

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ECO100Y1Y - L0401
INTRODUCTORY ECONOMICS
2016-2017
(This version: September 9, 2016)

FIRST TERM

Location: BT101, located in Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. West, M5S 1K9.

Time: Tuesdays 2pm-4pm and most Fridays 10am-11am.

Instructor: Professor Paola Salardi

Room: 150 St. George St. (Max Gluskin House), Office # 304

Email: paola.salardi@utoronto.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 10am-12pm (by appointment only, sign up at <https://calendly.com/paola-salardi/econ-office-hours>)

Teaching Assistants: JoonHwan Cho, Daniel Indacochea, Frank Leenders, Pengfei Li, Matthew Melnyk, Clayton Reinink and Emily Wilson.

Office hours location and time will be announced on Blackboard during the first week of the course.

Goals of the Course: Welcome to the Introductory Economics course! This class will introduce you to the principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics, both intuitively and through an introduction to core economic models. The central goal is to introduce you to economists' way of thinking about economic issues and challenges. By understanding the implications and limits of the core models introduced in the class, you will then be able to apply them to understanding current situations and better appreciate the implications of individuals', firms' and governments' decisions and actions. The course is divided into two main components. During the first part of the course we will study principles of microeconomics, thus focusing on how households and firms make decisions and how they interact in markets. During the second part of the course we will be focusing on the principles of macroeconomics, which looks at economy-wide phenomena, including inflation, unemployment and economic growth - issues that matters at the country level.

Looking forward to starting this course with you!

Paola Salardi

1. Teaching materials

Textbooks: We will rely primarily on the following textbooks, which you are expected to purchase - or at least to have consistent access to.

For Microeconomics (First term only):

- Mankiw, Kneebone, and McKenzie (2014), *Principles of Microeconomics*, Nelson, 6th Canadian Edition (M, hereafter).

You might also want to consider the Study Guides for both textbooks:

- Mankiw, Kneebone, and McKenzie (2014), *Study Guide for Principles of Microeconomics*, Nelson, 6th Canadian Edition.

Website: U of T's learning portal (a.k.a. Blackboard): <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

Announcements, lecture slides, tutorial assignments, additional exercises, solutions to mid-term tests and final exams and grades will be posted on the Blackboard.

2. Relevant dates (First term only):

Tuesday, September 13: First Day of Class for the Fall term

Friday, October 28 10:00-11:00: Mid-term test (Test 1)

Tuesday, November 8: Fall break (no class)

Friday, December 2: Last Day of Class for the Fall term

Tuesday, December 6 14:00-16:00: End of Term test (Test 2)

3. Course Organization

The Course is organized in lectures and tutorials. The Tuesday and Friday slots are for lectures, while tutorial schedules and locations will be announced at the beginning of the term on Blackboard. Note that we are not going to have lectures every Friday. Some Fridays will be used for lectures, some for concept applications and exercises, some for make-up classes, and some will be rest days. All of this is clearly laid out in the detailed timetable for lectures in section 7 of this document. However, variation from the detailed timetable will sometimes be announced during lectures and on Blackboard.

3.1. Lectures: The Instructor will be teaching each lecture. Lectures slides will be provided via Blackboard prior to the date of the lecture. I recommend that you read the lecture slides and the related textbook chapters before class: in my experience this strategy puts you in a position to better understand the lecture and to grasp key concepts much more easily. It is important to attend all of the lectures, as they are interconnected. Each class we will cover part of a broader topic, with each topic normally extending over two or three hours of lectures (see section 6, the course outline, for a full list of the topics that will be covered).

3.2. Tutorials: Lectures are supplemented by tutorials, which will focus on key topics each week. These tutorials are designed to help you to clarify your understanding of core material, to engage with more complex concepts presented during the lectures, and to provide support in solving the types of exercises that you will encounter in the three tests and the final exam. Tutorials are scheduled every other week - you will thus have six tutorials over the Fall term and six tutorials over the Spring term (see the detailed timetable in section 7 of this document). Each student must sign up for one of the following tutorial times during the first week of classes:

- Wednesdays (4 slots): 12pm-1pm, 1pm-2pm, 4pm-5pm, and 5pm-6pm;
- Thursdays (4 slots): 12pm-1pm, 1pm-2pm, 4pm-5pm, and 5pm-6pm.

Instructions about how to sign up for a tutorial slot will be provided during the first class, and posted on Blackboard. Once you are assigned to a slot, you will be assigned to a TA, and the locations for the tutorials will be posted on Blackboard.

