

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Summer 2020 – Term S1

Course # and Title AP/ECON 1000 A - Introduction to Microeconomics

Course Instructor/Contact

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Course Webpage

<https://moodle.yorku.ca> More information will be provided.

Technical requirements for taking the course:

Please note that this is an online course. The entire course, including the submission of assignments, participation/discussion and test-taking, will take place on the course's Moodle. You will need a computer with a RELIABLE internet connection. Phones and tablets WILL NOT WORK for the test and final exam.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)
[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
[Computing for Students Website](#)
[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Course Format and Lectures

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. The lectures will be delivered live at the scheduled lecture time and recorded. If you prefer, please feel free to not show your video and mute your microphone. The lecture recordings will be posted to the Moodle website.

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., Moodle, Canvas, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director / TA, as well as with one another. Please review the syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or in part), and how office hours and presentations will be conducted.

Students shall note the following:

Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.

If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session. The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

Technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle can be found here
- <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>”

The online midterm test will be held during the scheduled lecture time, so please make sure you are available at that time, as we WILL NOT accommodate individual requests for alternative dates/times (NO EXCEPTIONS will be made).

Lecture Time

Lecture Time: Monday - Wednesday
11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Prerequisite / Co-requisite

None.

Course Credit Exclusions

GL/ECON 2500 3.00 (prior to Fall 2014), SB/INTL 1200 3.00. Note: Acceptable course substitutes are available in the Calendar.

Course Description

Introduces 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. Note: Successful completion of this course, together with AP/ECON 1010 3.00, is required for all students who intend to pursue additional courses in economics at the 2000-, 3000-, and 4000-level and in order to pursue degree studies in economics, business economics, and financial and business economics.

Economics is fascinating because of its breadth. Like the psychologist, the economist is concerned with human behavior. Like the sociologist the economist is concerned with the behavior of groups. Like the political scientist, the economist is concerned about how the laws and policies generated by legal and political institutions affect our lives. Like the historian, the economist is concerned about how the past affect and gives context to the present. Like the natural scientist, the economist seeks an understanding of how resources and processes of the natural world affect humans. Like the mathematician, the economist uses the quantitative tools to describe and analyze. So, you can see there is little entirely outside the scope of economics. It is the basis to “the study of man in the ordinary business of life.

Our course has two (2) scheduled 3 hour classes each week. The option is yours to attend lectures or not, however you should be aware that this is a lecture driven course. Be aware it is obligatory that you attend the midterm test(s) and the final exam.

Lecture notes-in the form of power point, will be available on the course web site. These should not be a substitute for reading the appropriate chapters nor attending lectures. There is a reading schedule provided—it is based on specific topics and a specific text that are to be studied in a progressive order of information. The topics and volume of information are by no means limited to the text, or specific text. If you find that the style of the author is not conducive to your learning style feel free to search out alternate authors, as there are many, that offer a style you appreciate—the topics/theory are generic and not author specific. The lectures will be presented live on ZOOM and will be recorded for viewing at any time after the class.

(Possible exception of pre-recorded –notice will be given)

The online—MyEconLab-learning platform is a complete study package to be taken advantage of. It contains chapter by chapter notes, graph analysis and multiple choice questions.

The importance of MEL cannot be stressed enough. You should realize that the questions for test(s) and exams are similar in type and style as those found in MEL. Next to lectures, dealing with MEL is most important to not only prepare for test(s) and exams, but will be the platform for your graded quizzes.

The quizzes are designed to give you practice, positive reinforcement to build confidence, and most importantly, incentives to keep up with the material on a weekly basis, and not succumb to the time management problems that most first year students experience.

The format of test(s) and exams will be multiple choice. Realize that in doing multiple choice questions there is always one most correct answer. The wrong will not be taken from the right, so try all questions—you may surprise yourself. Being on line testing there will be very important instructions that it will be in your best interest to read and understand prior to beginning the test(s) and /or exams.

Last minute cramming, in Economics in particular could be considered a recipe for disappointment. The failure rate on the first term test is typically 25% --not a fault of the questions or the material but because many do not follow the advice offered. To help prevent this outcome, there will be online quizzes throughout the term that will offer fair opportunity for you to test your knowledge.

Weighting of Course

	Weight (%)
Warm-up/Follow-up Exercise	2
Homework	9
Quizzes (best 5 of 6)	15
Midterm	30
Final Exam	44

Warm-up & Follow-up Exercise

1% of grade: An online warmup exercise during the first week of class. The exercise involves answering questions about the adjustments to physical distancing and online learning. Its purpose is to learn more about how to help promote academic and personal success.

