

ECON 0011A Section 530
Introduction to Microeconomics
Preliminary Year

CONTACT

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CLASS

Day & Mondays 12:30-2:30
Time Wednesdays 1:30 -2:30
Room: BR 202

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to current Canadian and international economic issues. Students will explore basic economic concepts and reasoning, demand, supply and price, and markets, production and costs.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Use appropriate terminology when communicating the results of their investigations.
2. Describe ways in which economic investigations can help them develop skills,
3. Apply in everyday contexts skills and work habits developed through economic investigations.
4. Apply the concepts of economic thinking when analyzing current events involving economic issues.
5. Identify various careers in which the skills learned in economics might be useful.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the concept of scarcity and how it influences economic choices and decisions of various economic stakeholders
7. Demonstrate an understanding of production possibilities curves (PPCs) and how they can be used to guide economic decisions about the allocation of scarce resources
8. Perform cost/ benefit analysis.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of supply and demand models, (including how to apply these models) and of factors that affect supply and demand price elasticity.
10. Use supply and demand models to analyze consumer decision making.
11. Explain the concepts of negative and positive externalities, and apply these concepts when analyzing the third-party costs and benefits of various policies, including those intended to enhance environmental sustainability.
12. Explain various costs of production and diagram cost curves.
13. Explain the main similarities and differences between various types of firms (e.g., sole proprietorships, private limited companies, partnerships, cooperatives, Crown corporations, multinational corporations, not-for-profit companies).
14. Describe various types of market structures and assess their advantages and disadvantages for different stakeholders.
15. Explain ways in which businesses are regulated.

16. Describe changes in the economic influence of markets and the public sector in Canada, and assess the impact of these changes.
17. Analyze how different stakeholders view the trade-off between economic growth and concerns for the environment.

Student competency levels on these outcomes will vary. You can expect to achieve these outcomes if you honour course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, demonstrate comprehension of the course content, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COMPETENCIES

Primary competencies developed in this course include:

1. Communication (Level 1)
2. Critical Thinking (Level 1)
3. Inquiry and Analysis (Level 1)
4. Problem Solving (Level 1)
5. Valuing (Level 1)

See <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/brescia-competencies/> for a detailed description of each competency.

COURSE MATERIALS

Exploring Micro Economics (4th Canadian Edition) By: Sexton/Fortuna/Kovacs
ISBN-13:978-0-17-653107-2
ISBN-10:0-17-653107-6

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Antirequisite: Ontario High School CIA4U or equivalent.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The course has three sections:

Section	Weeks	Theory	Brescia Competency
One	1 - 2	Introduction and overview of economic principles Scarcity, Trade-offs Production possibilities	1,3 3
Two	3-4	Supply, Demand and Equilibrium Elasticity	3 3
Three	5	Market efficiency, Market failure Externalities	2 2
Four	6-8	Production and Costs	1,4
Five	9-10	Market Structures Government interventions	3 4
Six	11 - 12	Factor Markets Income distribution Review for final exam	3 3,5

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course combines lecture method with in-class activities. Readings may be expanded upon by way of videos, exercises, cases, and/or class discussions. You are expected to be prepared and fully engaged in learning.

Class Schedule

A tentative schedule for this course is posted on OWL. I may depart from this schedule as some topics take up more (or less) time than is scheduled. Following this schedule is your responsibility. You should check OWL regularly for lecture notes, reading, and announcements.

EVALUATION

Component	Timing	Learning Outcomes	Brescia Competency	Weight
Class Contribution	On-going	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,4	10%
Forum Discussions	Weeks 2,9	1,2,3,4,5,14,15	1,2,3,4,5	10%
Homework assignments	Weeks 6, 10	11,14	2,4	10%
Test #1	Week 4	1-10	1,2,3	20%
Test #2	Week 8	12-14	4	20%
Final Exam	Registrar's Schedule Any time from December 10 th until December 21 st 2018	All (cumulative)	1,2,3,4,5	30%

Evaluation Policies

You must complete all evaluation components to pass the course. I will not re-weight course components unless you have received an academic accommodation. I will not adjust grades based on need. Your mark in the course will be the mark that you earn based on your comprehension of course content. Extra credit assignments are not available, and evaluations cannot be rewritten to obtain a higher mark. Once you have completed an evaluation, you are committed to the mark earned.

