

Introductory Microeconomics

ECON 101:13, Fall 2018

Lectures: Tuesdays 9:45-11am and Thursdays 8:15-9:30am, IM114

Professor: Diana Alessandrini

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:15am-12:15pm and Thursdays 9:45-10:45am in Lane Hall A205 or by appointment

Email: dalessan@stfx.ca

Office Phone: (902) 867-3982

Class Webpage (Moodle): Moodle.stfx.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course that covers basic topics in microeconomics. The main objective of the course is to introduce students to the language and analytical framework used by economists to analyze real world phenomena. The course will cover the demand and supply model, consumer and producer theory, the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy, as well as the successes and failures of government intervention in the market.

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Textbook:** *Principles of Microeconomics*, 2nd edition, OpenStax

The textbook is available for free on Moodle. The schedule of classes and required readings can be found at the end of this syllabus and on the class webpage. It's not possible to purchase a print copy of the book, but you are allowed to print the ebook.

- **Lecture notes:** On a weekly basis, I will post handouts on Moodle under Lectures. Please print the handouts and bring them to class.
- **i>clicker:** I will be using the i>clicker student response system in class this semester. i>clicker helps me set the pace of lectures and gives everyone a chance to participate in class. You may use one of the following models: **the mobile application "REEF Polling" (\$20)** or **i>clicker 2 remote (60\$)**. A summary of what you need to know about i>clicker is posted on Moodle under Course Info. You will need to have your clicker/device and bring it to class with you each day starting **September 18**.

EVALUATION:

- **Tests**

There will be two multiple-choice tests in class on **October 2 (9:45-11am) and November 1 (8:15-9:30am)**. Should a student miss a test, the weight of the test will be transferred to the final exam. In the event of a university closure on a test day, the test will be moved to the **next** scheduled lecture. Students should be prepared for this eventuality.

- **Final exam:** The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. The examination schedule will be available within 4 weeks after the beginning of classes. If you are unable to attend the final exam due to illness or due to a serious unexpected circumstance you must notify the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs' Office.

- **Online quizzes:**

There will be 9 quizzes on Moodle, approximately one for each topic covered in class. I will post an offline version of the quiz approximately 5 days before the quiz deadline. I suggest you to solve the quiz offline and then enter your answers on Moodle before the deadline. Deadlines can be found at the end of this syllabus and on Moodle. Solutions will become available on Moodle right after the deadline. The best 6 quizzes will count towards your final grade, thus 3 can be dropped without penalty. No make-up quizzes or deadline extensions will be provided even if you experience technical problems. If you encounter technical problems, come to my office hours before the deadline and I will help you solve the problem. Because quizzes can be completed online, and due dates are published well in advance, university closures will not affect when quizzes must be submitted.

- **i>clicker questions:**

During lectures, there will be questions to answer with your i>clicker remote or device (smartphone, tablet or laptop). You must register your device/remote to get credit, see the instructions posted on Moodle or talk to me. It is your responsibility to bring your clicker or your device to the classroom. If you forget your clicker, or you are late and miss a clicker question, or you miss the entire class, you miss those points for the day regardless of the excuse. To calculate your final grade, I will drop your three lowest clicker scores (that is, three lectures). Thus, you can miss three clicker sessions without penalty.

Weighting Scheme:

	<u>Weight</u>
Quizzes (online, best 6)	10%
i>clicker questions (in class)	5%
Best exam (among Test1, Test2 and Final exam)	30%
Second best exam (among Test1, Test2 and Final exam)	30%
Third best exam (among Test1, Test2 and Final exam)	25%

If you miss one of the tests, the weight of the missed test (25% in this scenario) will be added to the final exam weight (30% in this scenario).

OTHER POLICIES:

- **Classroom conduct:**

This is a large class and I need your cooperation to ensure orderly conduct of lectures.

- Please arrive on time. If you have to leave early on a particular day for a valid reason, please let me know in advance and try to find a seat near the aisle to minimize class disruption. You may not come and go as you please.
- Discussions among students are very disruptive. If you have a question, please share it with all of us.

- **Taking pictures or videos during lectures is not allowed.**

- **Equitable learning:**

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.

- **Academic Integrity Policy:** <http://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>

Please note that simply having an unauthorized device (cell phone or smart watch for example) with you during an exam (even if not used during the exam) is a violation of the academic integrity policy.

- **Accommodations through the center for accessible learning:**

Students who need accommodations are asked to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning at 902-867-5349 (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/>)

- **November 2nd** is the last day to drop the course. If you decide to drop the course, you must do so online through Banner. Permission to drop or change a course after the deadline can only be granted by the Dean's office.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE COURSE:

To succeed in the course you should come to all classes, take detailed lecture notes, read the textbook and solve as many exercises as you can. **Solving the quizzes and practice exercises is necessary to do well in the course.** I suggest you to solve practice exercises on a weekly basis. They can be found in the lecture notes posted on Moodle and at the end of each textbook chapter. Before exams, I will also post additional exercises on Moodle.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

Please note that, although quiz deadlines and test dates are firm, the schedule of classes is approximate and may vary according to the progression through the material.

Week #	Date	Topics	Textbook chapters to read	Quizzes
1	4-Sep 6-Sep	Syllabus + introduction Demand and supply	Ch. 3	
2	11-Sep 13-Sep	Demand and supply Demand and supply		Quiz 1 due on Sept 14, 6pm
3	18-Sep 20-Sep	Elasticity Elasticity	Ch. 5	Quiz 2 due on Sept 21, 6pm
4	25-Sep 27-Sep	Efficiency Review		Quiz 3 due on Sept 28, 6pm
5	2-Oct 4-Oct	TEST 1 Efficiency		
6	9-Oct 11-Oct	Consumer choices Consumer choices	Ch. 6	Quiz 4 due on Oct 12, 6pm
7	16-Oct 18-Oct	Consumer choices Production, cost and industry structure	Ch. 7	Quiz 5 due on Oct 19, 6pm
8	23-Oct 25-Oct	Production, cost and industry structure Production, cost and industry structure		Quiz 6 due on Oct 26, 6pm
9	30-Oct 1-Nov	Review TEST 2		
10	6-Nov 8-Nov	Perfect competition Perfect competition	Ch. 8	Quiz 7 due on Nov 9, 6pm
11	13-Nov 15-Nov	Monopoly Monopoly	Ch. 9	Quiz 8 due on Nov 16, 6pm
12	20-Nov 22-Nov	Monopolistic competition Oligopoly	Ch. 10	Quiz 9 due on Nov 23, 6pm
13	27-Nov 29-Nov	Global markets, international trade Review	Ch.2 and Ch. 19	