1% of grade: A follow-up second survey to the warm-up exercise that should take about 15 minutes to complete.

Homework

There are 4 online homework exercises worth 9% of the course grade. We will only count 3 of these homework assignments towards your grade, so each assignment is worth 3% of your course grade. This means that you can miss one homework assignment, without any impact on your grade. For each assignment that you miss after one missed assignment, you receive zero for 3% of your course grade. Each homework assignment involves successfully

completing a dynamic study module (DSM). The Dynamic Study Modules adapt to your performance and help you to focus on the specific concepts you find most challenging. The grades on these assignments are based solely on successful completion of the module/assignment. Successful completion of the assignment earns you 3%, otherwise you get a grade of zero.

Tentative Homework Due Dates & Coverage (dates may change as course progresses)

[for 1000 S1 2020]

Hwk 1-	May 21	Demand and Supply
Hwk 2-	May 28	Supply Curve: Inputs and Costs
Hwk 3-	Jun 4	Perfect Competition
Hwk 4-	Jun 11	Externalities

Quizzes

There are 6 online quizzes, worth in total 15% of the course grade. Only the best 5 quizzes count. If you miss a quiz, the other 5 quizzes count. There are no makeup quizzes. For every quiz you miss after one missed quiz, you receive zero for 3% of your course grade.

Tentative Quiz Dates and Coverage (dates may change as course progresses):

[for 1000 S1 2020]

Quiz 1 - May 17	Micro Chs 2,3
Quiz 2 - May 24	Micro Chs 4, 5.2-3 only, 6.1-3
Quiz 3 - May 31	Micro Chs 8,10
Quiz 4 - Jun 7	Micro Chs 11,12
Quiz 5 - Jun 14	Micro Chs 14.2,15
Quiz 6 - Jun 21	Micro Chs 16.1-2 only, 17.1-2 only

You cannot access any graded quiz until you have completed Quiz Zero with a perfect score of 100% and earned the required Mastery Points from doing Study Plan “Quiz Me” questions (see next section).

MEL Study Plan Assignments

You must do the Study Plan practice questions for each chapter. These multiple-choice questions give targeted feedback, depending on your answer, that will help you learn.

These Study Plan questions are not graded, but until you get a minimum number of Pearson “Mastery Points” from doing Study Plan “Quiz Me” questions, you will not get access to the graded quiz for that chapter and will lose those marks.

Online Midterm Test & Final Exam (during lecture time)

Midterm 30% of course grade. 65 minutes. 30 MC questions chosen by instructor.
Date: June 3rd. Covers material from Quizzes 1, 2 and 3.

Final Exam 44% of course grade. 100 minutes. 45 MC questions. Scheduled during the official exam period by the Registrar’s Office (June 24 - 26). Comprehensive, covering all course material.

Organization of the Course (Topics)

FOR ECON 1000

Micro Chapters in Parkin/Bade

- 1 What is Economics?
- 2 The Economic Problem
- 3 Demand and Supply
- 4 Elasticity
- 5 Efficiency and Equity (Only sections 2 & 3 on surplus & efficiency)
- 6 Government Actions in Markets (Only sections 1-3 on Housing Market w/ Rent Ceiling, Labour Market w/ Minimum Wage, Taxes)
- 8 Utility and Demand
- 10 Output and Costs
- 11 Perfect Competition
- 12 Monopoly
(entire chapter, including price discrimination and natural monopoly)
- 14 Oligopoly
(only section 2 on game theory -- Oligopoly Games)
- 15 Externalities
- 16 Public Goods and Common Resources (Only sections 1 & 2 – Classifying Goods and Resources & Public Goods)
- 17 Markets for Factors of Production
(only sections 1 and 2 -- intro to factor markets and marginal revenue product)

Note: There may be small changes to the reading list, which will be announced as the course progresses.

Course Text / Readings

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS FOR ECON 1000

- MicroEconomics: Canada in the Global Environment, 10th edition, by M. Parkin and R. Bade (Pearson, 2019).
- *MyEconLab* (Pearson 2019) Required for graded online quizzes worth approximately 15% of course grade, homework assignments worth 9% of course grade and for course website.

