

ECO101: SECTIONS L0101; L0301 & L0401: FALL 2018
PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

1 THE BIG PICTURE

Lectures. Mondays, Wednesdays and some Fridays. **L0101:** 3:10 PM – 4:00 PM; CH. **L0301:** 12:10 PM – 1:00 PM; BT101. **L0401:** 1:10 PM – 2:00 PM; BT101.

Tutorials. One hour per week. Register on Quercus.

Contacting me.

office: GE330 (Max Gluskin House; 150 St. George Street)
office hours: GE313: Tues, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM; Thurs, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
individual appointments:¹ GE330: Tues, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM (<https://calendly.com/rgazzale/>)
email: robert.gazzale@utoronto.ca

Course contacts.

Issue	email
Question about a quiz.	gazzaleTA+quiz@gmail.com
Question about tutorials.	gazzaleTA+tutorial@gmail.com
Term test conflict.	gazzaleTA+conflict@gmail.com

Required Texts.

- Krugman, Wells, Au, and Parkinson, *Microeconomics*, Third Canadian Edition, 2018.
- Any handouts posted on Quercus.

Online Resources.

- **Required:** Quercus (a.k.a. Canvas): <https://q.utoronto.ca>
- **Required:** MobLab: <https://www.moblab.com> (Registration instructions on Quercus.)
- **Optional:** Piazza, a Q&A platform accessed through Quercus.

Assessments.

	Date	Time	Length	Weight
Warm-Up Exercise	Beginning and end of the semester. See Section 2.2.1.			2%
Math Requirement	Beginning of the semester. See Section 2.2.2.			2%
Tutorial Participation	See Section 2.2.4.			4%
Quercus Quizzes	See Section 2.2.3.			8%
Term Test 1	Friday, October 12, 2018	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	100 mins.	22%
Term Test 2	Friday, November 23, 2018	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	100 mins.	22%
Final Examination	December examination period	TBA	2 hours	40%

¹Individual appointments are for private discussions. I will **NOT** answer questions related to course content during individual appointments.

Costs.

- The UofT bookstore has, at a specially negotiated price, a bundle containing the textbook as well as a MobLab access code.
- If you do not purchase the bundle, you must purchase MobLab access (US\$12 for the semester) directly from MobLab. Follow the instructions found in the syllabus section of Quercus.

2 THE DETAILS

2.1 Goals of the Course

I have three goals for this course.

1. To introduce you to the economist way of thinking, and help you on the path towards thinking like an economist.
2. Introduce you to and help you understand some of the canonical models of modern microeconomics. (This also entails understanding the limits of these models.)
3. Assist you in gaining sufficient proficiency with these models so that you can apply them to novel situations and appreciate their implications vis-a-vis current public policy issues.

This course (ECO101) covers *microeconomics*, the study of decisions made by individual households and firms and their allocative implications. Many of you will choose to continue to ECO102 (*macroeconomics*) which looks at a nation's economy-wide phenomena such as the total size of an economy, unemployment, inflation and the interaction between national economies.

2.2 Course Organization

I am often asked, usually after a disappointing term test, how to better master principles of economics. I always come back to two key strategies. First, because the subject matter is cumulative, *do not fall behind*. Relatedly, I cannot stress enough the desirability of doing a first read of the required reading (it need not be in depth) *before* the corresponding lecture. Second, solve problems. Lots of them. I have organized the course around these ideas.

2.2.1 Warm-up Exercise

Purpose To learn more about how to help promote academic and personal success.

Details The exercise involves answering questions about personality traits or study goals. You access the exercise, using your UTORid, twice: first at the start of the semester and a second time at the end of the semester. It should take about an hour. Please complete the exercise when you are at your computer and feeling relatively unrushed.

Where <http://warmup.utoronto.ca>

Marks 2% of your final grade. You earn 1 out of 100 course marks for completing the beginning-of-semester exercise, and 1 out of 100 course marks for completing the end-of-semester exercise.

