

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics – Fall 2018
Econ 101: Introduction to Microeconomics (Section 003)
Monday, Wednesday & Friday – 02:30-3:20 p.m. – STP 105

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Zara Liaqat
Office: Room 162, Hagey Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday – 1:00-2:00 p.m.
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Note:

- (a) When sending an email, “Econ 101” must appear in the subject line and the message must include your full name and student ID number.
- (b) Please use emails for administrative matters only. I will be available during office hours, or by appointment, to discuss course material.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to microeconomic analysis relevant for understanding the Canadian economy. The behavior of individual consumers and producers, the determination of market prices for commodities and resources, and the role of government policy in the functioning of the market system are the main topics covered.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Microeconomics is the study of economic behavior of individual consumers and firms, and the distribution of total production and income among them. It involves determination of price through the optimizing behavior of economic agents, with consumers maximizing utility and firms maximizing profit. The general concern of microeconomics is the efficient allocation of scarce resources among alternative uses. The focus of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles/theories of microeconomics. At the end of the course, students should be able to understand:

- the theory of supply and demand
- how scarce factors of production are allocated to different firms
- consumer behaviour
- competitive and mixed market structures
- how the produced goods and services are distributed to consumers
- the role of government in the market economy

Course Webpage

This course outline is available at two locations for the duration of the term:

- (a) Department of Economics website <http://economics.uwaterloo.ca/courses>
- (b) LEARN website <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/> (use WatIAM/Quest username and password)

Readings Available on LEARN

- Lecture overhead slides and/or additional course material will be posted on the LEARN web site <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>.
- The LEARN site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. Always be prepared!

- Students writing test and exams are responsible to save course materials on LEARN before the access to their courses is shut off (normally on the first day of classes of the next term).

Required Text

We will be using the custom-built interactive textbook Top Hat Microeconomics for this class. Additionally, we will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/299510>

Note: Our Course Join Code is 299510.

Top Hat may require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing. Your textbook will be applied at checkout for an additional **\$45**. Don't worry if you don't see any content in the course right away, I will make it available to you as we progress through the semester.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Notes from the UW Book Store:

For ordering purposes, here are the ISBNs to provide to the bookstore:

Top Hat Textbook ISBN: 978-1-77330-093-1

Top Hat 1 Semester Subscription ISBN: 978-0-9866151-0-8

Course Requirements and Assessment

The course grade will be based on two midterm exams and a final exam which will be held during the Official Examination Schedule. The detailed breakdown is as follows:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Midterm Exam 1	Wednesday, October 3th, 2018	20%
Midterm Exam 2	Monday, November 5th, 2018	20%
Textbook Homework Questions	N.A.	5%
Class Participation	N.A.	5%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	T.B.A.	50%
Total		100%

- Participation is recommended and it will be monitored through the online tool Top Hat (see section above). The primary purpose of this tool in this class is to enhance the feedback mechanism between students and the instructor so that we can identify areas that may require special focus.
- The date and time for the final exam will be set by the Registrar during the exam period and announced in class and on LEARN.

- The exams will include all multiple choices questions.
- Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the assigned textbook readings and presented as lecture contents.
- You will be expected to use simple algebra, interpret and manipulate graphs, and think abstractly about issues and policies.
- Attend all the lectures and actively participate in class. Studying just from the lectures slides is not a substitute of attending lectures. Attendance is an important component in ensuring your complete understanding of the material presented.
- Read the textbook and other assigned readings and go through your lecture notes. Some of the materials covered during lectures may NOT be available in lecture slides.
- Work out all optional assignments and practice questions in the textbook and on the textbook's website. These are meant for helping you prepare for the exams.

Course Outline – List of Topics and Chapters

Chapter 1: What is Economics?

Wants and Scarcity, Microeconomics & Macroeconomics, Choices and tradeoffs, Result of Scarcity - Opportunity Cost, Economic Role for Government

Chapter 2: An Economic Model

Opportunity cost and Production possibility curve, Diminishing Marginal Returns, Technical and Allocative Efficiency, Economic Efficiency and Production Possibilities Frontiers

Chapter 4: Demand and Supply

Law of demand & demand curve, change in quantity demanded and change in demand, law of supply and supply curve, change in quantity supplied and change in supply, Equilibrium price and quantity

Chapter 5: Elasticity

Price elasticity of demand and price elasticity of supply, Total revenue test, Income elasticity and cross elasticity of demand, Price Ceilings and Floors, Taxes and Subsidies