Tutorials are very important to the overall class experience: they will allow you to enjoy a smaller class size and will be the opportunity to engage directly with your TA to ask questions. Each tutorial will be organized around a problem set. The problem set will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of the week of the tutorial, in order to allow enough time for you to go through the exercises prior the tutorial. During the tutorial you will then go through some of the problem set exercises with the TA, and dig more deeply into the material. Those exercises that are solved in class will not have the solutions posted on the Blackboard, so you are strongly encouraged to attend tutorials if you want to have all of the solutions available.

3.3. Student Support: Students have access to a wide range of support. The first type of aid is provided by **office hours**, both held by the instructor and by the TAs. The Instructor's office hours are listed at the beginning of this syllabus and they are by appointment only, while the hours and locations of office hours held by the TAs for this section of ECO100Y will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of the course.

The Economics Department also offers the **Economics Study Centre**. Students may use it for additional help. The Economics Study Centre is always staffed with tutors, who are third and fourth year undergraduate students who act as peer mentors to Economics and Commerce students. The hours of the Economic Study Centre will be posted on this website:

<https://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/undergraduate/load/studyCentre>.

An additional tool for learning is provided by **Piazza**, which can be reached at this link: <https://piazza.com/utoronto.ca/fall2016/eco100yl0401/home>. Piazza is an electronic discussion forum where students can interact with each other by asking and responding to questions related to the course materials - it is an important forum to interact with, and learn from, your student colleagues. The instructor and the TAs will regularly monitor all of the discussions. It is important to post questions that are relevant, and specific enough to be answered in electronic forum. Do not expect your colleagues to provide long discussion - keep questions and answers clear and concise.

4. Student Evaluation

	Date	Length	Weight
Warm-up Exercises	Beginning of the Term		2%
Test 1: Mid-term Test	Friday, Oct 28 2016, 10:00-11:00	1 hour	12%
Test 2: End-of-Term Test	Tuesday, Dec 6 2016, 14:00-16:00	2 hours	24%
Test 3: Mid-term Test	TBD	1 hour	12%
Final Exam	Final Exam Period	3 hours	50%

4.1. Warm-up Exercises: The Warm-up Exercise is an exercise to be completed online **during the first week of class**. This exercise involves answering questions about personality traits and goals and should take about 45 to 90 minutes. The goal of the exercise is to learn more about you, and thus about how to help promote academic and personal success - you will not be tested on the ECO100Y material during this exercise. Please go to the following website to complete the exercise: <http://warmup.utoronto.ca/>.

Students who complete the Warm-up exercise at the beginning of the semester will receive the 2% toward their final grade in the course. **Everyone should complete this exercise.**

4.2. Tests and final exam: There will be three tests and one final exam. They will all consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. You will have the chance to get familiar with both question formats during the tutorials throughout the course, as they are designed specifically to help prepare you for the tests and the final exam. The three tests will be worth 48% of the total mark and the final exam will be worth 50% of your final mark. While the three tests are entirely designed by your instructor on the basis of what we have covered in class and during tutorials, the final exam consists of a part covering core material common to all ECO100 classes and a part designed by your instructor and thus specific to each section. The common component of the final exam is used to benchmark grades across all sections of ECO100Y. It is important to note that the three tests are not cumulative (that is, they only cover the material from the preceding period of the course), while the final exam is cumulative and thus covers all of the material taught throughout the course.

4.4.1. Missing a test or exam: Students who miss **any of the tests** for an approved medical condition, or any other approved cause, will be authorized to write a common make-up test toward the end of the second term (TBC). The make-up test is cumulative, meaning that it will cover the entire content of the course. Students who do not qualify for the make-up test will receive a grade equal to zero for the test or exam that they missed without an approved cause. Students who miss the final exam must send a petition to the Faculty of Arts and Science for permission to write a deferred examination in the summer.

4.4.2. Medical Certificate: Medical certificates must be submitted **within one week of the date of the test**. Medical certificates need to adhere to the following characteristics in order to be acceptable:

- Only the official Verification of Student Illness or Injury by the University of Toronto will be accepted, fully completed by a Physician, Surgeon, Nurse Practitioner, Dentist, or Registered Psychologist. You can find the certificate to be completed [here](#).

- The practitioner must have assessed you the day of the missed test and must initial as Severe or Serious.
- The certificate needs to be submitted to the instructor in person, in class or during normal office hours. Suspicious certificates will be forwarded to the Office of Student Academic Integrity (OSAI) for further investigation.

