



Introduction to Microeconomics, Section A07  
Prof. Laura Brown

Course Outline

Course Econ 1010 Section A07

Title Introduction to Microeconomic Principles

CRN 12447

Calendar Description This course introduces students to the study of microeconomics. Topics include: demand and supply, price determination, market structure and resource allocation; the behaviour of consumers and firms; and market intervention by government. Selected economic topics are examined such as: welfare programs, environmental regulation, the economics of discrimination, pay equity, and taxation. Students may not hold credit for [ECON 1010](#) and any of: [ECON 1011](#) or [ECON 1210](#) (018.121) or [ECON 1211](#) (018.121) or [ECON 1220](#) (018.122) or [ECON 1221](#) (018.122) or the former ECON 1200 (018.120) or the former ECON 1201 (018.120).

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Your professor: Prof. Laura Brown

Email: Laura.Brown@umanitoba.ca

Office: 549 Fletcher Argue Building

Office hours: In effect from Sept. 10 to Dec. 7, excluding November 13 to 16.

Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 – 3:20 pm

Friday 1:30 – 2:15 pm or by appointment.

**Notes on communication with Prof. Brown outside class:**

a) Students who are struggling with material should come to my office for help. You are strongly encouraged to **come for help as early as possible** in the term. Feel free to come as often and for as long as you need.

b) I will try to answer email or phone messages within 48 hours on weekdays. I sometimes answer emails within minutes at odd hours.

c) After class is a good time to deal with short questions from the class. Major issues should be dealt with during office hours. **DO NOT let major problems drag on.** Come see me, and/or email me for help.

d) I am also available outside office hours, by appointment. Drop-ins are welcome, but may be turned away when I am working on something else.

**Required Material: TWO (2) items are required!**

1. Hubbard, O'brien, Serteis and Childs. 2018. **Microeconomics: Second Canadian edition.** Pearson. Either in print or E-book
2. Pearson MyEconLab (MEL). Also called "Mylab and Mastering"

Note: If you purchase the online etext, this is essentially a rental. It cannot be transferred or kept indefinitely, as far as I know.

Price listed as of July 27, 2018:

\$149.95 CDN Printed Text, MEL and etext --- this is available in the bookstore.

**Other readings as assigned** – I may assign occasional readings that deal with current topics that are brought to my attention and that should be of interest to the class. These will be posted on UMLEARN and/or emailed to students.

**Computer Requirements: UMLearn and MyEconLab.**

All students must have a University of Manitoba email address. All students should check their U of M email address regularly, and preferably daily.

Notes will be posted on UMLEARN.

**You will be required to complete work on MyEconLab as part of the coursework.** Assignment due dates will be posted to MyEconLab or announced in class.

**Classroom expectations:**

My job is to come to class prepared and to explain concepts to the best of my ability. I will try not to bore you to tears. I will prepare questions for you in class as part of my work in helping you learn.

Students are expected to attend lectures, listen attentively, participate in classroom and group activities, and take notes. Students are expected to complete assigned readings from the textbook either before or immediately following the lecture. In this way, any questions can be addressed in a timely manner, and students can keep up with the course. Come to see me if you need help.

Students should arrive on time. Cell phones should be off during class. If a cell phone is used, the professor can confiscate it until the end of the class.

**Please bring a calculator to all classes and exams.**

**Technology use during class:**

Any student who uses a personal communication device in class will either lose 5% of the mark per occurrence or complete an extra assignment per occurrence. No text messaging. No internet, facebook, twitter, snapchat, ...etc.. scanning. Neither you nor I can play phone games during class. This should not even need to be stated.

I am experimenting with computer use, as some student may use computers for course. If you want to use a computer in the classroom, ask me. I will have an agreement that you must sign. I will reserve seats in the first two rows for students who use computers for class work. I will also randomly ask you to turn your screen without touching the keyboard.

**Recording of lectures:**

If a student wants to record my lectures, you need to ask my permission. However, you may not post the lectures to a public board, as the material I use is protected by the textbook publisher's copyright.

**Respectful learning environment:**

Students learn best by working together. So, please feel free to come a bit early and greet your fellow students before class starts.

Naturally, all communication with other students, professors, food service providers, maintenance, and support staff should be respectful. This includes communications across age groups, gender, and race.

That said, there are contacts listed at the end of this outline for people who have witnessed disrespectful, or even violent or threatening behaviour of any kind. The sexual assault link has a great video from University of Victoria on consent. (No means no, silence means no, I am too drunk to say yes means NO.)

The equity services people have dealt with problems originating from male to female, female to male, any sex to any sex, including sex not stated. We all need to treat others with respect and accept No as an answer. No one should be ashamed to report if they are on the wrong side of any kind of abuse.

Students should report any misbehaviour on the part of students, staff, or faculty. Maintaining a respectful environment means not laughing at hateful remarks presented as a joke, telling people directly that something is out of line, and reporting when a behaviour is egregious enough to warrant discipline.

That said, I expect us all to behave respectfully with one another and have a great year!

Welcome:

Welcome to your introductory course in microeconomics!