Late assignments without an academic accommodation will receive a "0." All assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All assignments submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database to detect plagiarism of assignments subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Evaluation Component Descriptions

See detailed assignment instructions and grading rubric for all evaluation components on OWL.

You should attend every class in this course. However, extenuating circumstances arise that make this difficult. Family medical issues, personal medical issues, family bereavement, participation in University sports teams are acceptable reasons for missing class, with appropriate documentation (i.e. an academic accommodation).

COURSE POLICIES**Attendance Policy**

This course has a Student Focused Learning (SFL) attendance policy. Class attendance is the best predictor of academic performance, so by attending class, you are setting yourself up for success. Missing more than 25% (or 9 hours) of scheduled course hours without an academic accommodation will result in the following academic consequences: 1) receiving a "0" in the semester class contribution component, and, 2) completing the group project independently.

You are expected to attend class. You should check your UWO email and OWL site mail regularly for any notifications regarding your attendance. You should read the course outline and clarify any concerns that you might have regarding the class attendance policy with me. I suggest that you track your class attendance.

I will send you an email if you are at risk of exceeding the allowable level of absenteeism. If you are struggling with attendance, I encourage you to talk to me, to your academic advisor, to a spiritual advisor, or to a member of the student life staff. We may be able to help. If you believe that your situation warrants an academic accommodation, please consult with your academic advisor to determine if an accommodation would apply to your situation.

Student Use of Technology in Class

We will NOT be using laptops or tablets in this class. Using your computer or phone during class for personal activities such as reading or writing e-mail, surfing the web, or playing games is distracting for others, is not conducive to your own learning, and is disrespectful to the instructor. Please ensure your phones are turned off and placed inside a bag.

Recent research shows that grades decline when you use laptops in the classroom for non-educational tasks. Additionally, students find other students use of laptops in the classroom the number one source of interference with their ability to learn (Fried, 2008). So, if I find you using a laptop for non-class related activities, I will ask you to close the laptop for the remainder of the class or until a class exercise requires the use of the laptop.

Texting substantially reduces academic performance. Researchers asked half the students in an accounting class to text their professor three times, while the other half were requested to refrain from texting. Students were then tested at the end of the lecture on the contents of the lecture. The students who texted scored 16% points lower than those who did not text (Ellis, Daniels & Jauregui, 2010). As a result, if I find you texting I will ask you to put your phone away.

Fried, C. (2008). In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning. *Computers and Education* (50). 906-914.

Ellis, Y., Daniels, B. & Jauregui, A. (2010). The effect of multi-tasking on the grade performance of business students. *Research in Higher Education*. (8).1 – 10.

Email

Email is a useful tool for sharing news, setting up appointments, or for a simple assignment clarification, but for more complex questions, a face-to-face meeting is best. Please make an appointment to discuss any personal, academic, group work, or controversial issues in person, especially any concerns that you might have about your grades.

For privacy reasons, you must use your Western email account to contact me. Please include your name, course and section number in the subject line of your emails. I check email Monday through Friday during office hours; in most cases you can expect a response within 24 hours during the work week. If you are emailing to let me know that you will not be in class, I will make a note of it but may not respond. Academic accommodation requests must go through the academic advisors. If you are asking

a question that is answered on OWL (example: “what did we do in class today?”) I will not respond. Please check OWL before emailing. If you have an exceptional question the response to which would benefit the class, I thank you, and will post a response on OWL with gratitude. I will not check email over weekends and holidays, so plan accordingly.

Appointments

Students are welcome to meet with me by arranging an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Be on time for your appointment, have an objective for the discussion and bring a copy of your paper or exam you wish to discuss.

Privacy

To respect privacy laws and the privacy of individual students, all grades will be distributed on OWL only. If you wish to discuss a grade, or review a test or paper, please make an appointment with the professor to do so in person. To respect your privacy, I will discuss your grades only with you. Please do not share or compare your grades. I cannot share information about another student’s grades, so discussions comparing grades between students will not be entertained.

DROPPING A COURSE

Last day to drop this course without academic penalty is **November 12th, 2018**

For further details, check the online academic calendar in the registrar’s website. To book an appointment with one of Brescia’s Academic Advisors, call 519.432.8353, extension 28266. If you are registered at another college or main campus, please make an appointment to see your academic advisor at your home campus.

2018-19 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty.

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf . The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectEdCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html, for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.