

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
Econ 101: Introduction to Microeconomics (Section 002)
Winter 2024
Class Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:50 pm
Classroom: M3 1006

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alain-Desire Nimubona

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Office Phone: 519-888-4567, ext. 33949

Email: animubona@uwaterloo.ca

- When sending an email to the instructor, please always use your university email address and write “ECON 101” in the subject line of the email. Please also include your name and student ID number in your email message.

Office Hours: Thursday & Friday, 2:30 - 3:30 pm, or by appointment

- Office hours are the appropriate venue for asking questions about the material from the course. Email is an inefficient method for communicating course content, and I will not respond to questions regarding the material other than during class and office hours.

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce students to the theory of consumer choice, the economics of production, the determination of price and output, as well as the role of the government in the market economy. This is primarily a theoretical course, but real-world examples will be used whenever possible to illustrate key concepts.

Course objectives

At the end of the course, every student should be able to:

- Understand and apply the demand-and-supply model to explain real world problems;
- Understand consumers and producers decision-making processes;
- Analyse consumers’ wellbeing and firms’ performance in different market structures;
- Understand the rationale as well as the consequences of government intervention in the market system.

Textbook

The students’ main support for this course will be the following textbook:

Parkin, M. and R. Bade (2022). *Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment*, Eleventh Edition. Pearson Education Canada.

This textbook will be available for purchase at the university bookstore. It is required that students read suggested chapters from the textbook (as provided in brackets in the course outline below) before each

class. Students who opt to use earlier versions of the textbook are responsible to make sure that they read the appropriate chapters.

Lecture notes, which will be provided as a complement - not a substitute- to the textbook, will be posted on the Waterloo Learn website <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>. Any additional course materials (news, updates, announcements) will also be posted on the Learn website. Please note that the Learn website is down occasionally. It is therefore the students' responsibility to save the course materials to their computer as soon as they are posted.

Other Relevant Course Material (Optional)

The textbook is accompanied with a Study-Guide or FlexText (see below) and a prepaid MyEconLab Student Access Card.

Cohen, A. J. (2019). *Microeconomics FlexText*. Pearson.

MyEconLab is an online homework and tutorial system that helps students to test their understanding of the course material. The use of both this prepaid online service and the study guide is **optional**.

Tentative Course Schedule and Suggested Readings

Note: some topics may require more or less emphasis than planned initially. To reflect that need, this schedule may be updated as we move through the term.

WEEK 1 (Jan 8 and 10) AND WEEK 2 (Jan 15 and 17)

What is Economics (Ch. 1)

The Economic Problem (Ch. 2)

WEEK 3 (Jan 22 and 24) AND WEEK 4 (Jan 29 and 31)

Demand and Supply (Ch. 3)

Elasticity (Ch. 4)

WEEK 5 (Feb 5 and 7) AND WEEK 6 (Feb 12)

Utility and Demand (Ch. 8)

Possibilities, Preferences, and Choices (Ch. 9)

WEEK 6 (Feb 14): MIDTERM 1

READING WEEK (Feb 19-23)

WEEK 7 (Feb 26 and 28)

Output and Costs (Ch. 10)

WEEK 8 (March 4 and 6)

Perfect Competition (Ch. 11)

WEEK 9 (March 11 and 13)

Monopoly (Ch. 12)

WEEKS 10 (March 18 and 20) AND WEEK 11 (March 25)

Monopolistic Competition (Ch. 13)

Oligopoly (Ch. 14)

WEEK 11 (March 27): MIDTERM 2**WEEK 12 (April 1 and 3)**

Government Actions in Markets (Ch. 6)

Externalities (Ch. 15)

Course Requirements and Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on the following activities: two midterm tests to be written during class time and a final exam to be scheduled by the registrar. The midterms will cover all material discussed in class up to the midterm date. More details about the topics to be reviewed for each midterm will be provided in class. The **final exam will be cumulative**, i.e. it will cover all material discussed in class during the entire term.

The overall mark for the course will be determined as follows:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Location	Weighting
Midterm #1	Wednesday, February 14	M3 1006	25%
Midterm #2	Wednesday, March 27	M3 1006	25%
Final Exam	TBA	TBA	50%
Total			100%

Policy on Missed Tests

No make-up tests will be provided for the midterms. Students who miss a midterm due to a non-pandemic-related illness and do not have a relevant medical justification (a UW Verification of Illness Form (VIF) is required) will receive a mark of zero. Please submit your VIF to the instructor within 10 calendar days. Students with a valid medical justification will have the weight of the relevant midterm added to their final exam. If a student misses the final exam, the resulting procedure is outlined in the Economics department's Deferred Final Exam Policy, <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/undergraduate/deferred-final-exam-policy>

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they write exams in the location, date, and time assigned to their section. 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.

Electronic Device Policy

The classroom is a handheld-device-free zone. Please turn off all handheld devices and put them away for the duration of the lecture. Laptop computers may only be used to view lecture material. Photographic devices as well as audio or video recording devices are not permitted in class due to copyright and privacy issues.