Chapter 6: Utility and Demand

Total utility and marginal utility, Marginal utility theory and predictions of marginal utility theory, Income and Substitution Effects, Consumer Surplus, Paradox of value

Chapter 7: Inputs, Production, and Costs (Behind Supply)

Inputs and Outputs, Product curves (total product curve, marginal product curve and average product curve, Short run cost curves, Using Cost and Product Analysis

Chapter 8: Inputs, Products and Costs in the Long Run

A Rule for Choosing the Least-Cost Combination of Inputs, Output and Costs in the Long Run, Graphing Long-Run Average Costs, Shifts in Cost Curves

Chapter 9: Perfect Competition

Types of Markets, Characteristics of perfect competition, Profit maximizing condition for short run and long run, Break-even point and shut down point, The Firm Supply to the Market Supply

Chapter 10: Monopoly

Characteristics of monopoly market and monopoly's output and price decision, Natural monopoly, Price discrimination, and Comparing price and output between monopoly and perfect competition

Chapter 11: Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly

Characteristics of monopolistic competition, and Price and output in monopolistic competition, What is oligopoly? Cheating on the Agreement to Act Like a Monopoly, A Payoff Matrix

Chapter 13: The Economic Role of Government

Negative externalities, Positive externalities, and Over/Under Production, Public Goods, Government Failures, Conflicting Goals

Chapter 16: Why International Trade *[if time permits]*

Specialization, Absolute and Comparative Advantage, Benefits and Costs of Protection

Tentative Class Schedule

The following schedule is meant as a rough guideline. Short-term goals will be announced regularly.

Week	Topic	Readings Due
1	Course presentation & What is Economics?	Chapter 1
2	An Economic Model	Chapter 2
3	Demand and Supply	Chapter 4
4	Elasticity & Review	Chapter 5
4	Midterm Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2 & 4)	October 3, 2018, Wednesday
5	Utility and Demand	Chapter 6
6	Inputs, Production, and Costs (Behind Supply)	Chapter 7
7	Inputs, Products and Costs in the Long Run	Chapter 8
8	Perfect Competition	Chapter 9
9	Monopoly & Review	Chapter 10
9	Midterm Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8)	November 5, 2018, Monday
10	Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly	Chapter 11
11	The Economic Role of Government	Chapter 13
12	International Trade & Course review	Chapter 16

Examination Policy

- Failure to write an exam results in a grade of zero. Exceptions will only be made under the most extreme circumstances, with a written note, and according to the policies of the department of economics and faculty of Arts.
- Students must report to me the reasons for not writing an exam prior to the exam date or immediately after the exam for my approval.

- Travel plans are not an acceptable reason for requesting an alternative final exam. See <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html> for details.

Submission of Exam Papers

Late submission of exam papers is not accepted and missed submissions will receive a zero mark for whatever reason. Exam papers must be submitted in whole and on time in the exam room. Exam papers:

- (a) not submitted on time,
- (b) submitted with missing pages,
- (c) submitted elsewhere, with the exception of students with permission to write in the AS Office,
- (d) not received at all

will receive a grade of zero for whatever reason. It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they write exams in the location, date, and time assigned to their sections. Students writing exams in the wrong section will be assessed a 20% penalty on the final exam grade. There will be no accommodation for possible differences in exam material or content.

Missing a Midterm During the Term

- Missing a midterm will automatically result in a grade of zero for that midterm. If the illness can be documented with a UW Verification of Illness Form (the only acceptable document), with approval you may transfer the weight of the missed midterm to the final exam. This remedy is a privilege and not a right.
- Students are advised to notify the instructor in person about the missed exam as soon as they feel better. Email notification about the missed exam is not accepted.
- **You must write at least one midterm to pass the course.**
- Midterms will not be rescheduled under any circumstances.

Missing the Final Exam

- Missing the final exam is a very serious matter which automatically results in a grade of zero for the final exam and possibly a failing grade for the course. Please carefully read the Economics Department policy on deferred final exams for instructions.
- No deferred final exam will be provided for students who missed all the exams (including the final exam) in this course.

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

Electronic Device Policy

- Photographic devices are not permitted in class; this is a university regulation.
- Laptop computers may only be used to view lecture material.
- Audio or video recording devices are not permitted in class due to copyright and privacy concerns.

Grades

Exam marks will be posted on Learn. Posting grades in public places or sending grades by e-mail are prohibited by university regulations.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: [The AccessAbility Services office](#), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655

- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.