For Students taking ECON 1000

- A bundled package including the MicroEconomics Textbook with MyEconLab and E-text.
- Pearson has also arranged for a Student Value Package (unbound, loose leaf, three-hole punched text with MyEconLab, E-text) for students who wish to opt for the complete package at a lower cost.
- To save money, a digital only package containing E-text and MyEconLab is available at the York bookstore or online at www.MyEconLab.com.
- *MyEconLab* only – available from Pearson website.

For Students taking **ECON 1000 & ECON 1010**

- A bundled package including: bound Microeconomics text, bound Macroeconomics text, MyEconLab, E-text.
- Another value option: Loose leaf Microeconomics Text, Loose leaf Macroeconomics Text, MyEconLab, E-text.

Grading Policy

Historically, the average grade across all sections of Economics 1000/1010 is C+ (65-69 on the York scale).

The average course grade in each section of 1000 (or 1010) will reflect the relative performance of students in that section on the common part of the final examination.

- The average course grade for a section whose students perform above (below) average on the common part of the final examination will be higher (lower) than the average course grade for other sections.
- In cases where a section's average on the common part of the final exam is exceptionally high or low, that section average may be slightly higher than 69 or slightly lower than 65.

Average marks on each term test may vary considerably across sections.

- Term test marks are never adjusted.
- However, students in a section where the average mark on a term test is low are NOT disadvantaged.
- The average FINAL course grade awarded in each section, after adjustments, will reflect the performance of that student's section on the common part of the final examination.

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

Where to Get Help - ECON 1000/1010 Resources

The Department recommends several resources to students enrolled in the course to help them succeed. These include:

- **ECON Clinics:** The Econ Clinics are online sessions devoted to helping students succeed in ECON 1000/1010. Teaching Assistants are available to answer student questions or review practice questions on material covered in the course and pertaining to quizzes and tests. Extra clinic hours will be held before the midterm test and final exam. The clinic schedule is updated every term and can be found on the Moodle website.
- **Webinars:** Students enrolled in ECON 1000 and ECON 1010 will have access to optional online tutorials/Webinars. Students can view these pre-recorded Webinars at their own convenience. The Webinars will review questions and answers that will be very similar to the questions students will see on graded quizzes, tests, and exams. The Webinars

will help students apply what they have learned in lecture to solve multiple-choice questions. The Webinars can be found on the Moodle course website.

- **PASS Sessions:** ECON 1000/1010 is a very challenging course for students. PASS Sessions have been successfully implemented around the world as an effective strategy for success in such a challenging course. All students are strongly encouraged to attend weekly PASS sessions to foster your success in this course. Research shows that students who attend PASS sessions regularly have a significantly higher success rate than those who do not. You can access, weekly, two-hour, peer-facilitated study sessions to help you compare notes, practice problem solving, develop learning strategies, and prepare for exams. Trained undergraduate students known as "PASS Leaders," who have successfully taken the course before and who re-attend lectures, will facilitate these PASS sessions. At its core, the PASS sessions will help you integrate what to learn with how to learn so you can succeed in ECON 1000/1010. A schedule of the weekly PASS sessions will be available on the course web site at the beginning of the term.

Homework Rules

- There are 4 homework assignments. Your best 3 are each worth 3%, collectively worth 9% of your final course grade. There are no make-up homework assignments or alternative assignments.
- The homework assignments are currently available on MyEconLab, and they can be accessed from any computer or tablet with an internet connection anywhere in the world. They must be successfully completed by the due date. Accordingly, **I do not accept any excuses for missing a homework assignment.**
- You must successfully complete a homework assignment in order to earn the grade for that assignment. Partially completed assignments do not earn any grades.
- You do not have to finish a homework assignment in a single sitting. You can work on it over multiple sessions. The only requirement is that you successfully complete the assignment by the due date.
- Access all homework assignments from the links that will appear on the Course Home page of MyEconLab.

Online Quiz Rules

- The first quiz, **Quiz Zero**, is designed to ensure that you are familiar with all of the rules of this course. All of the answers to the questions in Quiz Zero may be found in the course outline. You may take Quiz Zero as many times as necessary until you get all questions right. While you will not receive any marks towards your final course grade, you will not be able to access the graded quizzes until you complete Quiz Zero with a perfect score. Quiz Zero will also help you get familiar with MyEconLab.
- There are 6 graded quizzes. Your best 5 are each worth 3%, collectively worth 15% of your final course grade. There are no make-up quizzes or alternative assignments.
- You will have at least 5 days to complete each of the 6 graded quizzes, and they can be accessed from any computer or tablet with an internet connection (**quizzes will not work on phones**), anywhere in the world. Accordingly, **I do not accept any excuses for missing a quiz.**
- Each quiz has 15 multiple choice questions. For each quiz, you have one attempt, and 30 minutes to complete it.
- You must finish a quiz once you start it.