This course will introduce students to the field of microeconomics. It will examine economics from a traditional view as well as introduce students to the more recent

developments in the field. In so doing, we will examine the concepts of demand and supply, market equilibrium and the measurement of economic benefits and the measurement of inequality. We will work through the basic economic theory of the firm and the functioning of two of the four market structures. We will also examine the economic approach to decision-making, with particular application to environmental issues and public choices. In considering decision-making, you will also be introduced to some of the results on the psychology of decision-making as found through experimental microeconomics.

#### Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should have a basic grasp of the theory of the market, the standard one period theory of demand and supply, and be aware of the breadth of the field of microeconomics. You will also be able to measure consumer surplus and producer surplus, and apply these concepts to price floors, price ceilings and taxes in a partial equilibrium. You will also, of course, become familiar with the term partial equilibrium, and understand both the uses and the limitations of this type of analysis. Finally, you should retain some interesting stories and facts about how people behave in the market and in social situations.

#### Course and marking structure:

I have designed the structure to help you learn the material. As a professor, I also learn and apply what I learn to my course design.

1. Because students learn more when they talk to each other, there are points for in-class work.
  - a. In-class work is marked on a hand-in basis. This means you get marks as long as you hand in the work.
  - b. You can miss 2 in-class submissions without penalty. This means I drop 2 submissions from the sum for this section. If you miss three or more, then you must provide a doctor's note or documented reason for missing the class.
  - c. Students who advise me ahead of time that they will miss a class for with a reasonable explanation will be given the point for that day. This is good for one or two days per term, unless there is a VERY GOOD reason for more days missed.
2. Because students need hands on practice to learn, there are assignments.
  - The homework assignments are designed to be formative, not evaluative. This means that
    - you have access to all of the learning tools while doing the assignment questions, including "Help me solve this" and "Ask My Instructor", and the course discussion forum. (Yes, I will answer questions BEFORE you get a mark. Use the "Ask My Instructor" tool. )
    - you can get high marks fairly easily if you do the assignments on time. Easily, does not mean quickly. The assignments are time-consuming.
    - The multiple choice questions should be read for content, not rushed through.

- o You can work together on the assignments. You can post discussions about particular questions to the discussion forum.
  - o You may want to review all of the assignments before exams.
  - o The assignments and assignment due dates are on MyEconlab. The Study Plan is on MyEconlab.
  - o Assignments are marked upon submission. If there is an error in the marking, email me. I will fix it if possible, or contact the publisher if not possible.
3. Because experience has sadly shown that a small number of students will behave dishonestly in a class this size, the majority of your mark will be based on invigilated exams. There will therefore be two midterm exams and one final exam. The final exam will be held during the examination period.
  4. Because experience has also shown that there is limited marking time during the course, exams will be composed of multiple choice questions. However, these questions will include graph and calculation questions.
    - a. The midterms will be marked within two weeks and returned to you. you will have both the midterms mark by the voluntary withdrawal date, November 19 IF you complete the post-midterm questionnaire.

**Grading:**

Assignments: weekly, 1 or more per Chapter, top 8 count	15 %
In-class work, graded on a hand-in basis	5 %
Midterm 1, Thursday, October 11	19 %
Post-midterm questionnaire completed	1 %
Midterm 2, Thursday, November 8	19 %
Post-midterm questionnaire completed	1 %
Final Exam in exam time (cumulative)	<u>40 %</u>
Sum	100 %

Note: This is an economics course and therefore a minimal level of mathematics is required at the start, with greater skill acquired through the term. Therefore, do not expect me to give you your average to date. I do not do those calculations, so don't bother asking for them. I add marks at the end of the term when I need to submit the marks.

You can figure out your best 8 assignment marks, including late penalties, and add them. You can then apply the weight. You can do the same for tests and the midterm. Believe me, I did the same when I was a student.

Grade Conversion

A+	92 – 100
A	82 – 91

B+	76 – 81
B	70 – 75
C+	65 – 69
C	60 – 64
D	50 – 59
F	< 50

### **Late penalties:**

#### **Assignments:**

**Late penalties vary by assignment.** Assignments due during the registration revision period (up to September 19) incur no late penalty. Following this date, late penalties increase daily. These are **higher** during periods where past students have needed a strong incentive to keep up with course material. By the last two assignments, the late penalty is lower, as students may need to juggle a lot of work toward the end of term. **Late penalties are shown on EACH Assignment on MyEconLab.**

#### **Midterms or final exams**

The midterm will be conducted during class time. Expect to be seated. The final exam will be conducted in the examination room. I will assign seat numbers prior to the final exam. Look for them on UMLearn. Sit in your assigned seat.

#### **BRING A CALCULATOR TO ALL EXAMS.**

**No cellphones in exams, cellphones off during class.**

**The midterms and final exams are cumulative.**

### **Academic honesty is expected:**

Please refer to the current University Calendar for university policy on plagiarism and cheating (check the web Calendar). Please note that the penalties for cheating are severe, will often include an F in the course, and a note on your transcript. Also note, I send all materials on which cheating is suspected directly to Arts before I inform the student. Don't cheat, especially in my class. It is not worth it.