2.2.2 Math Requirement

Some math is needed to be successful in ECO101. Calculus is not required, but we will use some basic math (graphing, finding averages and percent changes), some algebra (solving for two

unknowns when you have two equations) and some geometry (finding the area of triangles and rectangles). The appendix to chapter 2 of the textbook gives a good overview.

Some students, especially those who last took a math course a number of years ago, may need a refresher. In order to identify those students in need of a refresher and provide them with resources needed to bring them up to speed, there is a Math Requirement. You earn full marks for the math requirement in one of two ways.

Math Assessment At the end of the first full week of classes, we will offer a one-hour math assessment. If you score at least 75% on this math assessment, you earn full marks for the Math Requirement. You may only take the assessment once.

There will be two time slots. We will announce the time slots, assessment location, as well as instructions for signing up for a time slot, on Quercus.

Quercus Math Module If you do not score at least a 75% on the in-tutorial math assessment (either because you took the assessment and did not score at least a 75% **or** you did not take the assessment), you must complete the Quercus Math Module within two weeks after the math assessment results are released. Anyone completing the Quercus Math Module in this two-week period earns full marks for the Math Requirement.

2.2.3 Quercus Quizzes

Purpose Both to make sure that you keep up with the material and to give you practice solving the kinds of problems you will encounter on tests and the exam.

Details I Ten (or so) questions each quiz. In general, a quiz becomes available on a Thursday and is due the following Monday at 11:45 AM. Once you start a quiz you have one hour with the caveat that only answers submitted before the due time will be counted.

Details II Each question generally has four to ten versions. You will be randomly assigned one version of each question. **In-person** collaboration amongst small groups is permitted. Electronic discussion before the quiz is due is considered an academic offence.

Where Quercus.

Marks I will drop your lowest quiz mark.

2.2.4 Tutorials

Purpose Review and discuss concepts from lecture, to take up problems, and to participate in in-tutorial exercises.

Details I Starting the second full week of classes (September 17), each student will attend an almost-weekly one-hour tutorial. (Tutorial weeks are listed in Section 3.)

Details II In order to receive full credit for tutorial participation, you must have already completed the MobLab registration and must come to your tutorial session with an internet-connected device capable of MobLab access.

Sign up I You will be able to enrol in a tutorial starting on September 12 at 8:00 PM using the tutorial sign up link in the “tutorial” section of Quercus. Follow the link to sign up for any available (not already full) tutorial.

Sign up II Spots in a particular tutorial are allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. You can switch from your current tutorial to another tutorial by using the same tutorial sign up link on Quercus.

Marks I There are 9 regular tutorial weeks. After dropping your lowest tutorial, tutorial participation as captured by MobLab participation and short writing assignments will comprise 4% of your final marks. *If you sincerely participate in 8 tutorials, you can expect to receive 85% of available tutorial marks, with full marks awarded for excellence.*

Marks II You earn bonus marks equal to $\frac{1}{4}\%$ of your final grade by completing a very brief MobLab survey by 10:30AM on Tuesday September 18.

2.3 Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of your degree. According to Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>), which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students:

- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work (e.g., an answer in a test).
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This, includes, but is not limited to, the *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form.
- To use **or possess** an unauthorized aid in any test or exam (e.g., cellphone, graphing or programmable calculator).
- To continue writing when the time is up in any test or exam.
 - **N.B.** Anyone writing when the invigilator announces the end of the test or exam period automatically loses 5% of the total marks available on the test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.

2.4 Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a consideration which may require accommodation, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services (416-978-8060 or <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>).

2.5 Diversity

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course. The diversity that students bring to this class is a strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of this diversity, including in the dimensions of race, culture, ethnicity and national origin, gender and gender identity, sexuality, socio-economic class, age, religion, and disability. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Finally, if you use a different name than what is on the course roster, please let me know. You may also share your gender pronouns.

2.6 Texts

I recommend purchasing the indicated versions of the required texts.

