

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Econ 101: Introduction to Microeconomics (Section 004)**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 -2:20 pm**  
**Classroom: STP 105**

**Instructor Information**

**Instructor:** Alain-Desire Nimubona

**Office:** HH 212

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

**Email:** animubona@uwaterloo.ca

When e-mailing the instructor, always use your university e-mail address. Please also write "ECON 101(001)" in the subject line of the e-mail, and include your name and student ID number.

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:30 -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 or in 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 (2019). Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment, Tenth Edition. Pearson.

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 web site <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>. Any additional course materials (news, updates, announcements) will also be posted on the Learn web site. Please note that the Learn site 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 this prepaid online service and/or the study guide is **optional**.

### **Topics and Suggested Readings**

1. Introduction
  - 1.1. What is Economics (Ch. 1)
  - 1.2. The Economic Problem (Ch. 2)
2. The Competitive Market
  - 2.1. The Demand and Supply Model (Ch. 3)
  - 2.2. Elasticity (Ch. 4)
3. The Theories of Consumer Behaviour
  - 3.1. The Marginal Utility Theory (Ch. 8)
  - 3.2. The Indifference Curve Theory (Ch. 9)
4. The Theory of the Firm
  - 4.1. Firms and Production (Ch. 10)
  - 4.2. Costs of Production (Ch. 10)
5. Market Structure
  - 5.1. Perfect Competition (Ch. 11)
  - 5.2. Monopoly (Ch. 12)
  - 5.3. Monopolistic Competition (Ch. 13)
  - 5.4. Oligopoly (Ch. 14)
6. Market Failure
  - 6.1. Government Intervention (Ch. 6)
  - 6.2. Externalities (Ch. 15)

### 6.3. Public Goods (Ch. 16).

#### **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	Thursday, October 3	STP 105	25%
Midterm #2	Thursday, November 7	STP 105	25%
Final Exam	TBA	TBA	50%
<b>Total</b>			100%

#### **Policy on Missed Tests**

No make-up tests will be provided for the midterm tests. Students who miss a midterm and do not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero. Students with a valid medical certificate 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/resources-and-policies/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.

## **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: (i) Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof); (ii) Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides); (iii) Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and (iv) 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 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. 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 or may not have already given their consent).

## **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.

## **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](#).

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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.