Friday tutorial sessions; questions and answers not otherwise provided). Finally work the assigned MyLab Economics **homework questions** (refer to the previous page of this syllabus for details of how to access these MyLab Economics homework questions). The Worked Problems, tutorial questions and assigned MyLab Economics homework questions will not be graded, but are vital in doing well in the course. But why the importance of working questions? Because economics requires active learning. The quizzes and exams 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, you have 3 options: (1) email me at itrela@uwo.ca (2) drop by my office during scheduled office hours, or (3) pre-book a zoom session with me. Note: I monitor my email account closely every day (including weekends and holidays), and you should typically expect a quick reply during weekdays, and within 24 hours on weekends and holidays.
4. (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.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2021

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. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
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 suspension or expulsion.
4. **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 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
6. **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.

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**:

Deadline to add a first term half course:
Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Thursday September 16, 2021
Friday November 12, 2021

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

- The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.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. Self-Reported Absences cannot be used once a student has proceeded to start to write a test or exam.
- **Self-Reported Absences:** Students will have two opportunities during the fall and winter terms to receive academic consideration if they self-report a missed assessment using the online self-reported absence portal, provided the following conditions are met: the assessment is missed due to an absence of 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 otherwise 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., final exams)
 - absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
 - assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
 - if the student has opened or started the test or exam
 - if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the fall/winter terms

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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.

- **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. **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.**
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)
- **Student Medical Certificate (SMC):** This form is available here: 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.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unity 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.