2.7 Quercus

This course will make heavy use of Quercus (a.k.a. Canvas). You are responsible for checking it regularly. Content includes:

- Announcements;
- Copies of the lecture slides;
- Online quizzes;
- Tutorial Problem Sets;
- Additional problems, some with solutions; and
- Previous tests and exams.

2.8 MobLab

MobLab is an online platform for participating in economic experiments, games, markets and surveys. You access MobLab with any internet-connected device. See Quercus for registration instructions.

We will use MobLab in each tutorial. You are thus expected to attend your tutorial section with an internet-connected device in order to participate.

I may also, with advance notice, conduct MobLab sessions during lectures.

Important: If you will not be able to participate using MobLab (for example, you do not own an internet-connected device), you must speak to me **as soon as possible** to arrange an alternate means of earning the tutorial participation marks.

2.9 Lectures

During lecture, I will project “PowerPoint” slides. I encourage you to print them and bring them to lecture. You will notice that while a set of slides represents a good overview of a topic and contains many of the important definitions, many of the details are missing. During the lecture, we shall fill in the missing details, resulting in “marked-up” slides. **I will not make available the marked-up slides.** I have chosen this route of lecture-note delivery for two reasons.

1. The process of marking-up the slides slows me down. Trust me, this is a good thing.
2. I like to think that lecture attendance has benefits. Not providing the marked-up lecture notes is my little nudge towards increased attendance.

2.10 Tests and the Examination

The two term tests comprise 44% of the course grade. The final examination counts for 40% of the course grade. They consist of a combination of short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

Your mark on a test or exam (i.e., what is reported on Quercus) reflects any adjustments to the raw scores such as adding points to everyone’s score or not counting an unduly difficult/confusing question. Your mark, not your raw score, best reflects the quality of your submitted work.

For the exam, each student taking ECO101 this semester—regardless of instructor—answers the same set of multiple choice questions covering core material common to all sections. The other half of your exam will be a set short-answer questions for students in Gazzale sections.

2.10.1 Evaluations: What's on the test?

If a concept, skill, or topic is addressed in lectures, required readings, or tutorials, it is testable.

N.B. My choosing to devote scarce lecture time to a topic or concept is a good indication I find it interesting and important. Likewise, I choose topics, concepts and problems for tutorials, problem sets and quizzes based on what I find interesting and important. Things I find important have a nasty habit of appearing on tests and exams. While this set of facts **in no way** rules out the inclusion of material not covered in lectures or tutorials, you should use this in prioritizing your preparation.

2.10.2 Evaluations: Marking and Appeals

If **after** reviewing the test solutions you believe your test was incorrectly graded, you may request remarking. Requests for remarking must:

1. be made in writing and submitted in person to the me (Prof. Gazzale). Requests will only be accepted by paper (i.e., not by email);
2. explain precisely WHY more points are justified for each disputed question; and
3. be submitted within two weeks of the date on which tests were returned.

The entire test will be remarked: your mark can go up, down, or remain unchanged.

2.10.3 Evaluations: Make-Up Test

Students missing a term test for an approved, certified medical reason (see section 2.10.4) or other approved reason will be permitted to write a **comprehensive** (i.e., **cumulative**) make-up test towards the end of the term. Students who do not qualify for writing the make-up test will receive a grade of zero for the missed test. **This make-up test may only replace one missed term test.**

Note that approval to take the make-up test for an “other approved reason” has always been the result of Prof. Gazzale’s consultation with the Registrar’s Office at the student’s college. If you are not able to write a term test for a non-medical reason, your first course of action should be contacting your college’s Registrar’s office.

N.B. Students who miss the final exam must petition the Faculty of Arts and Science for permission to write a deferred examination in the summer. **Makeup details:** Friday, November 30 from 9:00am – 11:00am. Location to be announced.

2.10.4 Evaluations: Medical Certificates

If you are unable to write a test for a medical reason, all of the following must be satisfied in order for you to be permitted to write the make-up test.