4.4.3. Re-marking: Grading will be carried out by the TAs, under the supervision of the instructor. If you feel that your test has been graded incorrectly you can bring it to the attention of your TA, who will ask the instructor to re-grade the test/exam. If you request that your test be re-graded the entire test will be re-graded, and that re-grading could result in either an increase or decrease in your grade. In the specific case where you think that your final grade reflects a simple error in adding up your total score you can bring it to the attention of your TA during office hours and he/she can correct the error. The request for remarking must be made in writing and submitted to the instructor together with a full copy of your test. They need to explain clearly which question is disputed and why. Please note the appeal must be requested **within 2 weeks** of the date which graded tests are provided to you.

4.4.4. Final Grades in ECO100Y: Here is an official statement about final grades that assures all of you that they will be fairly awarded across sections:

- Historically, the average grade across all sections of Economics 100 is C+;
- The average grade in each section will vary to reflect the relative performance of students in that section on the common part of the final examination;
- The average grade for a section whose students perform above average on the common component of the final examination will be higher than the overall average grade for ECO100Y, and conversely.
- The average grade on each term test will, inevitably, vary across sections. However, it merits emphasis that students in a section where the average grade on a term test is low are NOT disadvantaged on this account. The average FINAL grade awarded in each section will reflect the performance of that student's section on the common part of the final examination.

5. Other important information

5.1. Course accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are always welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration, which may require accommodation, please feel free to approach me in person and/or the Accessibility Service (<http://accessibility.utoronto.ca/> or call 416-978-8060).

5.2. Academic integrity: Academic integrity is an important priority here at the University of Toronto. Our academic community honors the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility in order to protect you and your degree. Read Section B of the University of Toronto's [Code of Behavior on Academic Matters](#), as all students are expected to know and to respect this Code.

5.3. Email policy: Email is NOT an appropriate forum for asking questions. Discussion of the course material, or related to specific economic concepts, assignments or problem sets should be addressed on Piazza, the electronic discussion forum described in section 3.3, where your student colleagues, TAs and the instructor can participate. Likewise, please do not email with questions for which the answer is available on the Blackboard course website. If you want to discuss the course material in person you should meet with your instructor, or your TA, during office hours. If you have any personal matter or concern please similarly come to speak to the instructor in person during office hours. On the other hand, if there are any issues with the course that you think the instructor should know about, such as mistakes in a specific announcement, missing information about an approaching tutorial or solutions that have not been posted, feel free to email - I would be most grateful, though I may not always be able to reply.

6. Course Outline (First term only)

FIRST TERM	MICROECONOMICS	READING
Topic 1	Introduction to Economics	M: chapters 1, 2, 3
Topic 2	Supply and Demand	M: chapter 4
Topic 3	Elasticity	M: chapter 5
Topic 4	The Role of Government Policies	M: chapter 6
Topic 5	The Consumer Theory	M: chapter 21
Topic 6	The Efficiency of the Market	M: chapter 7
Topic 7	The Costs of Production	M: chapter 13
Topic 8	Perfect Competition	M: chapter 14
Topic 9	Monopoly	M: chapter 15
Topic 10	Monopolistic Competition	M: chapter 16
Topic 11	Oligopoly	M: chapter 17
Topic 12	Externalities and Public Goods	M: chapters 10, 11

7. Detailed Timetable with Deadlines (First term only)

Week	Date	Topic	Tutorials
1	Tue 13/09/2016	Introduction to Economics	
	Fri 16/09/2016	Concepts Applications and Exercises	
2	Tue 20/09/2016	Supply and Demand	✓
	Fri 23/09/2016	Concepts Applications and Exercises	
3	Tue 27/09/2016	Elasticity	
	Fri 30/09/2016	Concepts Applications and Exercises	
4	Tue 04/10/2016	The Role of Government Policies	✓
	Fri 07/10/2016	-	
5	Tue 11/10/2016	The Consumer Theory	
	Fri 14/10/2016	Concepts Applications and Exercises	
6	Tue 18/10/2016	The Efficiency of the Market	✓
	Fri 21/10/2016	Review class	
7	Tue 25/10/2016	The Costs of Production	
	Fri 28/10/2016	Test 1	
8	Tue 01/11/2016	Perfect Competition	✓
	Fri 04/11/2016	Concepts Applications and Exercises	
9	Tue 08/11/2016	Fall break	
	Fri 11/11/2016	-	
10	Tue 15/11/2016	Monopoly	✓
	Fri 18/11/2016	Concepts Applications and Exercises	
11	Tue 22/11/2016	Oligopoly	
	Fri 25/11/2016	-	
12	Tue 29/11/2016	Monopolistic Competition	✓
	Fri 02/12/2016	Review class	
13	Tue 06/12/2016	Test 2	