#### **ACADEMIC HONESTY IMPORTANT:**

**Any student who speaks or communicates in any way to another student during an exam, including while handing in the exam, will be given a zero and reported to their Faculty.**

**If the final exam is in a room with dividers between desks, any student who leans back during the final exam will be asked to hand in the exam and given a zero. Leaning back with partitions facilitates cheating, and if you lean back, we will presume you are attempting to cheat. Consider yourself warned. You will receive seat numbers for the final exam. You must sit in your specifically assigned seat.**

QUESTIONS ON TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS will be based on lectures **and all other course materials including textbook and lecture material that is not in notes.**

#### **Missing a midterm exam:**

All tests and examinations must be written. If any student is unable to take a test on the designated day, because of a clash with a religious holiday or other valid reason, he or she is asked to notify me at least two (2) weeks before the test date. If illness or an emergency prevents the student taking a test he or she is asked to notify me immediately and obtain a medical certificate from a doctor or proof of emergency, which I can confirm. (Students will only be allowed to write a makeup test for **documented** medical or compassionate reasons.) Note: Medical reasons include mental health.

Note: It is NOT FAIR for a student to earn a grade based on how well they can write an exam while ill and have that grade measured alongside the grade of a student who wrote an exam healthy. If you are ill, get a doctor's note. Once an exam is written, its grade stands. If you are crashing psychologically, get a doctor's note. (The only time I have ever needed longer term leave was for mental health, not physical. This is the norm. It's time we brought it into the light. )

#### **Student accessibility**

Students who require extra supports or time to write an exam for physical or psychological reasons should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#). There is a fairly clear process for obtaining supports. If you may need them, contact them as soon as possible!

#### **Chapters to be studied: (Hubbard et al. 2018)**

Part 1 of text: Introduction

Chapter 1: Economic Foundations and Models

Appendix to Chapter 1: Using Graphs and Formulas

Chapter 2: Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage and the Market System

Chapter 3: Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Supply and Demand

Appendix to Chapter 3: Quantitative Demand and Supply Analysis

Chapter 4: Economic Efficiency, Government Price Setting and Taxes

Chapter 5: Externalities, Environmental Policy, and Public Goods

Chapter 6: Elasticity: The Responsiveness of Demand and Supply

(we are not going to learn Chapter 7)

Chapter 8: Consumer Choice and Behavioural Economics

Chapter 9: Technology, Production and Costs

Chapter 10: Firms in a Perfectly Competitive Markets

Chapter 11: Monopolistic Competition: The Competitive in a More Realistic Setting

If time permits, but not likely:

Chapter 15: Public Choice, Taxes and the Distribution of Income.

Chapter 12: Oligopoly: Firms in Less Competitive Markets

Chapter 13: Monopoly and Competitive Policy

## **Appendix: Student supports, health and wellness, copyright, and your rights and responsibilities**

### **A. Student learning support**

A: Academic supports available to Students, such as the Academic Learning Centre, Libraries, and other supports as may be appropriate:

#### **Writing and Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-



taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor's feedback.

These Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 201 Tier Building.

### **University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)**

As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in-person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: <http://bit.ly/WcEbA1> or name: <http://bit.ly/1tJ0bB4>. In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: [www.umanitoba.ca/libraries](http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries).

B: Mental health, including referral information:

**For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.**

### **Student Counselling Centre**

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. *Student Counselling Centre:* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

474 University Centre or S207 Medical Services

(204) 474-8592

### **Student Support Case Management**

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

*Student Support Intake Assistant* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

520 University Centre

(204) 474-7423

### **University Health Service**

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation.

*University Health Service* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus

(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

### **Health and Wellness**

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault.

*Health and Wellness Educator* <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome.html>

[Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca)

469 University Centre

(204) 295-9032

## **Live Well @ UofM**

For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

## **Section C: Copyright:**

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's *Copyright Act*. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

## **Section D: University and Unit policies, procedures, and supplemental information available on-line:**

### **Your rights and responsibilities**

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html) <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections *University Policies and Procedures* and *General Academic Regulations*.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final **grade appeals**. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the **Academic Integrity** regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the **Student Academic Misconduct** procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected to conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include the:

### **Respectful Work and Learning Environment**

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html)

### **Student Discipline**

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/students/student\\_discipline.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html) and,

### **Violent or Threatening Behaviour**

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/669.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html)

- If you experience **Sexual Assault** or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The **Sexual Assault** policy may be found at: [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html) More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>
- For information about rights and responsibilities regarding **Intellectual Property** view the policy [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Policy\\_-\\_2013\\_10\\_01.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf)

For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school web site <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>

Contact an **Academic Advisor** within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

### **Student Advocacy**

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

[student\\_advocacy@umanitoba.ca](mailto:student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca)

Students caught cheating on a test will want to contact the Student Advocate. They will help you navigate the rules. They will also offer support as you cope with penalties if they apply, which is often the case.