- You must email the me (Prof. Gazzale) *no later* than the end of the day of the test, indicating that you will not be writing the test due to illness.
- Within **one week of the missed test**, you must submit directly to me, either in class or during normal office hours, the official University of Toronto’s *Verification of Student Illness or Injury*, fully completed by a Physician, Surgeon, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Psychologist or Dentist.
- The practitioner must have assessed you no later than the day of the missed test.
- The note must confirm that in the the practitioner’s professional opinion, you were **unable** to write the test on the exact date of the test.

2.11 *Getting Assistance*

Instructor Office Hours My office hours are listed on page 1. I assure you that I am a pretty nice guy, at least by New York City standards.

TA Office Hours Each week, course TAs will hold drop-in office hours. Hours and locations are posted on Quercus.

Tutorials Always a good bet.

Study Groups Many find it beneficial to work on problems in small groups.

Piazza Piazza is an electronic discussion board through which students engage with each other by posting and responding to questions related to course materials. Piazza provides the opportunity for all students to become participants in class discussions. The discussions are regularly monitored by TAs and the instructor. You access Piazza through Quercus. Piazza is the appropriate forum for posting questions pertaining to course content, administration, or economic ideas more generally.

2.12 *Communication*

The TAs and I will make important announcements in lectures and tutorials, on Quercus, or via e-mail to the class. We obtain your UofT e-mail address from Quercus. I expect you to check your UofT email and Quercus regularly.

Email is **not** an appropriate forum for discussing course materials or asking questions about course content. As such, the use of email should be restricted to private matters, or to notify me of a course problem (e.g., broken link, typo, TA issues, etc.).

- For e-mails asking for a reply, if I can answer briefly without explaining course content or revealing something of general interest, then I will reply within three business days.
- All email should originate from your UofT email address, and include “ECO101, L0101”, “ECO101, L0301”, or “ECO101, L0401” in the subject field. The email must also have your name and student number.
- For any question that would interest other people (e.g. a question about an upcoming test, a course concept, etc.), you must post on Piazza (described above).
- If you receive no reply to your e-mail, check announcements, review the syllabus, post on Piazza, or see me or your TA in office hours or class.

3 SCHEDULE

Any modifications to the schedule will be widely announced.

	Day	Date	Topic	Textbook Chapters	Quiz Due	Tutorial Week
0	Fri	7/Sep	Introduction			
1	Mon	10/Sep	Thinking Like an Economist	1 & 9		
2	Wed	12/Sep	Gains from Trade	2, 2a, & 8		
3	Fri	14/Sep	Gains from Trade		✓	
4	Mon	17/Sep	Supply and Demand	3 & 3a		✓
5	Wed	19/Sep	Supply and Demand		✓	
6	Mon	24/Sep	Elasticity	6 & 6a	✓	✓
7	Wed	26/Sep	Elasticity			
8	Mon	1/Oct	Surplus	4	✓	✓
9	Wed	3/Oct	Surplus			
10	Wed	10/Oct	Price Controls	5		
	Fri	12/Oct	TERM TEST			
11	Mon	15/Oct	Taxes	7		✓
12	Wed	17/Oct	Firm Costs	11		
13	Mon	22/Oct	Firm Costs		✓	✓
14	Wed	24/Oct	Perfect Competition & Supply	12		
15	Mon	29/Oct	Perfect Competition & Supply		✓	✓
16	Wed	31/Oct	Monopoly	13		
17	Mon	12/Nov	Monopoly		✓	✓
18	Wed	14/Nov	Price Discrimination	Handout		
19	Mon	19/Nov	Oligopoly	14	✓	✓
20	Wed	21/Nov	Oligopoly			
	Fri	23/Nov	TERM TEST			
21	Mon	26/Nov	Externalities	16		✓
22	Wed	28/Nov	Externalities	Handout		
23	Mon	3/Dec	Public Goods	17	✓	
24	Wed	5/Dec	To be determined			
	Thu	6/Dec	No lecture.			