- Besides the pre-requisite of a 100% score on Quiz Zero, you cannot access any of the graded quizzes until you earn the required Mastery Points from doing Study Plan “Quiz Me” questions for the textbook chapters for that quiz.
- Every time a student takes a quiz, new questions are taken from a pool of questions, the order of the questions is scrambled, and the order of the answers is scrambled. Sometimes longer questions require you scroll down to see the entire question. If that is the case, you will see a scroll bar on the right.
- You will receive a score immediately after taking each graded quiz. **You will only be able to review each quiz after the due date.** To review quiz answers after the due date, click on the Results tab on the left navigation bar in MyEconLab.
- Do not take any quiz until you have completed reading the assigned chapters and completed as many Study Plan questions as possible. Many quiz questions are taken from the Study Plan and Sample Tests in *MyEconLab*. Doing those problems will dramatically improve your chances of getting a higher score on the quizzes. Remember, you have only one attempt, just like on an in-class test.
- Access all graded quizzes from the links that will appear on the Course Home page of MyEconLab.

Test and Exam Rules

- No student will be allowed to write the exam prior to the scheduled date.
- York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community. In case, any of the exam dates clash with the day of your religious observance, you are responsible for contacting me **at least two weeks** in advance. To arrange for an alternative date, you must complete a Religious Accommodation Form (see Important Academic Forms section).
- Cheating and plagiarism are considered to be serious offences by York University. Please visit the Academic Integrity website <http://www.yorku.ca/acadinte/students/index.htm> to read the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.
- **NO calculators are required or allowed for all tests and exams.**

Missed Tests

No permission is ever given to a student to write a test or exam in advance of its scheduled date.

- A student who misses the midterm test with proper documentation supporting their absence will have the weight of the missed test transferred to the final exam. Failure to submit proper documentation by the required deadlines will result in a grade of zero on the test.
- A student who misses a test will have the weight shifted to the final exam **only if** the student provides a completed Registrar’s Office Attending Physician’s Statement showing a physical incapability of writing the test/exam, **dated the day of the test/exam or earlier.** Any other forms of doctor’s note, especially one stating simply that “The student was seen in my office” are not acceptable. Students who miss a test and do not provide acceptable documentation receive a grade of zero.

Deferred Final Exam Policy

Students must fill out the Deferred Standing Agreement form (see Important Academic Forms section) and submit it along with all **original** supporting documentation to the Department of Economics located in 1144 Vari Hall (lapsecon@yorku.ca) **within in 10 business days of the original exam date.** Submitting the form does **NOT** guarantee permission to write the deferred

exam. Only submissions that meet all requirements will be granted permission. Students whose submissions are not granted will receive a zero for their final exam score.

There is only one date for the Deferred Final Exam. The exact date will be announced later in the term.

Deferred Standing for the final exam will be considered only under the following circumstances:

1. **MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** Exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by a York Attending Physicians Statement filled out completely by a medical doctor or licensed psychologist/counselor, dated within **48 hours of the final exam date**. The statement must include:

- Full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
- The nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered)
- An indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have **SERIOUSLY** affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question.

The physician's office may be contacted to verify that the statement was actually completed by the physician.

2. **NON-MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** Exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket receipt for emergency travel (with the date of booking on the ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Having to work at the time of the exam or non-emergency travel are not valid excuses for missing an exam.

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation - http://registrar.yorku.ca/sites/registrar/files/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf
- Deferred Standing - http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf
- Attending Physician's Statement Form - <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>

Important Dates

	Summer Term 2020 (S1)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 15
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 26
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	June 8
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript)	June 9 - June 22

Important Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage](#).

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures is located on the [York University Senate webpage](#). As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. More information on academic integrity for students can be found on the [York Academic Integrity Website](#).
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants located using the [Senate Policy Research Involving Human Participants link](#)
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities can be accessed using the [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities link](#).
- Information on student conduct standards can be reviewed on the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage](#).
- Students requiring religious accommodation should review the Religious Accommodations Guidelines using the [Religious Observance link](#).