

ECO101: SECTIONS L0101 & L5101: SUMMER 2018
PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

1 THE BIG PICTURE

Lectures. Tuesdays and Thursdays, MB128. **L0101:** 2:10 PM – 4:00 PM; **L5101:** 6:10 PM – 8:00 PM.

Contacting me.

office: Max Gluskin House (150 St. George Street), Room 330
office hours: Tuesday, 4:10 PM – 5:50 PM **LM 123**
email: robert.gazzale@utoronto.ca

Course contacts.

Issue	TA	email
Question about a Portal quiz.	Boriana Miloucheva	boriana.miloucheva@mail.utoronto.ca
Question about tutorials.	Boriana Miloucheva	boriana.miloucheva@mail.utoronto.ca
Request makeup test.	Alison Kathleen Taylor	alisonkathleen.taylor@mail.utoronto.ca

Required Texts.

- Krugman, Wells, Au, and Parkinson, *Microeconomics*, Third Canadian Edition, Worth Publishers, 2018.
- Any handouts posted on the Portal.

Required Websites.

- UofT's Learning Portal (a.k.a. Blackboard): <https://portal.utoronto.ca>
- MobLab: <https://www.moblab.com> (Registration instructions found in the syllabus section of Portal.)

Assessments.

	Date	Time	Length	Weight
Tutorial Participation		See Section 2.2.2.		5%
Portal Quizzes		See Section 2.2.1.		10%
Term Test	Monday, May 28, 2018	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	105 mins.	35%
Final Examination	June exam period	TBA	3 hours	50%

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 Portal.

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 Portal 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. Due dates are listed in Section 3. A quiz is due at 1:45pm on the due date and becomes available at least 48-hours beforehand. Once you start a quiz you have one hour with the caveat that only answers submitted before 1:45pm on the due date 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.

Where The Portal.

Marks There will be ten quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz mark.

2.2.2 Tutorials

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

Details I Starting the second class meeting (May 10), one hour of each class meeting will be dedicated to tutorials. (Tutorial meetings are listed in Section 3.) For L0101, tutorials will meet from 4:10pm–5:00pm. For L5101, tutorials will meet from 5:10pm–6:00pm.

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

Details III You can find your tutorial section on the Portal.

Marks I There are 10 regular tutorial weeks. After dropping your lowest tutorial, tutorial participation as captured by MobLab will comprise 4% of your final marks.

Marks II You earn bonus marks equal to $\frac{1}{4}\%$ of your final grade by completing a very brief MobLab survey by 1:45pm on Thursday, May 10.

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 alter and submit for re-marking any course assignment (e.g., a test).
 - 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 prefer to be called 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 Website

This course will make heavy use of the UofT's Learning Portal (a.k.a. Blackboard). 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;
- Previous tests and exams; and
- Lecturecasts (i.e., videos of each lecture, posted approximately 24 hours later).

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 the Portal 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 term tests will comprise 35% of the course grade. The final examination will count for 50% 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 the Portal) 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.

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 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, it may be helpful 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 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 one week 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 the term test for an approved, certified medical reason (see section 2.10.4), or other approved cause, will be permitted to write the makeup test on Monday, June 4, time and location to be announced. There is no makeup for the makeup test. **Note that makeup test marks will be available AFTER the June 5 drop deadline.**

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 Alison Kathleen Taylor (alisonkathleen.taylor@mail.utoronto.ca) *no later* than the end of the day of the test, indicating that you will not be writing the test due to illness.
- Within **two days**, you must email Ms. Taylor a scanned copy of 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 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 the Portal.

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 can sign-up for Piazza through the class Blackboard page, where more detailed instructions are provided. 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 the Portal, or via e-mail to the class. We obtain your UofT e-mail address from the Portal. I expect you to check your UofT email and the Portal 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” or “ECO101, L5101” 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	Reading	Quiz Due	Tutorial
1	Tue	8-May	Thinking Like an Economist	1 & 9		
2	Thu	10-May	Gains from Trade	2, 2a & 8	✓	✓
3	Tue	15-May	Supply & Demand	3 & 3a	✓	✓
4	Thu	17-May	Elasticity	6 & 6a	✓	✓
5	Tue	22-May	Surplus; Price Controls	4 & 6	✓	✓
6	Thu	24-May	Taxes	7	✓	✓
	Mon	28-May	Term Test			
7	Tue	29-May	Firm Costs	11		✓
8	Thu	31-May	Perfect Competition	12	✓	
9	Tue	5-Jun	Monopoly	13; Handout	✓	✓
10	Thu	7-Jun	Oligopoly	14	✓	✓
11	Tue	12-Jun	Externalities	16; Handout	✓	✓
12	Thu	14-Jun	Public Goods	17	✓	✓