Policy on Remarking of Tests

If you feel that your test was not marked properly, you must advise the instructor within 6 calendar days of the date on which the test results are posted on LEARN. Any student that asks for a test remarking should understand that the entire test would be remarked and that their grade may improve, remain unchanged or perhaps even decrease as a result of the remarking process.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an integral part of your educational experience. While attendance is not an explicitly graded component of this course, it is an important factor in ensuring your complete understanding of the material presented. Students are responsible for all material presented in the scheduled lecture periods whether they choose to attend lectures or not. If a student misses a class for whatever reason, it is her/his own responsibility to make sure that s/he gets access to all the material and information discussed in class.

Cross-listed Course (if applicable)

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.

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 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.

Applications for Accommodation

Students applying for accommodation due to illness or extenuating circumstances should submit their documentation (verification of illness forms, narratives concerning circumstances) to the Arts Undergrad Office using the form available at: [Accommodations for illness or extenuating circumstances | Arts \(uwaterloo.ca\)](#)

Instructors have a VIF system window linked to Quest that lists students' exemptions (including self-declared absences). Both the category of exemption granted, and the relevant dates appear in the

system. This procedure is meant to protect student privacy. For further information on the process, see the page listed above.

Discretion regarding the form the accommodation takes rests with the course instructor. Guidelines are described in the course calendar:

[Undergraduate Studies Calendar | University of Waterloo \(uwaterloo.ca\)](#)

Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the [Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory](#).

Declaring Absences

For all of the following categories of absence students are responsible for getting in touch with their course instructors as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations for missed course component(s). The course instructor will determine how the missed work is accommodated. Absences will be accommodated according to the [accommodation guidelines section of the undergraduate calendar](#).

If you are unable to complete a course component due to [self-declared COVID-related reasons](#) or [a two-day short-term absence](#) then you should submit a self-declaration of absence through [Quest](#).

If your absence is due to an [illness not pandemic-related](#), then a [UW Verification of Illness form](#), completed by a health professional, must be uploaded and submitted through the [Verification of Illness or Extenuating Circumstances Process](#). The VIF is the only acceptable documentation for an absence due to illness. Do not submit the VIF or any other medical documentation to your instructors, teaching assistants, or other course personnel.

If your absence is due to other [extenuating circumstances](#) (e.g., bereavement), then you must submit all documentation related to the absence (e.g., obituary) through the [Verification of Illness or Extenuating Circumstances Process](#).

Submission through the VIF or Extenuating Circumstances System, once approved, will notify your instructors of your absence. However, you are responsible for contacting instructors to discuss accommodation arrangements.

Accommodating Religious and Spiritual Observances

The University of Waterloo has a duty to [accommodate religious, spiritual, and other creed-based beliefs and practices](#) under the Ontario Human Rights Commission (2015) [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](#). Students may seek accommodations for missed course components on religious, spiritual,

or other creed grounds. In such cases the students should please consult the instructor within two weeks of the announcement of the due date for which the accommodation is being sought.

Mental Health Support

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

On campus supports

For counselling (individual or group) reach out to [Campus Wellness and Counselling Services](#). Counselling Services strives to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Other on-campus supports

- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information
- [Empower Me](#): to access create an account on the Dialogue mobile app or on the web at www.studentcare.ca/dialogue
- [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Centre](#) - supports all members of the University of Waterloo campus community who have experienced or been impacted by sexual violence.

Off campus supports

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300
- [St. Mary's Hospital](#) - 519-744-3311
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- 988 Suicide Crisis Helpline: a 24/7 urgent mental health care three-digit helpline
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual (@SLGBTQIA+) and questioning kids, teens, adults, and their families in Waterloo Region. Phone: 519-884-0000 or e-mail ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca
- [Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region](#) - offers individual counselling to people of all genders, 16+ who have been sexually assaulted at any point in their lives. As well as short-term support for family members or friends of sexual assault survivors. Also, information and referrals

More information about resources and supports for students can be found online in on the [Faculty of Arts Student Support](#) page.

Anti-Racism Statement

The University of Waterloo does not tolerate racism or any other form of discrimination and expects campus community members to contribute to a culture where all members feel safe and valued. Any member of the campus community who has experienced racism or discrimination at the University is encouraged to review available processes for addressing their concerns under Policy 33 – Ethical Behaviour and to seek guidance from the Equity Office via email at equity@uwaterloo.ca or through their [website](#).

Academic Freedom at the University of Waterloo

[Policy 33 -- Ethical Behaviour](#) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein are used to enhance a student’s educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner’s permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for written permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. It is also forbidden to share the material listed above from a previous iteration of a course with a student presently enrolled in the course, unless you have the instructor’s written permission to do so. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Pronouns and Chosen or Preferred First Name

Students can verify their chosen or preferred first name and pronouns by logging into [WatIAM](#). Your chosen or preferred first name and pronouns listed in WatIAM will be used across campus (e.g., in LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc.). Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents, such as diplomas and transcripts.

Students can view and change their pronouns in [Quest](#). Should you choose to include your pronouns in Quest, your pronouns will be accessible by instructors, advisors, and employees with access to Quest. If no pronoun is added, the field in Quest will remain blank.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community 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](#).